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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.

Only when all ethnic armed organizations join the peace process under the law will the election be free and fair, says Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets the cabinet members of Taninthayi Region government at the latter office in Dawei on 13 January 2022.

TANINTHAYI Region endowed with plentiful of natural resources as sound foundations has good potentials for the future, said State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with cabinet members of Taninthayi Region government, departmental officials and town elders at the hall of the regional government office in Dawei yesterday morning.

First, the Senior General

heard reports on regional development tasks, water supply functions, the establishment of the international fish auction market, electrification, hotels and tourism, and issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards presented by Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko.

In response to the reports, Union ministers and the deputy minister clarified the resumption of airlines to Myeik, Dawei, Kawthoung and Bokpyin, choose

of new railway routes for smooth flow of commodities, agriculture and livestock farming, fishing process, technical sharing for small-scale industries, systematic management of natural resources, projects of electrification, implementation of Pankhinn project to issue CSCs, the teaching of economics and law subjects at Dawei and Myeik Universities, opening for a marine

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Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that the Tatmadaw did not seize the State power and it serves the duties under the Constitution (2008) as part of maintaining the strengthening of multiparty democracy.

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State Administration Council
Press Release
Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who reside in various regions for many reasons

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, with worries, have evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries due to the incitements and intimidation of NLD members, extremist followers, unlawful associations and terrorist groups such as CRPH and NUG, stimulation of CDM, and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities on 1 February 2021.
2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of unlawful association and terrorist group CRPH and NUG, and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in those areas, they wish to return to their native lands.
3. The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.
4. As those who evade their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from the evaded areas to various parts of Myanmar.
5. As such, the information was released that if those who evaded to various areas, except for persons who committed any kinds of crime, wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord due to multiple worries, the citizens abroad can contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates in accord with the easing restrictions under the law.

Information Team
State Administration Council

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5,000 Chinese Sinopharm vaccines donated to Bhamo Sayadaw



The donation of 5,000 units of Sinopharm vaccines is presented to the Bhamo Sayadaw.

A donation ceremony of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines to Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Presiding Nayaka of Bhamo Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivam-

sa Bhamo Sayadaw was held at Maha Nayaka monastery on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill yesterday.

The 5,000 units of Sinopharm vaccines were donated by Venerable Master Yin Shun, Secretary of Shenzhen Buddhist Association, Vice-President of the Buddhist Association of the South China Sea and Abbot of Hongfa Temple for the monks and nuns.

The participants of the event first took Five Precepts from Bhamo Sayadaw and sermons delivered by the monks.

Then, Daw Htay Htay Maw on behalf of Shenzhen Buddhist Association and U Aing Tun, President of Myanmar Chinese chamber of Commerce

presented the aims of donation on behalf of the donor, the Shenzhen Buddhist Association, and handed over 5,000 units of vaccines to U Thein Win, Deputy Director-General of Religious Affairs Department.

Afterwards, President U Aing Tun of the Myanmar Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Fu Xing Brothers Group Of Companies and his wife Agga Maha Thiri Thudamma Theingi Daw Nan Khin Nyunt donated K20 million and religious items to five State Sangha committee member monks, including Bhamo Sayadaw.

They finally shared the merits by listening to the sermons of Bhamo Sayadaw.—MNA

172 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 13 January, total figure rises to 532,725

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 532,725 after 172 new cases were reported on 13 January 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 510,883 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 19,298 after 1 died. —MNA

Information release on detection of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant

1. The Ministry of Health is continuously conducting “COVID-19 Molecular Disease Surveillance”, and releasing information on the detection of SARS CoV-2 Omicron variant from those who return by relief flights in a timely manner.
2. The laboratory samples of the COVID-19 virus of the returnees and other samples of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Lower Myanmar) Yangon were sent to the National Health Laboratory yesterday and the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant was found in 42 laboratory samples.
3. These 42 Omicron cases are 40 Myanmar nationals and two foreigners – 32 returned from India, four from the UAE, three from Malaysia and three from Thailand by relief flights.
4. The SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant was not found in 45 test samples of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Lower Myanmar) Yangon.
5. The patients are admitted to the designated hospitals for medical treatment and the passengers who returned together with them now undergo strict quarantine and lab tests.
6. Therefore, it is announced that the ministry is stepping up the COVID-19 disease monitoring and control measures plus disease prevention, control and treatment activities.

Ministry of Health

The government always invites peace talks

THE government always invites peace talks. As such, it is expected that peace talks will be held in the future to boost the benefits related to peace. Having all tasks concerning the last point of the five-point road map of the State Administration Council been accomplished, a new election will be held and the State power will be handed over to the winning party.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 4/2021 of Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 30-12-2021)

Only when all ethnic armed organizations join the peace process under the law will the election be free and fair, says Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears the reports by Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko on regional development tasks in meeting with cabinet members in Dawei yesterday.

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science training camp, upgrade of roads and bridges, and COVID-19 vaccination process in the region.
Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that the Tatmadaw did not seize the State power and it serves the duties under the Constitution (2008) as part of maintaining the strengthening of multiparty democracy. The Union Election Commission was reconstituted in line with the five-point roadmap to inspect the voter lists and other appropriate tasks under the law.
Prevention of COVID-19 is very important, and the government strived for overcoming the third wave of the pandemic in July and August amid various difficulties. The government connected with various countries for taking vaccines and vaccinating the people accounting for more than 50 per cent till the end of December 2021.
As the country is based

Taninthayi Region endowed with plentiful of natural resources as sound foundations has good potentials for the future. Local people need to encourage education for the emergence of systematic businesses.

on agriculture and livestock, efforts are being made to accelerate businesses for the nation. The development of a country depends on good transport, communication, electrification, education and health sectors.
If the country is not peaceful, it cannot hold the correct and fair election. Only when all ethnic armed organizations join the peace process under the law will the election be free and fair. Hence, efforts are being made for the restoration of peace in 2022 by holding

rice sufficiency of the region.
The Senior General stressed the need to systematically use quality strains of seeds, fertile soil and natural fertilizers to have the high per-acre yield of crops. Moreover, it is necessary to seek water sources for local farmers.
He also pointed out that priority must be given to the regional food sufficiency. Moreover, it is necessary to seek the market for exportation of frozen meat, fish and dried meat to international markets.
As Myanmar is at the lowest level of life expectancy with 67 years in ASEAN, people need to have the consumption of nutritious foods and healthy lifestyle. Consumption of fish, meat and vegetables must enhance the health sector.
As the country has lesser school enrolment and literate per cent, it is necessary to encourage the education. Legacy of literature must be given to new generations. Students need to take the opportunities of learning for their life as well as development of the State. The Senior General urged all to develop the fish-based industries for economic development of the region and socio-economic development of the people. Arrangements are being made to implement the projects of the rail transport along Mawlamyine-Dawei-Ye railway and Yangon-Mawlamyine-Myeik-Dawei railway. Businesspersons must be invited to operate steel, cement and glass industries in the region.
The Senior General also stressed the need to improve the sports standard at the township, region and national levels as the government fulfils the facilities of sports grounds, gymnasiums and training aid.
Taninthayi Region endowed with plentiful of natural resources as sound foundations has good potentials for the future. Local people need to encourage education for the emergence of systematic businesses. —MNA

Only when Tatmadaw members serve the duty to enable all children to learn in their assigned regions can they give educational heritage to their offspring: Senior General says



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting with officers, other ranks and families at the Coastal Region Command Headquarters and the Mawrawady Naval Region Command Headquarters yesterday.

ALL the Tatmadaw members need to read literature and encourage offspring to improve their education qualification, said State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with officers, other ranks and families at the Coastal Region Command Headquarters and the Mawrawady Naval Region Command Headquarters yesterday afternoon.

All Tatmadaw members join the Tatmadaw to serve the State defence duties of their own accord. Hence, they all need to improve themselves to be good soldiers with loving the Tatmadaw as well as build their units, regiments and the Tatmadaw with loving the State. Being Tatmadaw members, they all must serve the duty as assigned duties. They have to dutifully serve the assignments under the orders.

The Tatmadaw arranges welfare for the Tatmadaw members for their conveni-



The Senior General gives foodstuffs for officers, other ranks and families.

ence. Relevant military units also give welfare to them. The Tatmadaw members need to

emphasize self-control in indulgence for avoiding too much spending of money and they

All Tatmadaw members join the Tatmadaw to serve the State defence duties of their own accord. Hence, they all need to improve themselves to be good soldiers with loving the Tatmadaw as well as build their units, regiments and the Tatmadaw with loving the State.

have to adjust their income and expenditure. They have to participate in the unit-owned agriculture and livestock farming tasks for having success and individually manageable scale agricultural and livestock farming tasks as well. Commanders need to fulfil the needs of Tatmadaw members and families of their respective regiments and units under their control in line with entitlement and welfare ways.

With regard to education, all the Tatmadaw members need to read literature and encourage offspring to improve their educational qualifications. The Tatmadaw spends

the fund on the enhancement of educational qualifications of families of the Tatmadaw members. Only when Tatmadaw members serve the duty to enable all children to learn in their assigned regions can they give educational heritage to their offspring. Likewise, they all practically do organizational tasks outside the military units to be one with the people.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs for officers, other ranks and families to the commander of Naval Region Command and wife. The Senior General then cordially greeted officers, other ranks and families. — MNA

Coord meeting on Youth and Literature Festival held to mark Diamond Jubilee Union Day

A coordination meeting on Youth and Literature Festival to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee Union Day was convened at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm on 13 January.

Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, who is also the chairman of the Youth and Literature Festival Organizing Committee, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw for Science and Technology, Union Minister U Min Thein Zan for Sports and Youth Affairs, Dr Maung Maung Naing, the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, secretary, committee members and officials concerned attended the meeting.

First and foremost, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, the chairman of the committee, stated that the festival was earlier scheduled to be held



The coordination meeting on Youth and Literature Festival to mark Diamond Jubilee Union Day in progress.

on 29 and 30 January only. The committee has planned to add another day and the festival will be extended until 31 January. An excursion is planned for students, parents and family members of the government personnel. The three-day festival will feature science and

technology, aviation technology, marine technology and health awareness.

The Union minister requested the ministries concerned to coordinate in celebrating the festival as it also aims to congratulate one year of the State Administration Council on

1 February.

Afterwards, the joint secretary of the committee explained matters regarding the preparedness, stalls and exhibition designs.

After that, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw said that the Ministry of Science and

Technology aims to educate, inspire and encourage the youth to participate in the festival. We will work together with the ministries concerned to hold this festival successfully.

Additionally, Union Minister U Min Thein Zan remarked that the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs will showcase how hard the athletes in the national team are under training for the South-east Asian Games and exhibit sports themes.

Later, Dr Maung Maung Naing, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win and the attendees discussed matters in each sector for the successful implementation of the festival to honour the 75th Union Day.

The chairman of the organizing committee made the closing remark and concluded the meeting. — MNA

National Committee on Child Labour Evation marks 4th coord meeting



The National Committee on Child Labour Eradication hold its 4th coordmeeting yesterday.

THE fourth coordination meeting with a group of sectaries for the National Committee on the Elimination of Child Labour was convened on 13 January at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Labour in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the coordination meeting, U Win Shein, Deputy Minister for Labour, gave a remark regarding the national-level 15-year action plan (2019-2033) to prevent and eliminate child labour and implementation of the six objectives in the first five years of the projects.

A group of secretaries for the National Committee on the

Elimination of Child Labour led by the deputy minister was formed on 31 May 2021, constituting 8 members.

The deputy minister urged the secretaries to make concerted efforts with each working committee to accomplish the objectives and to report the implementation process to the committee so as to review and instruct where necessary.

He requested the secretaries to coordinate matters concerning budget estimates, financial plans for short-term projects and annual financial

statements.

Also, he highlighted to prevent and eliminate as per the objectives of the project as they become victims of abuse, extortion or worse, to ensure legal protection for child labour, to prohibit child workers from being employed in any hazardous industry and to manage them to join vocational schools to pursue proper jobs.

Afterwards, the attendees elaborated implementation process and the secretaries comprehensively discussed them. — MNA

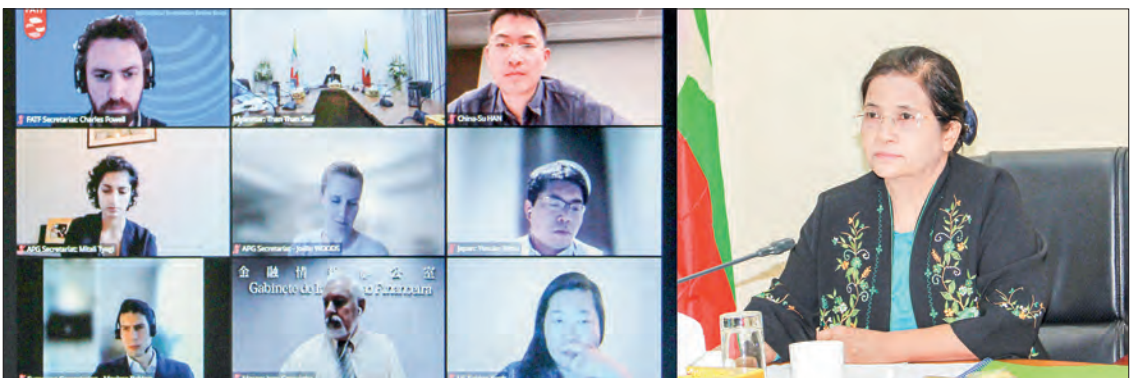
AP JG discusses Myanmar's progress in assessing AML/CFT process

THE Asia-Pacific Joint Group (AP JG) held a videoconference at the Central Bank of Myanmar yesterday afternoon to discuss Myanmar's progress in assessing the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) process in Myanmar.

The meeting was attended by officials from the Financial Action Task Force-FATF and Asia Pacific Group-APG, representatives from the AP JG member countries, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe, representatives from the Anti-Corruption Commission, Ministry of Legal Affairs, Myanmar

Police Force, Bureau of Special Investigation, Supreme Court of the Union, Financial Supervision Department, Internal Revenue Department, Customs Department, Department of Forest and the Financial Intelligence Unit.

The meeting was addressed by Co-Chair Mr Yogpal Singh of the AP JG and Deputy Governor Daw Than Than Swe. Discussions held on Myanmar's AML/CFT progress, including identifying risks of money laundering and holding coordination meetings with regulatory authorities to understand these risks; the establishment of a Money Laundering Risk Assessment



The videoconference of the Asia-Pacific Joint Group.

Committee on Legal Persons; conducting office inspection and field inspections of non-financial businesses and professional occupations; licensing and supervision of foreign remittance services; taking action against

illegal money transfer operators; implementation of the Financial Intelligence Unit; identifying and investigating money laundering crimes; managing money and property obtained from committing crimes.

The meeting also discussed the progress of awareness-raising activities on the fight against terrorism financing and funding for the spread of mass weapons, in line with UN Security Council resolutions. — MNA

MoH receives 400,000 doses of Sputnik Light COVID-19 vaccines from Russia



The Russian Ambassador, the MoH Union Minister and officials receive the Sputnik Light vaccines.

THE Ministry of Health received a total of 400,000 doses of Sputnik Light COVID-19 vaccines donated by the Russian Federation at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

At the handover ceremony, Russian Ambassador Dr Nikolay Listopadov said the vaccines are donated to mark the Myanmar-Russia friendship and to

support Myanmar's efforts to eradicate COVID-19 disease. He said that Russia and Myanmar will continue to cooperate in the fight against the pandemic in a friendly manner.

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win expressed words of thanks. He said the third wave of COVID-19 in Myanmar was under control with

the leadership of the the State Administration Council and the efforts of health workers in a timely manner, adding the importance of the vaccine to control the disease transmission and that the donated vaccines will greatly help in controlling the disease in Myanmar. The Union minister also said that Myanmar will cooperate with the Russian

Federation in the fight against the pandemic in a friendly manner.

Afterwards, the Union minister concluded the handover ceremony after giving the certificate of honour. Then, matters in connexion with the enhancement of cooperation in the health sector between the two countries were discussed.

The Sputnik Light vaccine

phial can be administered one time only so as to ensure more coverage of vaccination in Myanmar. A total of 400,000 doses of the Sputnik Light vaccine donated by Russia arrived yesterday and a total of 600,000 doses of the Sputnik Light vaccine purchased from Russia will arrive in Myanmar on 16 January, it is learnt. — MNA



The 400,000 doses of Sputnik Light vaccine arrive in Yangon.

COVID vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

DOCTORS and nurses from public hospitals, Tatmadaw medical teams, healthcare workers and volunteers are working hard to give COVID-19 vaccines in different states and regions as the vaccination programme is one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease.

COVID-19 vaccine is being given daily to target groups regardless of race or religion including Buddhist monks and nuns, local people over the age of 40, students, religious leaders, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, people in

IDP camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively.

Doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers have already given COVID-19 vaccines to 6,259 people from 15 townships in northern Shan State, 3,339 people from three townships in eastern Shan State, 5,392 people from 14 townships in Mon and Kayin States, 4,282 people from five townships in Yangon Region, 30,187 people from 26 townships of Ayeyarwady Region, 2,935 people from five townships in Rakhine State, 7,710 people from sev-



Hinthada



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MoC facilitates daily imports of anti-COVID-19 equipment

THE Ministry of Commerce is overseeing the importation of essential medical supplies plus anti-COVID devices that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, through trading posts, international airports and seaports.

Anti-COVID-19 equipment was imported by one company using one vehicle. A total of six tonnes of masks were imported via the Chinshwehaw trade zone yesterday.

Officials from the relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the standard operating procedures, including online registration for the import process.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments and treatment of COVID-19 as well as contact persons for inquiries can be reached through the Ministry's Website — www.commerce.gov.mm. — MNA

en districts in Mandalay Region, 2,150 people from Htantabin and Ottwin townships in Bago Region respectively.

Similarly, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 550 students from Muse and Namkham townships in northern Shan State and 1,694 students from 26 townships in Ayeyarwady Region.

It is reported that officials from the respective Military Commands visited the site and coordinated the necessary work. —MNA

Security forces raid PDF camp at school; arms and ammunition confiscated in Htigyaing

ACCORDING to the report on PDF terrorists camping in the primary school in Marathein village, Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Region, to commit acts of vandalism, security forces raided the camp to arrest the terrorists yesterday.

Residents of Marathein village, who did not want the riots and terrorism, secretly reported to the nearest security forces that the terrorists were preparing to carry out acts of violence based under the protection of a primary school in the village. When security forces went to the village to conduct necessary security measures,

the terrorists inside the school fired at them with heavy and small arms at around 10 am. When the security forces fired back at them, they fled to the south of the village at around noon.

It is reported that the terrorists set up sandbags, mines around the school fence inside/ outside the school and the school has been fortified with the construction of terrorist training camps and sandbag bunkers. Arms, including seven percussion lock arms, two homemade guns, 21 homemade launcher rockets, seven homemade mines, 32 training rifles,



The primary school in Marathein in Htigyaing Township.



The camp of PDF terrorists.



Seized arms and ammunition and explosives.

one lathe for the preparation of terrorist arms, six motorcycles, TNT gunpowder, steel rods and tubes used in explosives, camouflage uniforms and accessories were confiscated from them.

Attacking security forces by taking protection in educational buildings, homes in villages, encroachment on camp-based attacks on schools used by students for education are acts of war crimes under the

Geneva Conventions and international law. They will be taken effective action under the existing criminal laws.

It is learned that the security forces are stepping up security measures for the safety of the people as terrorists are committing terrorist acts in villages, and the people are requested to work together by secretly reporting the activities of terrorists to the relevant authorities. — MNA



Let great expectation of poverty-affected people be alive

POVERTY can be approached by basic needs for long term physical sufficiency. In this regard, the amount of income is one of the criteria for measuring poverty.

Poverty or wealth is the challenge of human life. These are unavoidable for the people in the vicious circle. Everybody is facing any kind of vicious circle with physical or mental suffering.

Everybody or every family wishes to have sufficiency for their lives. Actually, they all are struggling in poverty alleviation. The families in the poverty relegation zone are trying to adjust their income and expenditure on a daily basis. Without focusing on an escape from that relegation zone yet, they are solving the current problems to fulfil the basic needs of their families for regular operations.

The government needs to review the levying of tax on high-income people because the income from taxation can contribute much to the improvement of the life of poor people. Moreover, it is necessary to improve the benefit of social welfare in the social, education and health sectors for low-income people.

A plan to increase the minimum wage is an effective way to fight poverty. Health and educational welfare is an important public service that can directly affect low-income families in the enhancement of skills and qualifications in order to have a high capacity in the future.

Policies of developing countries need to turn out skilful workers, invest in the education and healthcare sectors. If so, the society formed with the majority of poverty-affected people will help improve the lives of all participant people with great expectations.

■ ■ ■

Nonetheless, everybody needs to observe various ways to overcome the challenges of poverty when they afford to escape from the vicious circle. In this regard, the ways to alleviate poverty are sustainable development of economy, mitigation of unemployment, proper collection of tax, uplift of the interests of poor people, minimum wage of the country, benefits for low-income people and policies for less developed countries.

Economic growth is a drive to increase the total income in the society which can create job opportunities for the people. The mitigation of employment can avoid the acts of low-income and reliance on the State budget. As such, the government needs to prioritize the undeveloped areas for poverty alleviation with facilities of building infrastructures and generating job opportunities.

The government needs to review the levying of tax on high-income people because the income from taxation can contribute much to the improvement of the life of poor people. Moreover, it is necessary to improve the benefit of social welfare in

Global growth could slow sharply due to Omicron: World Bank

GLOBAL growth will “decelerate markedly” this year, but the Omicron variant of Covid-19 that is spreading rapidly worldwide could make the situation worse and exacerbate labour shortages and supply chain snarls, the World Bank warned Tuesday.

In its latest Global Economic Prospects report, the Washington-based development lender cut its forecast for world economic growth this year to 4.1 per cent after the 5.5 per cent rebound last year.

The forecasts for growth last year and this year were both 0.2 per cent lower than estimates released in June.

Various downside risks

However, the bank warned, “Various downside risks cloud the outlook, including simultaneous Omicron-driven economic disruptions, further supply bottlenecks (and) a de-anchoring of inflation expectations,” the report said.

That could further reduce global growth this year to as low as 3.4 per cent, a drop of 0.7 percentage points.

World Bank President David Malpass worries about the “huge toll” the pandemic is inflicting on people in poor countries, which



Lockdowns and other measures have shattered the Philippine economy and thrown millions out of work.

PHOTO: AFP

could have ramifications for the future.

“We’re seeing troubling reversals in poverty, nutrition and health. The reversal and education or scope from schools closures will have a permanent impact,” he told reporters. “I’m very worried about the permanent scar on development.”

Ayhan Kose, head of bank’s

forecast unit, told AFP the Omicron strain is causing fewer restrictions than the initial outbreak, which means the overall impact could be more benign.

Pressuring health systems

However, he cautioned, “If it stays around much longer, and cases remain elevated and continue pressuring health systems, under

that scenario, the global growth will be lower.”

That would exacerbate ongoing struggles with labor shortages and global production and transportation snarls that have fueled a wave of price increases.

“The Omicron variant shows us once again, the pandemic is still with us and we need to learn how to live with the pandemic,” he said.

Faced with inflation at a 40-year high, the US Federal Reserve is expected to begin raising interest rates soon, and perhaps take more aggressive steps, which will raise borrowing costs for developing countries already burdened with record debt.

That, in turn, could erode business and household confidence, lowering consumption and trade flows, a key engine of global growth.

US, China slowing -

Kose stresses that vaccination remains crucial, since the threat of new, more transmissible or more virulent variants will persist until a substantial part of the world’s population is vaccinated.

“The share of vaccinated population in many economies is expected to surpass 70 per cent by mid-2022, but the prospects for vaccination progress remain uncertain in some countries,” especially in the poorest nations, the report said.

“At recent vaccination rates, only about a third of the LIC (low income countries) population will have received even one vaccine dose by the end of 2023.”

The world’s biggest economic powers, the United States and China, have not been spared from

the economic impact of Omicron.

In its report, the bank sharply lowered its forecast for US growth this year to 3.7 per cent, 0.5 points lower than its previous estimate, following the country’s 5.6 per cent expansion in 2021.

The World Bank notes that Washington’s 10-year, \$1.2 trillion infrastructure spending plan signed in November should provide a “small boost” to the US economy in the near term, with more effects felt in later years.

Tenacious inflation

However, the American economy faces “tenacious inflation, and an even faster tightening of monetary policy could lead to weaker-than-expected growth.”

For China, growth is now expected to slow to 5.1 per cent in 2022, a 0.3 point downgrade, from eight per cent last year, but the country’s troubles extend beyond the pandemic.

“The possibility of a marked and prolonged downturn in the highly leveraged property sector — and its potential effects on house prices, consumer spending and local government financing — is a notable downside risk to the outlook,” the report said.

SOURCE: AFP

Omicron especially dangerous for unvaccinated: WHO

The Omicron variant of Covid-19 is dangerous – and especially so for those who have not been vaccinated against the disease, the World Health Organization warned Wednesday.

THE WHO said the global surge in cases was being driven by Omicron, which is more transmissible than the previously dominant Delta variant.

More than 15 million cases were reported to the WHO last week — with millions more cases thought to have gone unrecorded.

No surrender to the variant

But the UN health agency insisted there should be no surrender to the variant, dismissing the notion that it could be a welcome conduit to ending the pandemic.

“While Omicron causes less severe disease than Delta, it remains a dangerous virus — particularly for those who are unvaccinated,” WHO chief Tedros

Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a press conference.

“We mustn’t allow this virus a free ride or wave the white flag, especially when so many people around the world remain unvaccinated.”

The “overwhelming majority” of people admitted to hospitals are unjabbed, he added.

While vaccines remain very effective at preventing death and severe Covid-19 disease, they do not fully prevent transmission, said Tedros.

“More transmission means more hospitalisations, more deaths, more people off work — including teachers and health workers — and more risk of another variant emerging that is even more transmissible and

more deadly than Omicron.”

Tedros said that the numbers of deaths worldwide had stabilized at around 50,000 per week.

“Learning to live with this virus does not mean we can, or should, accept this number of deaths,” he said.

Vaccine inequity

Tedros wanted every country to have 10 per cent of their population vaccinated by the end of September 2021, 40 per cent by the end of December, and 70 per cent by mid-2022.

But 90 countries have still not reached 40 per cent — with 36 of them still short of the 10-per cent mark, he said.

“In Africa, over 85 per cent of people are yet to receive a sin-

gle dose of vaccine. We can’t end the acute phase of the pandemic unless we close this gap,” said Tedros. Wealthier countries had made it “three times as hard” for dose-starved low-income nations by exporting misinformation rather than vaccines, said Bruce Aylward, the WHO’s frontman on accessing coronavirus tools.

The WHO says Omicron had been identified in 149 countries by 6 January.

Some hope that due to its increased transmissibility, Omicron will replace more severe variants and see Covid-19 shift from a pandemic into an endemic disease that is more manageable.

But WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan said: “This is not the time to declare this is a



A pedestrian walks past a Covid-19 coronavirus awareness mural reading no mask, no entry in Mumbai. PHOTO: AFP

welcome virus.” Maria Van Kerkhove the WHO’s technical lead on Covid-19, said it was difficult to predict the road ahead and Omicron was unlikely to be the last variant preoccupying minds at the UN health agency.

SOURCE: AFP

11th press conference of Information Team to be broadcast live

11th press conference of the Information Team of the State Administration Council will be broadcast live on Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), MRTV News Channel, MWD Channel, MWD Variety Channel, MITV, MOI Website, MOI YouTube and MRTV Website, and aired live on Radio Myanmar Thazin FM, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Padamyar FM, Cherry FM and FM Bagan starting from 1:00 pm on 14 January, at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information. — MNA

11th press conference of State Administration Council's Information Team to be held

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold the 11th press conference at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1:00 pm on 14 January. Local and foreign media personnel are invited to the press conference. — MNA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 13 January 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 14th January, 2022: Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region. Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Kachin State scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 January, 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 January, 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 January, 2022: Partly cloudy.

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာဝန်ဆောင်မှု ဌာနမှ ပို့ဆောင်ပေးပါသည်။

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Four companies allowed operating Ygn MFN system under BOT system

FOUR companies have been allowed to operate under the BOT system for the construction of a smart pole/monopole important for the implementation of a Metropolitan Fibre Network system in the Yangon region.

The contract signing ceremony for the construction of the telecommunication tower was launched in the Mingala hall of Yangon region government office on 12 January. The meeting was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Hla Soe, regional ministers and officials.

At the meeting, the chief minister delivered a speech that there should be complying with the terms and conditions of the contract, to launch discipline in the construction of the telecommunication infrastructure in the region and to eradicate illegal activities. Then, region government



The contract signing ceremony for the construction of the telecommunication tower was launched in the Mingala hall of Yangon region government office on 12 January. PHOTO : KO NAING (BAGO)

secretary U Soe Soe Zaw on behalf of the government signed the agreement with officials from four tender winner companies.

Regarding the construction of the telecommunication infrastructure in the Yangon region, the tender has been invited since 2019 to implement under the BOT system to construct the communication towers and to prevent illegal installation.

In 2021, it is reported that the contracts have been signed with the four companies that won the tender. Nevertheless, the names of the four tender winning companies have not been released, it is learnt. — Ko Naing (Bago)/GNLM

Myanmar ships over 354,000 tonnes of various pulses in past 3 months (Oct-Dec)

MYANMAR conveyed US\$291.89 million worth of 354,218 tonnes of various pulses to foreign trade partners in the half of the current six-month mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022), according to statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the October-December 2021 period, the country shipped US\$273.56 million worth of 334,612 tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through the sea route, and \$18.3 million-valued 19,605 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders.

Myanmar beans and pulses market is expected to grow on the back of the prospective buyer India, the bean traders said.

India is the primary buyer of Myanmar beans, especially black beans, green grams

and pigeon peas. Besides India, Myanmar's beans are purchased by Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, UAE, Malaysia, Indonesia, China (Taipei), Japan, and European countries. But, the volume of demand by those countries is small, according to the domestic beans market.

India's Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare approved to import of not only black gram but also other pulses from Myanmar, with relaxations of conditions regarding clearance consignment up to 30 December 2021.

The prices of beans are positively related to the exchange rate. Last September, the bean price reached an exorbitant high tracking the Kyat weakening in the local forex market.

The price of black gram hit an all-time high of K2 million

per tonne on 29 September following Kyat weakening against the US dollar. At present, the exchange rate of a US dollar is around K2,000. The price of black beans (Fair Average Quality) stands at K1.38 million per tonne. Similarly, the price of pigeon peas rises slightly to K1.365 million per tonne.

More than two million tonnes of various pulses and beans were delivered to foreign markets in the previous financial year 2020-2021 (October-September), with an estimated value of US\$1.57 billion, the Commerce Ministry's data indicated.

At present, the demand for green gram slips due to border trade restrictions amid the COVID-19, with an estimated value of around K125,000 per three-basket bag.

Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy and it contributes to over 30 per cent of Gross Domestic Products. The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane, various pulses and beans. Its second-largest production is the pulses and beans, counting for 33 per cent of agro products and covering 20 per cent of growing acres. Among them, black beans, pigeon peas and green grams constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans, including peanut, chickpea, soybean, black-eyed beans, butter bean and rice bean are also grown in the country. — KK/GNLM



During the October-December 2021 period, the country shipped US\$273.56 million worth of 334,612 tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through the sea route, and \$18.3 million-valued 19,605 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders.

YRIC nods over \$15 mln, K2.39 bln worth of 10 projects



Yangon Region Investment Committee Office. PHOTO : KO NAING

YANGON Region Investment Committee (YRIC) endorsed eight foreign enterprises and two domestic projects made by Myanmar citizens in the manufacturing sector, with an estimated capital of US\$15 million and K2.39 billion, according to the YRIC's videoconferencing convened at the YRIC office on 12 January.

Those businesses will execute production of bridal gowns on the Cutting-Making and Packing basis, production of cotton, mattress and Pu Foam, Virgin Remy Double Drawn Hairs and Wigs production, manufacturing of apparel, electronic appliances production and production of candy. The estimated capital to be brought in the country are \$15.518 million and K2.394 billion and they are expected to create 7,334 local job opportunities. Moreover, they discussed the general issues of the other 18 companies.

To simplify the verification of investment projects, the Myanmar Investment Law allows the region and state In-

vestment Committees to grant permissions for local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million. The investors can inquire about the investment and submit a proposal by dialling (01-658263, 01-658264) of YRIC located on Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township. The proposals worth above K6 billion can contact the Myanmar Investment Commission located on Thitsar Road, Yankin Township via 01-658102 and 01-658103, YRIC stated.

The manufacturing sector has attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region, with enterprises engaging in the production of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and garments on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis.

To date, foreign investments from China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, the British Virgin Islands and Seychelles are arriving in the region. — Ko Naing (Bago)/GNLM

Illegal timber, unregistered vehicles, goods seized

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee takes strict action against illegal trade under the law. The inspection team led by in-charge of the Chinshwehaw trade zone seized seven unregistered vehicles (estimated value of K25 million) at the security checkpoint on 8 January.

On 12 January, the Customs Department also seized K124,143,000 worth of items imported from China at Myanmar Industrial Port — 13 kinds of motorcycle spare parts (K104,750,000), five types of commodities (K16,513,000) and six 4.5 litre shampoo packs (K2,880,000).

Similarly, the department also confiscated three boxes

containing 65 used Samsung Galaxy 4 Phone (K55,310,780) which were not mentioned import lists at the warehouse of Yangon International Airport.

The Ayeyawady Region For-

est Department conducted an inspection and seized K688,800 worth of illegal timber (2.7552 tonnes) at Magyichaungphyia in Patheingyi Township.

The Bago Region For-



In Mon State on 12 January.



In Bago Region on 13 January.



In Ayeyawady Region on 12 January.



Confiscated goods.

est Department confiscated 4.2646 tonnes of illegal timber (K787,380) in the forest reserves of Bago and Toungoo districts yesterday.

Moreover, on 12 January, the combined team of Mon State anti-illegal trade task force also seized K1,410,000 worth of clothing, including used and children's clothes in the passenger bus at Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) checkpoint.

Moreover, Sagaing Region officials seized K1,200,000 worth of one Lifan tractor (K200,000) and six-wheel Canter vehicle (K1,000,000) yesterday.

Therefore, the officials take action against traffickers for a total of K205,863,780 worth of unlicensed vehicles and other goods seized at the Chinshwehaw trade camp, Myanmar Industrial Port, warehouse of Yangon International Airport and in Mon State as per the procedures of Customs Department, K1,476,180 worth of illegal timber confiscated in Ayeyawady and Bago regions under the procedures of the Forest Department and K1,200,000 worth of two unregistered vehicles seized in Sagaing Region under the Export and Import Law, according to the committee. — MNA

Court sentences two human traffickers to 10 years in jail

BHAMO District Court sentenced two people accused of trafficking Myanmar women to China to 10 years in jail each on 11 January, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

Three suspects Aung Mine (aka) Mi Tone Aung Mine (arrested), Ma Rwe Taung (arrested) and Ma Abauk (still at large) from Myitkyina Township of Kachin State persuaded three girls

from Myitkyina to marry Chinese men and they would get K4 million.

They were charged under Section 24/32 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law at the Lweijel Police Station with (Pa) 21/2020.

The Bhamo District Court sentenced Aung Mine (aka) Mi Tone Aung Mine and Ma Rwe Taung to 10 years in prison with hard labour each on Tuesday. — MNA

Drugs worth over K800 mln seized in PyinOoLwin

OVER K800 million worth of drugs were seized in PyinOoLwin township, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

Acting on a tip, a combined team comparing the officers and staff from the anti-narcotics police team stopped a 10-wheel Nissan vehicle en route to Sagaing region from Shan State (North) driven by Kyaw San Min with

Zaw Min Oo and Aung Bala on board at Moe Gyo checkpoint camp, PyinOoLwin township on 11 January at 4 pm. Then, the team found 30.8 kilos of heroin and 22,800 stimulant tablets worth over K800 million from the vehicle.

According to the chain crimes, the police stopped a Surf car driven by Aung Naing with

Phoe Zaw on board at 16th miles inspection gate, Mandalay on 12 January at 7:30 am and found the drugs in the vehicles.

Police have filed charges against them under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws and are still investigating the perpetrators from chain crimes, it is learnt. —MNA



Arrestees along with seized drugs and vehicles.

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Omicron causes sharp drop in airline ticket sales: IATA



The International Civil Aviation Organization says preliminary data shows the number of air passengers was down by 49% last year from pre-pandemic levels in 2019. Passengers queue at Delhi Airport on 13 January 2022. **PHOTO: TWITTER/AFP**

AIRLINE ticket sales have fallen sharply since the end of 2021, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said Wednesday, blaming governments for having “over-reacted” to the Omicron Covid variant by closing borders.

IATA, which groups over 290 airlines, said international air travel had been slowly but steadily recovering from the mass shutdowns of 2020 and early 2021 before the fast-spreading Omicron strain was discovered at the end of November.

Ticket sales in November

were 60.5 per cent below their pre-pandemic November 2019 level, marking an improvement on the 64.8 per cent decline recorded a month earlier.

“Unfortunately, governments over-reacted to the emergence of the Omicron variant at the close of the month and resorted to the tried-and-failed methods of border closures, excessive testing of travellers and quarantine to slow the spread,” IATA president Willie Walsh accused.

As a result, he said, the industry was bracing for “a more difficult first quarter than ex-

pected”.

IATA’s members account for 83 per cent of global air traffic.

In October, the association forecast cumulative industry losses of \$11.6 billion in 2022, down from an estimated \$51.8 billion in 2021 and \$137.7 billion in 2020.

IATA said it expected US airlines to turn profits again this year but that European carriers, which operate more long-haul flights and are therefore more exposed to border closures, would remain in the red.— AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

US inflation ‘too high,’ lowering it a priority: Fed’s Brainard

US inflation is “too high” and the Federal Reserve will make the issue a priority, Lael Brainard, the nominee to take the number-two position at the central bank, said Wednesday.

The Fed’s “most important task” is to focus on “getting inflation back down to two per cent while sustaining a recovery that includes everyone,” Brainard said in remarks prepared for delivery at her nomination hearing before the Senate Banking Committee on Thursday.

Her comments were made public on the day the government released data showing that the wave of price increases for autos, housing, food and energy drove US consumer prices seven per cent higher last year, their largest jump in nearly four decades.—AFP ■

Latin American economy to lose steam this year: UN

ECONOMIC growth in Latin America and the Caribbean will slow sharply this year amid uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic, low investment and inflationary pressures, a UN body said Wednesday.

The region’s gross domestic product (GDP) will grow by 2.1 per cent in 2022, compared with 6.2 per cent in 2021, the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) predicted.

“There’s going to be a very significant slowdown in growth throughout the region,” said Alicia Barcena, ECLAC’s executive secretary, describing the outlook as “very worrying”. —AFP ■

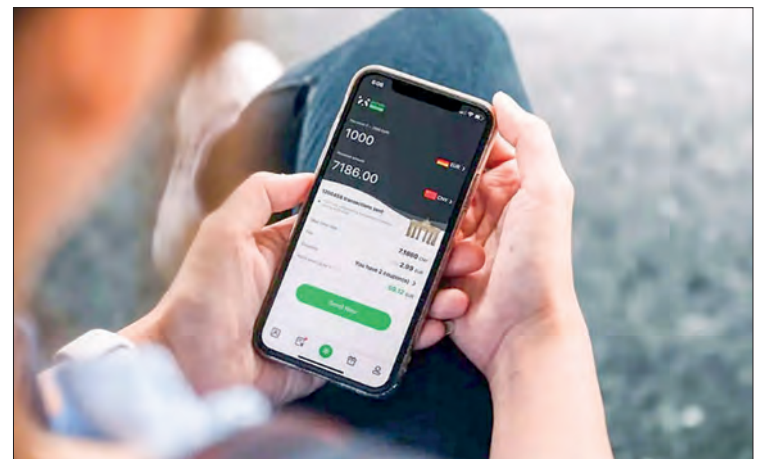
Fintech giant Checkout.com says valuation hits US\$40bln

PAYMENTS processing giant Checkout.com said Wednesday that a new funding round took its value to \$40 billion (35 billion euros), reportedly making it Britain’s biggest fintech start-up.

Checkout.com said in a statement that it has raised \$1.0 billion in funds from various international investors including the sovereign wealth funds of both Qatar and Singapore.

The money will “strengthen an already solid balance sheet” and help the group’s “ambitious growth plans for the US market” and the “continued evolution of its proprietary technology platform and solutions”, it said in a statement.

Other investors included Altimeter, Dragoneer, Franklin Templeton, Insight Partners, Tiger Global and the Oxford Endowment Fund, as well as



Payments processing giant Checkout.com said Wednesday that a new funding round took its value to \$40 billion (35 billion euros), reportedly making it Britain’s biggest fintech start-up. **PHOTO: CHECKOUT.COM/AFP**

several existing shareholders.

The Daily Telegraph reported that the fundraising has transformed Checkout.com into the most valuable UK financial technology firm, leapfrogging online bank Revolut.

The newspaper added that it also gives founder and chief

executive Guillaume Pousaz, a fortune close to \$20 billion.

Checkout.com was founded in London in 2012 and has since rapidly expanded to offer fast online payments in more than 150 currencies for some of the world’s largest e-commerce companies.— AFP ■

China’s NEV sales top globally for 7 consecutive years



A visitor looks at a new energy vehicle (NEV) during a promotional activity for NEVs in rural areas held in Kunming, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, 4 Dec 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA/JIANG WENYAO**

CHINA ranked first globally in terms of the sales of new energy vehicles (NEVs) for a seventh straight year in 2021, despite economic uncertainties and supply-chain pressure, official data showed Wednesday.

The country’s NEV sales came in at 3.52 million units last year, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT).

“China’s NEV sector maintained sound growth momentum in production and sales last year,”

said Fu Bingfeng, secretary-general of the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, emphasizing the importance of robust NEV sales in underpinning the demand of China’s auto market. China’s NEV exports, in particular, posted a strong performance last year, with 310,000 units exported. The booming sales of NEVs came after the gradual improvement of supporting infrastructure in the country. By the end of 2021, China has built 75,000 charging stations, 2.62

million charging piles, and 1,298 battery replacement stations.

However, China’s NEV sector still faces pressure from international competitors and challenges to stabilize its industrial and supply chains, said Guo Shougang, an MIIT official.

Guo urged local authorities to roll out more preferential policies for NEV parking and charging, and to improve policies on car purchase, so as to create a sound environment for boosting NEV sales.—Xinhua ■

New cargo train links China’s Inner Mongolia, Moscow

A new cargo train carrying 50 goods containers departed Wednesday from Urad Back Banner, north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, and is expected to arrive in Moscow in about 10 days.

It is the first China-Europe freight train service officially launched in Urad Back Banner in the city of Bayannur, a significant hub

connecting China and Mongolia and a node city of the new Silk Road Economic Belt. In 2022, Urad Back Banner plans to operate 55 China-Europe freight trains, transporting about 50,000 to 60,000 tonnes of goods with an annual trade value of 300 million yuan (about 47.1 million U.S. dollars) to 500 million yuan. The banner has complet-

ed the construction of two logistic rail lines and a large container yard, creating the largest and fastest railway logistics platform in the city, said Hai Gang, head of the banner’s foreign affairs and commerce bureau. An industrial park for warehousing, cold-chain, e-commerce, and logistics is also being planned to facilitate the cargo trade.— Xinhua



A new cargo train carrying 50 goods containers departed Wednesday from Urad Back Banner, north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, and is expected to arrive in Moscow in about 10 days. PHOTO: XINHUA

Revved up US demand for used cars sends prices soaring

THE used car market in the United States is seeing an unprecedented phenomenon: owners selling vehicles for as much or more than they paid for them.

The strange twist comes as a global shortage of computer chips amid the Covid-19 pandemic has stalled auto manufacturing, fuelling a price increase for used vehicles, which in turn helped drive record US inflation last year. It “100 per cent is a new trend,” which is unlikely to end soon, said Aurelien Guillaud, owner of Arlington Auto Group (AAG), a car dealership based in Arlington, Virginia, just outside the nation’s capital.

Due to the shortage of new vehicles, there has been an influx of demand for used cars, he said.

New government



A shortage of computer chips has stalled auto manufacturing, driving a price increase for used vehicles. PHOTO: AFP

data Wednesday showed US consumer prices surged seven per cent last year, the biggest increase in nearly four decades, fuelled in large part by the dizzying 37.3 per cent jump in prices of used cars and trucks. Given the struggles to get semiconductors from factories in Asia amid the pandemic that has limited new car inventories, rental companies have been hanging on to their

fleets, cutting off the usual steady supply of vehicles for the used car market and pushing up prices. And the strict lockdowns in China to contain the Omicron variant could exacerbate the supply issues. “Compared to a year ago, now you buy that same car for \$20,000 instead of \$16,000,” and sell it for \$24,000, said AAG manager Eddy Malikov.— AFP ■

Transferring Distributor For Registered Products

Distribution of following pesticides registered by Syntech International Co., Ltd is transferring from Agro Tech Co., Ltd to Farm Link Co., Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein Township within (14) days.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration	
			Type	Number
1	Copper Tech 77% WP	Copper Hydroxide 77% WP	Full	P-2020-2380
2	Attention 72 SL	2,4-D Amine Salt 72% SL	Full	P-2020-2384

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of Lier Chemical Co.,ltd have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name “THU KHA MAHAR AGROCHEMICAL CO.,LTD”, to new distributor name “AGRI LEADING BIOTECH CO.,LTD”. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. AGRI LEADING BIOTECH Co.,Ltd. Ph-09-974557623, 09-776547480

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Formula-One	Fomesafen 250g/l SL	P2019-4728

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of Anhui Guangxin Agrochemical Co.,ltd have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name “THU KHA MAHAR AGROCHEMICAL CO.,LTD”, to new distributor name “AGRI LEADING BIOTECH CO.,LTD”. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. AGRI LEADING BIOTECH Co.,Ltd. Ph-09-974557623, 09-776547480

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Thukha Hmoe Shin	Propamocarb Hydrochloride 66.5% SL	P2020-4698

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V DA PING VOY.NO. (072N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V DA PING VOY. NO. (072N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-1-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NIMTOFTE MAERSK VOY.NO. (150S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NIMTOFTE MAERSK VOY.NO. (150S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-1-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** 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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP MAKASSAR VOY.NO. (242N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP MAKASSAR VOY.NO. (242N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-1-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING



The French government is banking on new nuclear plants to hit its targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions. **PHOTO: CHARLY TRIBALLEAU AFP/FILE**

France’s new-generation nuclear plant delayed again

FRENCH electricity firm EDF announced new delays and cost overruns for its troubled new-generation nuclear plant in northern France on Wednesday as the Covid pandemic made the work more difficult.

The heavily indebted group said that the plant at Flamanville on the Channel coast would not be loaded with fuel until the “second quarter of 2023”, instead of late 2022.

Projected costs had increased by another 300 million euros (\$340 million) to 12.7 billion euros — around four times more than the initial forecast of 3.3 billion euros.

The new schedule and budget take into account “the progress of work and preparations for the start in an industrial context that has been made more difficult by the pandemic,” the state-controlled company said

in a statement.

The group has experienced multiple technical setbacks with the Flamanville plant, with the the national nuclear watchdog identifying problems with welding in 2019 which had to be redone.

The new-generation EPR plant at Flamanville is the only one under construction in France, but three others are in operation around the world: two in China and one in Finland.—AFP ■

Taliban warns Tajikistan, Uzbekistan to return Afghan aircraft or face consequences

TALIBAN’S acting Defence Minister Mawlawi Mohammad Yaqoob Mujahid on Wednesday warned Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to return the Afghan aircraft or they will face consequences.

Speaking at a ceremony in Kabul, during which the air force held an exercise, Mujahid said the military aircraft that were taken abroad should be returned, reported Tolo News.

He warned that if the coun-

tries where the military aircraft were taken do not return them, they will face consequences. “Our aircraft that are in Tajikistan or Uzbekistan should be returned. We will not allow these aircraft to remain abroad or to be used by those countries,” he said.

The acting defence minister said they will not allow any country to use Afghan military aircraft that were taken out of Afghanistan, reported Tolo News.

The Taliban Defence Ministry said that after the collapse of the former government, over 40 helicopters were transported to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

A number of Russian-made helicopters that were inactive due to technical problems have been repaired by the Islamic Emirate and were showcased on Tuesday. “Our future air force will be dependent on no country,” the acting defence minister said,



Nearly 150 US-trained Afghan military pilots have sought refuge in Tajikistan since the Taliban seized Kabul in August. Afghanistan’s first female pilot, Niloofar Rahmani, poses for a photograph at an Air Force airfield in Kabul in April 2015 **PHOTO: SHAH MARAI/AFP**

reported Tolo News. According to reports, before the fall of the former government, Afghanistan had over 164 active military air-

craft and now only 81 are in the country. The rest were taken out of Afghanistan and brought to different countries. — ANI ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Biden reaffirms support for changing Senate filibuster to pass voting rights bills

RESIDENT Joe Biden’s speech came at a time when two major pieces of voting rights legislation were stalled in the Senate, where 50 Republicans acted in lockstep to oppose them, making it impossible for the bills to overcome the 60-vote threshold for passage.

US President Joe Biden in a speech Tuesday in Atlanta, Georgia, said he supports changing the Senate filibuster rule so as to make it easier for the chamber to pass legislation upholding Americans’ right to vote.

The filibuster is a rule in the US Senate that requires 60 votes for virtually every piece of legislation to advance.—Xinhua ■

Nippon Steel appeals S. Korean court order over asset sale

NIPPON Steel Corp. on Wednesday appealed a South Korean court order over the sale of company assets South Korean plaintiffs have seized in connection with wartime labour issues.

The appeal came after a district court branch in the southeastern city of Daegu issued an order on 30 Dec to sell 194,000 shares worth about 94 million yen (\$815,000) in a joint venture involving Nippon Steel and South Korean steelmaker POSCO.

The shares were seized after Nippon Steel did not compensate the plaintiffs over wartime labor despite the top South Korean court ordering the company in October 2018 to pay compensation for South Korean plaintiffs who were mobilized to work for Japan Iron & Steel Co., its forerunner, during the Japanese colonial era.—Kyodo ■

Students struggle as Lebanon crisis cripples university sector

POWER shortages and soaring petrol prices mean many Lebanese university students can neither afford to reach their classes nor study from home, a conundrum that is ravaging a generation’s future.

Agnes, a 22-year-old dentistry student from south Lebanon, is among the few still plodding to class in Beirut four days a week.

The five hours she spends on a bus daily now costs her 1.3 million Lebanese pounds a month -- “that’s half of my father’s salary”, she said.

Such expenses are now beyond the reach of most Lebanese students, with their country in the throes of a financial, political and health crisis that has ravaged its economy.

The national currency has lost more than 95 per cent of its value on the black market, and the minimum wage of 675,000 pounds is worth little more than \$20, which barely pays for a full tank of petrol.

Transport “is becoming more expensive than my semester’s tuition fees”, said Tarek, a 25-year-old student at the Islamic University of Lebanon who, like the others interviewed, declined to give a family name.

As a result, and also because teachers face similar difficulties, many universities continue to offer online classes.

But staying connected during state power cuts that often last more than 20 hours a day also comes at a cost.

Amina, 22, a student at the public Lebanese University, said she has reverted to doing most of her work from books due to the lack of electricity at home.—AFP ■



University students arrive at their campus in the Tariq al-Jdideh neighbourhood of Lebanon’s capital Beirut -- for many others the expense of getting to class means in-person learning is out of reach. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS
IN BRIEF

Pakistan court orders golf course shut in rare ruling against military

A golf club belonging to Pakistan's military was closed Wednesday after a court ruled it encroached on national park land in the capital and breached environment regulations.

In a rare ruling against the country's powerful armed forces, judge Athar Minallah said Tuesday that the navy had "illegally" established Margalla Greens Golf Club, an 18-hole course adjacent to the country's top military university.

The course, which opened in 2010, also abuts the Margalla Hills National Park in a range of Himalayan foothills that partly ring Islamabad.

Pakistan has been ruled by the military for roughly half its 74-year history, and court decisions against the powerful institution are almost unheard of. But only last year the Supreme Court questioned the use of military land for commercial projects and demanded a policy document signed by the chiefs of the three armed forces of the country.—AFP ■

Iran sends French-Iranian academic back to prison: supporters

Iran has sent back to prison from house arrest French-Iranian academic Fariba Adelkhah, her Paris-based support group said Wednesday, a shock development in the midst of hugely delicate talks on the Iranian nuclear drive.

Adelkhah was sentenced in May 2020 to five years in prison for conspiring against national security, accusations her supporters have always denounced as absurd. She was allowed home in Tehran in October 2020 with an electronic bracelet.

She is one of at least a dozen Western nationals believed to be held in Iran who activists say are being held as hostages at the behest of the elite Revolutionary Guards to extract concessions from the West.—AFP ■

More tense Ukraine talks loom at OSCE meet in Vienna

THE permanent council of the world's largest security body will meet in Vienna on Thursday, hoping to push Russia, the United States and its European allies towards dialogue to defuse the mounting crisis on Ukraine's border.

The West has accused Moscow of massing tanks, artillery and about 100,000 soldiers on Ukraine's war-torn eastern border in recent weeks, in what NATO says is preparation for an invasion.

But Moscow insists the military deployment is a response to what it sees as the growing presence of NATO in its sphere of influence, where it fiercely opposes the expansion of the Atlantic



Diplomatic efforts are under way to try and defuse the mounting crisis on Ukraine's border with Russia. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

alliance. Moscow and Washington have already underlined their "fundamental" differences on

European security during tense talks in Geneva and Brussels this week. And the United States has

admitted no breakthrough is expected at Thursday's meeting of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna.

"I don't think there will be any concrete results this week. Our main goal is, in principle, to establish a dialogue," said Michael Carpenter, US ambassador to the OSCE. "Yes, our positions are polar, but this does not mean that there are no elements and areas on which we cannot agree," he told independent Russian TV channel Dozhd. The challenge, he said, will be to "determine in what forms it is generally possible to deepen the dialogue on this issue in the next few months or even a year."—AFP ■

58% of Americans believe US democracy in danger of collapse: poll



A year after the storming of the US Capitol by Donald Trump supporters, 58 per cent of Americans believe the country's democracy is in danger of collapse, according to a Quinnipiac poll. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ONE year after the storming of the US Capitol by supporters of Donald Trump, six out of 10

Americans believe the country's democracy is in danger of collapse, according to a poll released

Wednesday.

Seventy-six per cent of those surveyed in the poll by Quinnipiac

University said they think political instability in the United States is a bigger danger than foreign threats.

A majority of those polled -- 58 per cent -- said they think the nation's democracy is in danger of collapse. Thirty-seven per cent disagreed.

Fifty-three per cent meanwhile said they expect political divisions in the country to worsen over their lifetime.

As for the likelihood of another attack in the United States like the one on Congress, 53 per cent of those polled said it was very or somewhat likely.

A special committee of the House of Representatives is investigating the 6 January 2021 storming of the Capitol, with 61 per cent of those surveyed saying they back the probe. A total of 83 per cent of Democrats favour it and 60 per cent of Republicans oppose it.—AFP ■

Kazakh leader vows to rebuild city hit by deadly clashes

PRESIDENT Kassym-Jomart Tokayev visited Almaty on Wednesday for the first time since clashes there left dozens dead, vowing to repair damage to oil-rich Kazakhstan's largest city and financial hub.

"The task now is to rebuild the city in the shortest possible time," he told a government

meeting, according to a statement released by his office.

"I have no doubt the city will be restored," he told a government meeting, according to a statement on the presidential website. The visit came on the eve of the start of the announced withdrawal of a Russia-led military contingent of more than 2,000

troops that were sent to help restore order after peaceful protests gave way to violence and looting last week. Dozens have died in the unrest that began with peaceful protests over an energy price hike. Hundreds of people were injured and police said they arrested more than 10,000 people.

"Tomorrow begins the or-

ganised withdrawal of the peace-keeping contingent" of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the alliance led by Moscow, said Tokayev. Almaty showed further signs of a return to normal life Wednesday, with many more people out on the streets than last week and most restaurants and shops open.—AFP ■

Police escorts, hazmat suits - welcome to Beijing's Olympic bubble

CHINA is sealing the Beijing Olympics inside an impenetrable giant bubble cocooning thousands of people and stretching nearly 200 kilometres (120 miles) in an effort to thwart the coronavirus.

AFP takes you inside the bubble for the 4-20 February Winter Games:

What is the 'closed loop'?

China, where the virus emerged towards the end of 2019, hopes to deliver a "simple, safe and splendid" Games in keeping with the country's strict zero-Covid strategy.

To limit the spread of infection, athletes, support staff, volunteers and media will be in a so-called "closed loop" — aka the bubble — for the whole Games.

Rather than sealing off one huge area of the capital, the bubble will in reality be numerous mini bubbles, such as a cordoned-off hotel on a street used by everyday Beijingers. For those flying into China they will be in the closed loop from the moment that they land in the Chinese capital to



Workers use zip ties to lock up a fence to help create a "bubble" surrounding the Beijing Olympic Park. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

the time they fly out. The bubble came into operation last week.

Unlike last summer's pandemic-delayed Tokyo Games, where for example media were able to leave the bubble after two weeks and head out into public, nobody will be able to leave the "closed loop" during the Games.

That includes for sleeping, eating and travel between the three Games areas, which are as far as 180 kilometres apart.

AFP staff were transported between the airport and their ho-

tel — having had their first Covid test — in special buses escorted by police cars.

Staff at the airport wore hazmat suits with masks and visors.

How many people are inside?

There are no firm numbers. However, there will be about 3,000 athletes and Chinese state media estimates 10,000 people from the media will be at the Games.

There will also an army of staff powering the Olympic sites, from translators to cleaners, hotel staff and drivers.— AFP ■

Djokovic drawn to play Australian Open first round amid visa saga

NOVAK Djokovic was drawn Thursday to play fellow Serb Miomir Kecmanovic in the first round of the Australian Open despite ongoing uncertainty over whether he will still be in the country.

The world number one, top seed and defending champion is looking to clinch a 10th title at Melbourne Park starting next

week and a record 21st Grand Slam crown.

But the vaccine-sceptic Djokovic's fate remains uncertain with Australia's Immigration Minister Alex Hawke pondering whether to revoke his visa again and throw him out of the country.

The 34-year-old Djokovic is scheduled to open his title defence either on Monday or

Tuesday.

Even if he is allowed to stay, there are questions over his preparations and fitness for a gruelling two-week tournament after he was forced to spend four nights in a detention facility.

If he is ruled out of the opening Grand Slam of the year before its starts, his place will be taken by a so-called "lucky loser", someone who lost in the final round of qualifying.

Six-seeded Spanish superstar Rafael Nadal is also gunning for a 21st Slam title and he will start against American Marcos Giron. World number two and US Open champion Daniil Medvedev, a Melbourne finalist last year, opens against Switzerland's Henri Laaksonen.

On the women's side, top seed and world number one Ashleigh Barty, who won the Adelaide International last week, will meet a qualifier first up as she targets a maiden Grand Slam title on home soil.—AFP ■



Novak Djokovic practising at Melbourne Park. **PHOTO: AFP**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Lucas Digne joins Villa from Everton



New signing Lucas Digne of Aston Villa poses for a picture at Bodymoor Heath training ground on 13 January 2022 in Birmingham, England. **PHOTO: NEVILLE WILLIAMS/ASTON VILLA FC/AFP**

ASTON Villa announced the signing of France international Lucas Digne from Everton on Thursday in a deal reportedly worth up to £25 million (\$34 million).

The left-back is manager Steven Gerrard's second signing in the January transfer window after Philippe Coutinho's loan arrival from Barcelona.

"When Lucas became available we jumped at the op-

portunity to bring him to the club," said Gerrard.

"To sign a player of his pedigree and quality in the January window is a great addition to our squad and his arrival excites me and everyone associated with Aston Villa."

The 28-year-old fell out of favour at Everton under manager Rafael Benitez, who last week revealed that he had asked to leave.—AFP ■