SHAPE KAYAH STATE TO BE DEVELOPED ONE FOR ETHNIC NATIONALS PAGE-8 (OPINION)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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# The message of greetings sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark the 70th Anniversary of Kayah State Day

15 January 2022

**Esteemed ethnic national brethren in the Kayah State,**

Today, the 15th of January is the auspicious Kayah State for ethnic national brethren and Kayah ethnic nationals in Kayah State.

On the occasion of the New Year of Kayah State, I extend my greetings to Kayah ethnic nationals with wishes for them to be physically and mentally healthy with happiness for winning their inspirations and all ethnic national people as well.

The Kayinni State was involved in the Union of Myanmar in accord with the 1947 Constitution, and it was officially changed to the Kayah State based on the public desire as of 15 January 1952 according to the 1951 Constitutional Amendment Act. The day when the title of Kayah State was designated was marked the "Kayah State Day".

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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.

# Efforts must be made for establishment of each university in regions and states to confer PhD on students, keeping abreast of the international community, Senior General stresses

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers the speech in inspecting the Dawei University on 14 January 2022.

THE university is not only for lecturing academic subjects to the students but also for sharing techniques as well as letting students learn technologies, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in inspecting the Dawei University yesterday morning.

At the convocation hall, the rector of the university reported on academic and management measures, the progress of vaccination, turning out of graduates, construction of a gymnasium, water tanks and other buildings.

Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe reported on the need for teaching aid at the university and improvement of the university infrastructures.

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# Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to Chairman of the State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

***THE following is message of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State/Government sent to Chairman of the State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, on the occasion of the 74th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.***

## His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

I extend my sincere greetings and best wishes to you on the occasion of the New Year 2022.

Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar continue to enjoy warm and long-standing relations and we appreciate the support extended during Brunei Darussalam's ASEAN Chairmanship. Myanmar remains an important member of the ASEAN family and I look forward to continuing regional efforts for peace, stability and prosperity.

I would also like to extend my sincere congratulations to the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 74th Independence Day.

With my kindest regards and best wishes for your continued good health and happiness.

# Ministers of Foreign Affairs send felicitations to the Union Minister of Ministry of Foreign Affairs

***The following is message of felicitations from Ministers of Foreign Affairs sent to Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Wunna Maung Lwin, on the occasion of the 74th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.***

## The Honourable Dato Seri Setia Haji Erywan Bin Pehin Yusof, Minister of Foreign Affairs II of Brunei Darussalam sends Congratulatory Message to U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

MY warmest greetings and very best wishes to you and your family on the occasion of the New Year 2022.

I appreciate your personal support during Brunei Darussalam's ASEAN Chairmanship, including in my role as the Special Envoy and I look forward to strengthening our cooperation, both bilaterally and as close regional partners.

I also extend my congratulations to the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 74th Independence Day.

With my kindest regards and best wishes for continued good health and happiness to you and your family.

# First 100,000-gallon RC ground tank construction in Ygn completes 80%

The construction site. **PHOTO : KO NAING (BAGO)**

ENGINEERING Department is constructing a reinforced concrete ground tank, which can store 100,000-gallon water, in the Yangon City Hall compound. So far, the construction project has been completed 80 per cent, it is learnt.

"This ground tank is aimed to store rainwater and counter flooding. The rainfall led to sewer overflow in downtown areas (Sule Pagoda Road, Maha Bandoola Road and City Hall).

That is why the tank will become a place to collect and store rainwater and a water pump will be installed either. Upon completion of the project, there will be no more floods during the monsoon season and people passing through the city will be able to travel conveniently in the rainy season," said an official from the Engineering Department.

This tank is 70 feet long, 33 feet wide and seven feet deep. Yangon downtown areas are inevitably flooded after heavy rainfall occurs. It will be a temporary space to collect rainwater and water will be discharged through a five-foot deep drainage system inside Maha Bandoola Park to the outer bar (Yangon River).

The sanitation and drainage system will improve after the project. This project was initiated on 21 November 2021 and it is scheduled to finish in January 2022, Yangon City Development Committee stated. — Ko Naing (Bago)/GNLM

# Value-added products must be exported

VALUE-ADDED products rather than the raw materials must be exported. It is necessary to seek ways for producing and exporting value-added products by effectively applying natural resources.

*(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 31-12-2021)*

# Efforts must be made for establishment of each university in regions and states to confer PhD on students, keeping abreast of the international community, Senior General stresses

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views around the Seikkantha Park in Dawei on 14 January 2022.

FROM PAGE-1

In his speech, the Senior General stressed the need to prepare commemoration of the golden jubilee of the university established in 1977. The university is not only for lecturing academic subjects to the students but also for sharing techniques as well as letting students learn technologies. The students who have passed the matriculation examination will have to face the new environments, so universities need to give good environs for them so as to apply the experiences on literature and social relations along with their lives.

It is necessary to produce educated human resources who must be well-versed for the development of a country. Lessening of pass rate in the matriculation examination must be based on the lower qualification of students in changing the grades and differences of the matriculation examination and high school examinations. Hence, it is necessary to teach the students to have actual knowledge and education to have better changes of grades.

The Senior General inspects the jetty of Myanmar Port Authority.

> University learning should not be by rote but it must be a study system through interactive learning and discussions between teachers and students. Students need to be arranged to read relevant subjects for having higher learning.

According to the surveys, there are more than 10 million illiterate people in the country. That is why all school-age students must be arranged to attend the schools and to have literature. As the State has arranged to open the universities, students need to learn academic subjects and become intellectuals and intelligentsia through the concerted efforts of students and parents.

University learning should not be by rote but it must be a study system through interactive learning and discussions between teachers and students. Students need to be arranged to read relevant subjects for having higher learning. Hostels must be arranged for students at the university as soon as possible. Arrangements must be made for students from Launglon, Thayetchaung and other remote areas to have the convenience of accommodation and food supplies.

All universities need to give economic subjects and law subjects to students. Efforts must be made for the establishment of each university in regions and states to confer PhD on students, keeping abreast of the international community. The Senior General recognized all faculty members discharging academic duties for the enhancement of education qualifications, and the government is fulfilling the needs of uplifting the education sector.

The Senior General viewed around the university and attended to the needs of officials. He then inspected Seikkantha Park in Talainghtein Ward of Dawei and instructed officials to keep the park neat and tidy. The Senior General also viewed the jetty of Myanma Port Authority in Kyetsabyin Ward of Dawei and gave guidance on the upgrade of the jetty, improvement of Dawei River and development of the strand road in Dawei. — MNA

# Servicemen in individuals have the right to improve their lives and knowledge: says Senior General

OBEDIENCE to orders is a good basic need for becoming a good soldier, and they have to abide by the 60 military codes of conduct to be a capable, good soldier, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with officers, other ranks and families of Bokpyin Station of Coastal Region Command yesterday evening.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that training must be taken for turning out capable and powerful servicemen and units in discharging the State defence duties. Obedience to orders is a good basic need for becoming a good soldier, and they have to abide by the 60 military codes of conduct to be a capable, good soldier. The military discipline means exhortation and prohibition. These are rules and regulations prescribed not to cause inappropriate events and to be soldierly moves. Following the military disciplines can bring benefits to the servicemen.

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets officers, other ranks and families at Bokpyin Station yesterday.

The Senior General gives foodstuffs to servicemen and families.

The Senior General warmly talks with officers, other ranks and family members.

Servicemen in individuals have the right to improve their lives and knowledge. They all have to read literature and encourage offspring to learn education so as to produce well-versed educated generations. All servicemen need to improve themselves to be relied on by the State and the Tatmadaw in discharging the State security and defence duties. They all have to contribute to the development of the Tatmadaw and the State as much as possible.

> Obedience to orders is a good basic need for becoming a good soldier, and they have to abide by the 60 military codes of conduct to be a capable, good soldier.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs for servicemen and families to the acting station commander.

After the meeting, the Senior General cordially conversed with officers, other ranks and families. — MNA

## 126 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 14 January, total figure rises to 532,851

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 532,851 after 126 new cases were reported on 14 January 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 510,986 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 19,299 after one died.—MNA

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# Bridges must be built meeting set standards to have exact withstanding and long-term existence, highlights Senior General

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the Kamyawkin Bridge on the Dawei-Kamyawkin-Launglon Road across the Dawei River on 14 January 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected the progress of the Kamyawkin Bridge project yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Construction U Shwe Lay reported on construction, maintenance and upgrade of Phayagyi-Mawlamyine-Dawei-Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung road, Laynya-Yadanabon road, Dawei SEZ-Myitta-Hteekhee road, Dawei detour and Htonkha-Thebyu-Mawtaung road, construction of new Kamyawkin Bridge on Dawei-Kamyawkin-Launglon road and progress of works in financial years, number of bridges above 180 feet long in the Taninthayi Region, and upgrade of rural roads for all-season use.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General stressed the need to systematically carry out land preparations for the construction of the roads for long term existence as the region has high rainfalls. Shoulders of the roads must be built in accord with the norms for traffic safety. As there are some six million motorcycles across the nation, it is necessary to pave the way for motorcycles. The construction of urban and rural roads must be standardized for the development of towns and villages. Guard posts must be facilitated at the bending of the roads for avoiding traffic accidents. Bridges must be built meeting set standards to have exact withstanding and long-term existence. Rural roads must be good for rural people for their transportation.

The Senior General inspected the construction of the Kamyawkin Bridge and left the necessary instructions.

Kamyawkin Bridge on Dawei-Kamyawkin-Launglon road across Dawei River will be 1,050 feet long. The facility is of reinforced concrete, with a 24-foot motor road and five-foot pedestrian ways. The water clearance of the bridge will be 164 feet wide and 16 feet high. The project started on 16 February 2021 and is expected to complete in March 2023. — MNA

## The message of greetings sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council ...

FROM PAGE-1

The Kayah State is located on the eastern mountain range, teeming with natural beauties and plenty of underground and above ground natural resources. It is a pleasant state endowed with beauties of traditional culture. The favourable weather, friendliness, hospitalities and honesty of local ethnic nationals are attractive attributes of the state.

The Kayah State standing as a developing one is decorated with beautiful scenes, neat and tidy landscaping, honesty and transparent souls of the ethnic nationals as well as utmost efforts of local national brethren to serve the state interests.

Now is the time for ethnic national people from the state to join hands with the government for ensuring peace, stability and development of the Kayah State by grasping these sound foundations. Especially, they all need to restore the perpetual peace for posterities.

In looking back the history, the country unavoidably accepted the independence together with events of internal insurgency based on impacts of the divide-and-rule policy of the colonialists, racism and isms as well as armed conflicts based on doubts among the ethnic nationals for many years. We all face that such kinds of impacts much affected the peace, stability and development of the State.

Currently, the government is making relentless efforts for building the Union based on democracy and federalism all the ethnic national people aspire. That is why ethnic nationals from the Kayah State are to participate in the work process through the genuine Union spirit taking the lessons from the past events.

As the Diamond Jubilee Union Day will fall soon, now is time for all ethnic nationals to join hands with one another through thick and thin for sharing their same future and fortune without discrimination of those from hilly and plain regions by overcoming all the challenges for serving interests of the State and the citizens.

At present, the State Administration Council taking the State responsibilities in accord with the Constitution (2008) is implementing the five-point road map and nine political, economic and social objectives. It is very important to ensure peace and stability of the country and restore perpetual peace across the nation in order to secure success in implementation. Hence, as the invitation has been extended to the peace talks for the resumption of new paces for the peace, I firmly believe that more cooperation would have been achieved for the restoration of the internal peace for all ethnic national people.

The government focuses on the interests of the State and the ethnic people will continue further cooperation with the ethnic national people in unison to emphasize the more peace and stability of the country with prosperity and food sufficiency. As "unity will bring prosperity to the nation", all need to build the nation through united strength.

Only when all public service personnel, all civil society organizations and the entire people together with the Tatmadaw participate in the tasks to build the Union based on democracy and federalism in accord with the desire of all ethnic national people will the country successfully reach the goal in a short time. Primarily, all ethnic national people need to have unity whereas the country is peaceful, stable and tranquil.

At present, it can be seen that incitement of some foreign countries, instigation of some organizations with different opinions turning a blind eye to the interests of the State and the people, fabricated news pulling down the State into the abyss of danger, persuasion of NUG, CRPH and PDF terrorist groups and their terror acts cause wrong thoughts and disintegration of unity among the people from some areas without peace. It is necessary to consider that in consequence, it cannot bring the benefit to the State as well as it can bring danger to the State and all the people.

Upholding the Our Three Main National Causes for ensuring the perpetuity of the Union, all the ethnic national people should strive for forging the national unity and the Union spirit.

I'd like to deeply urge ethnic nationals from the Kayah State to unitedly participate in the process of building mutual respect, understanding and trust with correct attitudes similar to that of all ethnic people national brethren.

I send a message of greetings and pray that may all ethnic national people residing in the Kayah State become those capable of restoring peace and stability in the region, strive for development and enhancement of socio-economy of the local people with might and main and participate in the process of raising the State and the citizen interests.

*Sd/Min Aung Hlaing*
*Senior General*
*Prime Minister*
*Chairman*
*State Administration Council*

# State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays homage to Lawkamarazein Buddha Image, Shwetaungsar Pagoda in Dawei

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing kowtows to the Lawkamarazein Buddha Image in Dawei on 14 January 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning paid homage to Lawkamarazein Buddha Image and Shwetaungsar Pagoda in Dawei.

The Senior General and party presented a cash donation to members of the Lawkamarazein Buddha Image Board of Trustees U Kyi Win and the party who returned the certificate of honour.

The Senior General and party also paid homage to Shwetaungsar Pagoda and went round the pagoda clockwise.

The Senior General offered water, flowers and oil lights to the Buddha image in the historic Pho Myat Thaing-Phwar Shwe Hnon ordination hall in the precinct of the pagoda. The Senior General viewed the maintenance of the ordination hall and left necessary instructions.

Later, the Senior General beat the great bell under the title of Maha Wizaya Khema Thitala Neikbutagawtha five times in the precinct of the pagoda. — MNA

The Senior General presents the cash donation to Board of Trustees members at the Lawkamarazein Buddha Image, who return the certificate of honour.

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General pays homage to the Shwetaungsar Pagoda in Dawei on 14 January 2022.

# Relevant ministry needs to soonest scrutinize and report back actual utilization of cultivable lands or not under farmland policies and farmland laws: says Senior General

EFFORTS are being made to reduce oil consumption and increase oil production through the cultivation of oil palm trees with the aim of having an individual healthy life and reducing the spending of foreign exchange for the State, said State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in inspecting Taungdagon oil palm cultivation project in Bokpyin Township yesterday afternoon.

First, Chief Minister of the region U Myat Ko reported to the Senior General on the cultivation of oil palm trees in the Taninthayi Region and further plans to extend the trees.

Officials reported on the implementation of the Taungdagon oil palm cultivation project, the progress of tasks, further cultivation of oil palm trees in the remaining areas, nurturing of quality strains of trees, quality control of fruits, production of quality oil, sending of crude palm oil to the oil mill in Yangon, production of cooking oil and soaps with the use of palm oil.

The Senior General looks into the quality control of fruits and production of crude palm oil at Taungdagon oil palm cultivation project.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo presented the cultivation of oil palm trees in the Taninthayi Region and further plans for the cultivation of trees.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General said lack of actual cultivation on the cultivable lands cause much loss to the businesspersons wishing to actually carry out the cultivation and the State. Hence, the relevant ministry needs to soonest scrutinize and report back the actual utilization of cultivable lands or not under the farmland policies and the farmland laws. At present, oil palm cultivation businesspersons need to actually grow oil palm trees on cultivable lands and produce palm oil meeting set standards.

The Senior General stressed officials need to supervise the misuse of cultivable lands under the laws. Preparations must be made for regrowing the oil palm trees in the proper process and emphasize the continuous production of saplings. Due to the high consumption of edible oil in the country, a large volume of oil is imported on a yearly basis. In the 2020-21 financial year, cooking oil worth more than US$800 million was spent by the State. According to the calculation of experts, an individual person needs 1.58 ticals of oil per day and each person needs to consume some six visses of oil per year. On one hand, efforts are being made to reduce oil consumption and increase oil production through the cultivation of oil palm trees with the aim of having an individual healthy life and reducing the spending of foreign exchange for the State. In order to reduce the import volume of palm oil, the businesspersons engaging in the production of palm oil need to strive for further production of oil. The Senior General stressed the need to reform the agricultural sector. As abuse of farmlands causes much loss to the State, all businesspersons need to strive for proper use of farmlands and grow oil palm trees cent per cent in Kawthoung and Bokpyin regions.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs for staff, viewed the production of crude palm oil factories in the project area and attended to the needs of officials.

The Senior General viewed the production process of raw oil, crude oil, palm oil and soap. —MNA

# Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering holds meeting on 14 Jan

THE Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering convened a meeting (1/2022) at Araindama Hall of Myanmar Police Force in Nay Pyi Taw at 2 pm on 14 January in compliance with the health protocols for the COVID-19.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut, who is also the chairman of the Central Body on Anti-Money Laundering and a member of the State Administration Council, noted that the Central Body has been implementing Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) national-level strategy (2019-2023). Furthermore, a follow-up report on the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is submitted to the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering on 1 February every year, according to a mutual evaluation report of the member countries in implementing FATF standards.

The central body delivered a progress report of the action plan to be implemented as part of FATF's listing and monitoring process to the Asia-Pacific Joint Group (APJG) every four months. This being so, it is the purpose of this meeting.

It plays a critical role to be removed from FATF's grey list. The country improved its (AML/CFT) measures. Myanmar has been trying to resolve the strategic deficiencies in its regime to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing.

Typologies of reports on money laundering are mostly correlated with the purchase of real estate, vehicles and precious gems. Money laundering through currency exchange, converting black money into white money, third-party payment flow with the family members or close associates, front businesses, online gambling, online auctions and sales, illegal businesses, trade-based activities, terrorism financing and foreign institutions are found.

As a result of this, the central body must focus on monitoring and assessment of the information disseminations organs to combat and prevent money laundering. The deficiencies identified by Action Plan are already included in the national-level strategy (2019-2023). We will work on the implementation of a strategy to commit FATF recommendation. All the concerted efforts of the ministries and governmental organizations concerned are required for the strategy to come to fruition.

Later, the members of the central body and the attendees explained the progress and future plans concerning AML/CFT measures in each sector.

The meeting was concluded with the closing remark by Lt-Gen Soe Htut.—MNA

15 JANUARY 2022
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



# Shape Kayah State to be developed one for ethnic nationals

THE Kayah State is located on the eastern mountain range, teeming with natural beauties and plenty of underground and above ground natural resources. It is a pleasant state endowed with beauties of traditional culture. The favourable weather, friendliness, hospitalities and honesty of local ethnic nationals are attractive attributes of the state.

The Kayinni State was involved in the Union of Myanmar in accord with the 1947 Constitution in the past, and it was officially changed to the Kayah State based on the public desire as of 15 January 1952 according to the 1951 Constitutional Amendment Act. The day when the title of Kayah State was designated marked the "Kayah State Day".

Now is the time for ethnic national people from the state to join hands with the government for ensuring peace, stability and development of the Kayah State by grasping sound foundations. Especially, they all need to restore the perpetual peace for posterities.

> The government needs to provide assistance for all ethnic national people residing in the Kayah State to utilize underground and above ground natural resources for their state as well as the country in order to enhance the socio-economic life of the people. So also, those from other regions and states should give a helping hand to the people from the Kayah State for improvement of their living standard with better livelihoods.

As the Diamond Jubilee Union Day will fall soon, now is time for all ethnic nationals to join hands with one another through thick and thin for sharing their same future and same fortune without discrimination of those from hilly and plain regions by overcoming all the challenges for serving interests of the State and the citizens.

Ethnic nationals from the Kayah State should participate in the process of building mutual respect, understanding and trust in unison with correct attitudes similar to that of all ethnic people national brethren. Those from the Kayah State must understand the rights and entitlement of citizens and the duties of safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of the nation.

Only when all public service personnel, all civil society organizations and the entire people together with the Tatmadaw participate in the tasks to build the Union based on democracy and federalism in accord with the desire of all ethnicities will the country successfully meet the goal in a short time.

The government needs to provide assistance for all ethnic national people residing in the Kayah State to utilize underground and above ground natural resources for their state as well as the country in order to enhance the socio-economic life of the people. So also, those from other regions and states should give a helping hand to the people from the Kayah State for improvement of their living standard with better livelihoods.

■ ■ ■

# Will Omicron have mild or severe effect on world economy?

*The travel industry has been thrown into disarray again, workers have been forced to isolate at home and governments are facing a stark choice between imposing restrictions or letting the economy muddle through.*

AFTER limping its way back from the Covid pandemic last year, the global economic recovery has been rattled by the Omicron variant's rapid rise.

The travel industry has been thrown into disarray again, workers have been forced to isolate at home and governments are facing a stark choice between imposing restrictions or letting the economy muddle through.

Could the highly-contagious Omicron variant have a severe impact on the recovery? Or will its mild symptoms keep the economy from sinking again?

The travel industry was looking forward to a rebound in 2022 after it was devastated by border closures and lockdowns. A UNESCO world heritage site, the well preserved medieval walled town of Kotor sits at the foot of Mt. Lovćen at the southern end of the Boka Bay. **PHOTO: AFP**

### How bad a hit on growth?

The World Bank on Tuesday trimmed its global forecasts for 2022, warning that "Omicron-driven economic disruptions" among other factors, would cause growth to "decelerate markedly" this year.

The Washington-based lender said growth would slow to 4.1 per cent after the 5.5 per cent rebound in 2021 but warned it could be as low as 3.4 per cent.

World Bank President David Malpass expressed concern about the "huge toll" the pandemic is taking on poor countries, pointing to "troubling reversals in poverty, nutrition and health".

The head of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva, warned last month that it too may slash its global growth forecasts due to Omicron.

The IMF has previously banked on growth of 5.9 per cent for 2021 and 4.9 per cent this year.

To soften the blow on the economy, US health authorities have cut the isolation period for asymptomatic cases by half to five days. Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's, told AFP he expects US growth of 2.2 per cent in the first quarter, more than half lower than a previous estimate of 5.2 per cent.

"Omicron is already doing economic damage, as is clear from weaker credit card spending, a decline in restaurant bookings, air flight cancelations, and many schools going back to online learning," Zandi said.

"However, I do expect Omicron to pass through quickly and for growth to rebound in the second quarter, and growth for the year to be unaffected," he added.

"Broadly, I think each wave of the virus is doing less damage to the healthcare system and economy than the previous wave."

In the eurozone, tighter restrictions, consumer caution and absenteeism will reduce economic activity in the next few weeks, but the economy will rebound in February, according to Andrew Kenningham, chief Europe economist at Capital Economics. Developing countries with lower vaccination rates face greater uncertainty, and a zero-Covid policy in China could put hamper growth in the world's second biggest economy as it locks down entire cities.

### Will tourism suffer?

The travel industry was looking forward to a rebound in 2022 after it was devastated by border closures and lockdowns.

But the emergence of Omicron during the key winter holiday season caused thousands of flight cancellations, cruises to be forced to dock and fewer hotel bookings.

Investors, however, have been optimistic, as shares of airline and cruise companies have risen in recent weeks. "The markets seemed to be looking at the post-Omicron period," said Alexandre Baradez, analyst at IG France.

### Will inflation worsen?

The economic recovery has had an adverse side effect: Inflation that has soared to decades-high levels in the United States and Europe as energy prices soared and rising demand faced supply shortages.

Central banks have insisted that high inflation is only temporary and prices will eventually fall, but it has hurt consumers and businesses.

"Little is certain about Omicron's impact on consumer demand, but people who stay at home because of the variant are more likely to spend their money on retail goods rather than services like dining out or in-person entertainment," said Jack Kleinhenz, chief economist at the US National Retail Federation.

"That would put further pressure on inflation since supply chains are already overloaded across the globe," he said.

Supply chain bottlenecks caused shortages of a slew of a materials last year, driving up prices of many products. Higher demand for products on goods on supply could further fuel price increases.

The Federal Reserve rattled markets last week as it signalled that it was ready to tighten monetary policy more aggressively to tame inflation.

### End of stimulus?

Governments deployed massive stimulus programmes in 2020 to save their economies, piling up $226 trillion of debt, according to the IMF.

Furlough schemes to keep people employed "made sense" when there was so much uncertainty and entire industries shut down, said Niclas Poitiers, research fellow at Bruegel, a Brussels-based think tank.

"I don't see yet the necessity for massive funds to the economy," Poitiers said. The United States and Europe are instead investing in structural programmes, such as President Joe Biden's $1.75 trillion "Build Back Better" social and climate spending plan.

***SOURCE: AFP***

# WHO approves two new treatments for Coronavirus, including Arthritis drug

THE World Health Organization approved two new Covid-19 treatments on Friday, growing the arsenal of tools along with vaccines to stave off severe illness and death from the virus.

The news comes as Omicron cases fill hospitals around the world with the WHO predicting half of Europe will be infected by March.

In their recommendation in British medical Journal the BMJ, WHO experts said arthritis drug baricitinib used with corticosteroids to treat severe or critical Covid patients led to better survival rates and reduced need for ventilators. Experts also recommended synthetic antibody treatment Sotrovimab for people with non-serious Covid at highest risk of hospitalization, such as the elderly, people with immunodeficiencies or chronic diseases such as diabetes.

Sotrovimab's benefits for people not at risk of hospitalization were deemed insignificant and the WHO said its effectiveness against new variants like Omicron was "still uncertain". Only three other treatments for Covid-19 have received WHO approval, starting with corticosteroids for severely ill patients in September 2020.

Corticosteroids are inexpensive and widely available and fight inflammation that commonly accompanies severe cases.

Arthritis drugs tocilizumab and sarilumab, which the WHO endorsed in July, are IL-6 inhibitors that suppress a dangerous overreaction of the immune system to the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Baricitinib is in a different class of drugs known as Janus kinase inhibitors, but it falls under the same guidelines as the IL-6 inhibitors. "When both are available, choose one based on issues including cost and clinician experience," the guidelines say.

Synthetic antibody treatment Regeneron was approved by the WHO in September and the guidelines say Sotrovimab can be used for the same type of patients.

***SOURCE: AFP***

The latest recommended drugs are able to reduce the risk of hospital admission for the most vulnerable patients
**PHOTO: JOSEPH PREZIOSO/AFP**

## 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 were sent to the Defence Services Medical Research Centre on 13-1-2022 and the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant was found in three laboratory samples.
3. Three Omicron cases were three foreigners – two entered the country from the Philippines and one from Malaysia by relief flights.
4. 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.
5. 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*

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

**(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 14 January 2022)**

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 15 January, 2022:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region. Rain or thundershowers will be fairly wide spread in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State and scattered in Kachin 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 scattered rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Shan, Chin, Kayah States and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 January, 2022:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 January, 2022:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 January, 2022:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Yangon Regions.

### EARTHQUAKE NEWS

(Issued at 15:55 hour M.S.T.)

A Strong earthquake of magnitude (6.5) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Sunda Strait, Indonesia), latitude 6.91 °S, longitude 105.18 °E, depth (71) kilometers, about (1750) miles southeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (15) hr (35) min (44) sec M.S.T on 14 January, 2022.

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# MIC permits ten projects at yesterday meeting

The MIC meeting 1/2022 in progress.

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) held its meeting (1/2022) at No. 18 Union Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 January.

Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission and the MIC members attended.

MIC gave the go-ahead to the expansion of capital by five existing enterprises and ten new projects in livestock and fishery, manufacturing, mining and services sectors. The overall investments amounted to US$241.79 million and over K806 billion. Those enterprises will employ 2,646 residents.

Myanmar has attracted foreign direct investment of more than $479.395 million from 19 enterprises as of mid-January 2022 since October 2021. The domestic investments made by Myanmar citizens have exceeded K1,048 billion and 20 enterprises were given the green light. Those enterprises are to create 12,747 job opportunities. — MNA

# MoC oversees daily imports of anti-COVID-19 equipment

THE Ministry of Commerce is facilitating 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 two vehicles. A total of 12 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 inquires can be reached through the Ministry's Website — www.commerce.gov.mm. — MNA

# COVID-19 vaccination continues in Mansi Township

THE second dose of COVID-19 vaccine was given in at Mansi City Hall, Mansi Township, Bhamo District, Kachin State at 9 am yesterday.

The COVID-19 vaccine given in Mansi Township is the Sinopharm vaccine, which has been given to 4,855 people in the fifth batch for the first time and for those who have been immunized for the second time for various reasons.

**PHOTO : TOWNSHIP IPRD**

Inoculation was carried out by the Township Public Health Department staff in line with the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health under the close supervision of the COVID-19 Disease Control and Emergency Response Committee.

As of 13 January 2022, vaccination has been administered in Mansi Township and 39.64 per cent of the eligible population has been inoculated.

Those who remain to be vaccinated will get jabbed against COVID-19 soon, officials said. —Township IPRD/GNLM

# 92,233 people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in Mudon

Vaccination drive in Mudon. **PHOTO : AUNG MYO THU (IPRD)**

A total of 92,233 people has been fully inoculated against COVID-19 in Mudon Township, Mawlamyine District, Mon State as of 13 January, according to the Township Public Health Department.

In Mudon Township, health officials are administering COVID-19 vaccines at 13 designated places.

Covishield vaccination has been given to 4,367 people, while 87,866 people have received a full course of Sinovac Covid vaccine.

The inoculation will continue depending on the next availability of vaccines, an official from the township health department said.

To ensure full protection against the COVID-19 Omicron variant for the environment and the family, COVID-19 vaccines are administered daily to the public from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, officials said. —Aung Myo Thu (IPRD)/GNLM

# MAJA to hold 17th Japanese Literature Translation Contest 2022

THE Myanmar Association for Japan Alumni (MAJA) will conduct the 17th Japanese Literature Translation Contest 2022 and the Japanese Literature Translation Junior-Level Contest.

The Japanese Literature Translation Contest intends to emerge the translators of Japanese literature and any Myanmar citizens living in local and foreign countries can participate by translating the Japanese contemporary literature into the Myanmar language. The manuscripts for translation will be sent to the participants via email and they will have to submit within the specified duration.

Those who want to participate in the contest will have to fill up the Google form via the MAJA link between 13 and 31 January 2022. The manuscripts will be emailed on 15 February and the participants must resend them on 21 February.

The contestants for the Japanese Literature Translation Junior-Level Contest must be under 25 and language must be at N3 level. They have to translate the simple Japanese literature to the Myanmar language. It aims to develop an interest in Japanese literature. The participants must translate the Japanese manuscripts into Myanmar during the three-hour Zoom online system contest.

Those who participate in the Japanese Literature Translation Junior-Level Contest can apply between 13 and 31 January 2022. The contest will start at 9 am and end at noon on 20 February. The contestants can use any dictionaries in the translation contest. The officials will send the detailed facts for contests to the participants. — Myo Min Thura/GNLM

# Information Team of State Administration Council holds 11th press conference

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council held the 11th press conference at the Ministry of Information yesterday afternoon.

Leader of the Information Team Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, member of the Union Election Commission U Khin Maung Oo, spokespersons of departments and representatives of departmental information teams replied to the queries raised by the media.

First, Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun widely explained the working visit of Cambodia Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen to Myanmar on 7 and 8 January, diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Cambodia, discussions and joint statement of two leaders of Myanmar and Cambodia, external factors that can affect Myanmar's relations with the international and regional countries, extension of ceasefire with EAOs until the end of February 2022 and further extension to 2022 year-end, new steps to make stronger the 75-year-old sovereignty of the State for entire peace to be conducted during this year, pre-diamond jubilee period, as the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day will fall on 4 January 2023, invitation to the organizations concerned for peace and concerted efforts for peace processes, bilateral relations between Myanmar and China and comprehensive cooperation works during the 71-year diplomatic relations, reopening of border trade camps with the direct use of Yuan/Kyat to promote Myanmar-China trade volume, facilitate trade flows and payments, to reduce the reliance on the US dollar and Exchange Rate Risk, detection of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant in Myanmar and COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities.

He also clarified the destructive elements of NUG, CRPH and PDF terrorist groups when the SAC controls the COVID-19 disease to a certain extent not to affect the human resources of the country in the future and efforts to improve the education despite the challenges regarding CDMers.

Then, he made a video clip and PowerPoint presentation covering the terrorist attacks of NUG and PDF terrorist groups, launching attacks by taking positions in houses, governmental, educational and religious buildings which are not military targets and using residents as human shields, war crimes against the Geneva Conventions and International Law, threats, murder, robbery, confession of NLD member Phyo Zeya Thaw, attacks of NUG and PDF terrorists, detentions and seizures of arms and ammunition.

Then, UEC member U Khin Maung Oo made another presentation on the inspection of accounts existing political party, action taken against those who participated in committing voting fraud and lawless actions in the 2020 general election, electoral system discussions between the UEC and political parties and compiling of voter lists, reviewing and amendments to laws and rules and appointments of staff.

Then, Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, UEC Member U Khin Maung Oo and officials replied to the queries raised by the media.

The press conference was also attended by members of the Information Team of the State Administration Council, representatives from ministries officials of the Tatmadaw Information Team, guests and reporters from local news agencies, daily newspapers, local TV channels and local-based foreign news agencies. — MNA

Media personnel are seen attending the 11th press conference of the SAC Information Team.

# Marathein village school in Htigyaing arbitrarily set on fire by PDF terrorists

Seized weapons and related items.

Confiscated 107mm rocket and mortor shells.

Sand bunker.

A press release has been issued regarding the seizure of bombs and weapons and ammunition, and terrorist equipment, including 107mm rocket launchers from PDF terrorists who were setting up sandbag bunkers, and terrorist training camps to carry out acts of violence at the school in Marathein village, Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Region.

The terrorists, who had been dispersed by the security forces, returned to the village at around 9:30 pm on 13 January and set fire to the school to destroy any evidence of their encampment.

As the result of the arson attack, one two-storey building (130 feet x 25 feet), one one-storey building (60 feet x 25 feet) and one one-storey building (80 feet x 18 feet) were destroyed.

In addition, terrorists opened fire on security forces by taking cover behind the village houses and schools, the burning of the village school is not only detrimental to the education of school-age children, but also a ban on higher learning, which in turn contributes to local development. As these acts are considered war crimes under the Geneva Conventions and international law, their actions continue to be disgustingly disliked by the local people.

It is reported that security forces will identify and annihilate the perpetrators of the above acts of violence, and the people are urged to cooperate for the stability of the area by secretly reporting any information about the movements of terrorists to relevant authorities. — MNA

Ravages of school building.

# Supermarket shelves go bare as Omicron disrupts US

AS the Omicron variant of Covid-19 sweeps the United States, empty supermarket shelves have become the latest sign of the pandemic's ongoing disruption to the country's supply chains.

"It's not as bad as Sunday but there are still plenty of empty shelves, lots of products are missing," Justin Toone, a regular shopper at a Giant supermarket in the Washington suburb of Bethesda, Maryland, told AFP.

Shortages have been a recurring feature of the Covid-19 pandemic in the United States, with a run on toilet paper marking its early days, but a wider range of items have gone out of stock lately, particularly in areas struck by bad winter weather like snow storms.

"Last week for several days in a row, there was nothing, no fruit, no vegetables in this Giant store and also in all grocery stores around," Toone said.

Honey, eggs, milk and meat disappeared from the shelves in nearby stores.

Patrick Penfield, a professor of supply chain management at Syracuse University, said that previous Covid-19 waves affected different parts of the country over a period of time, allowing grocery stores to adjust their supply chains.

"Since the Omicron variant is so contagious, it's impacting the entire United States all at once. So many US grocery stores and food producers are dealing with employees being out sick, or being asked to quarantine," he said. Further up the supply chain, there are issues producing enough food, delivering it and even unloading it once it gets to the grocery stores.— AFP ■

Empty shelves are pictured at a Giant grocery store in Bethesda, Maryland on 13 January 2021, a consequence of both the Omicron variant and a recent snow storm. **PHOTO: AFP**

# Mexico president wants Mexican investors to buy Citi unit

MEXICO'S President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said Thursday that he wanted Mexican investors to buy the local consumer banking business of US giant Citi, which has announced plans to exit.

"We can turn it into something very good if, without authoritarian measures, we manage to Mexicanize this bank," Lopez Obrador said in a video message posted on social media.

He welcomed an expression of interest in acquiring the business from the controversial businessman Ricardo Salinas Pliego, whose business empire includes another bank and a television network.

Other potential buyers included the billionaire tycoon Carlos Slim — Mexico's richest man — and Carlos Hank Gonzalez, who runs the Mexican bank Banorte, he said.

"Of course, this does not mean preventing foreigners from participating," added Lopez Obrador, who has vowed to overhaul Mexico's "neoliberal" economic model.

"We're not closed. We're not chauvinists. We're not against foreigners, but we would like this bank to be Mexicanized," he said.

Citi said on Tuesday that it planned to cease operations in Mexico in consumer, small business and middle-market customers in line with similar moves in other overseas markets.

It will maintain an institutional client business in the country to provide financial advisory and private banking services.

The businesses Citi is shedding in Mexico — where it operates under the Citibanamex brand — accounted for $3.5 billion in revenues and $1.2 billion in pre-tax earnings through the first three quarters of 2021.—AFP ■

Citi said that it planned to cease operations in Mexico – where it operates under the Citibanamex brand – in consumer, small business and middle-market customers. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

# S. Korea raises interest rate to 1.25%, pre-pandemic level

SOUTH Korea's central bank raised its key interest rate to 1.25 per cent, its pre-pandemic level, on Friday amid growing concerns over inflation. The decision to lift the benchmark rate by 0.25 per centage point, the third hike in five months, comes amid a sharp rise in housing prices, while low interest rates have caused a surge in household debts. In March 2020 the Bank of Korea cut the key rate to 0.75 per cent and to a record low of 0.5 per cent in May that year to tackle the economic fallout caused by the coronavirus pandemic. South Korea's consumer price index rose 3.7 per cent in December from a year earlier, marking the third straight month it has risen over 3 per cent. Asia's fourth-largest economy is recovering on the back of robust exports but a resurgence of virus cases amid the fast spread of the Omicron variant could put a damper on private spending, a report by Yonhap News Agency said.— Kyodo ■

**PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING**

We, **Anhui Jiuyi Agriculture Co.,Ltd**, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from **Seven Seven One Co.,Ltd** to **Myanmar Golden Sun Crop Science Co.,Ltd**. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

| No | Trade Name | Active Ingredient Name | Registration Type | Registration Number |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Total Killing | Bispyribac-sodium 40% SC | Provisional Registration | P2020-4896 |

Myanmar Golden Sun Crop Science Co.,Ltd
Tel: 09-784772103

Ads
TradeMark
Call
09251022355
09974424848

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**
**M.V MCL 12**

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 12 VOY. NO. (01/2022)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-1-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT-1** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department**
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD**

# Rubber farmers in Chaungzon Tsp make handsome profit from good price

RUBBER prices remain in the bull market this winter, allowing the rubber farmers and tappers to earn well, a small-scale rubber farm owner said.

"The prevailing price of rubber is K900-1,000 per pound. Both the farm owners and workers have financial security in difficult times. Last year, rubber was offered only K600-700 per pound. The farmers did not make a great profit then," said Ko Lin Zaw, a tapper.

The natural rubber produced in Chaungzon Township is primarily delivered to rubber processing plants in Mudon, Thanbyuzayet and Kyaikmaraw townships. This year, the farmers are receiving higher prices.

The majority of the villages in Chaungzon Township are relying on rubber farms. Good price secures the socio and economic well-being of the workers.

Myanmar's rubber export generated more than US$449 million in income in the financial year 2020-2021.

Chinese authorities from Yunnan Province which is close to Myanmar's Chinshwehaw border in Shan State gave the go-ahead to import four industrial crops from Myanmar, including sugarcane, rubber, tragacanth gum and cotton. As a result of this, the trade channel is reopened again.

Rubber is primarily produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season's data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres.

About 300,000 tonnes of rubber is produced annually across the country.

Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries, according to the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association.

Myanmar's rubber export generated more than US$449 million in income in the financial year 2020-2021. — IPRD, KK/GNLM

# Export price of fresh chilli drops, fetching around K2,000 per viss

THE export price of Myanmar's fresh chilli has sharply dropped, fetching around K2,000 per viss, said Daw Ohnmar Kyaw, chairperson of the Myanmar Chilli Market and Technical Development Association.

"The price of chilli has sharply declined. In addition, Thailand, the main country to which Myanmar exports chilli, has highly produced chillies recently.

The price of chilli is unpredictable. Last few days, the fresh chilli pepper is priced at extremely lower than the price registered last year, fetching nearly K1,800 or K2,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes)," she added.

Last year, the price hit a record high of around K4,000 per viss, the association stated.

Currently, the fresh chillies are yielded from Magway, Ayeyawady and Mandalay divisions.

However, the acreage of chillies is much lower this year than last year. Also, the yield of chilli has dropped due to the weather condition.

Myanmar's fresh chilli pepper is shipped to Viet Nam via the sea route and primarily sent to China and Thailand via cross-border trade zones.

It is commonly grown in the Ayeyawady Region and Kyaukse Township of Mandalay Region.

The export varieties of fresh chilli peppers are 692,777, 999, Kartar, Demon, Sunshine, Lucky One and Tharmo. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar's fresh chilli pepper is shipped to Viet Nam via the sea route and primarily sent to China and Thailand via cross-border trade zones.

# Black bean price hike again

MYANMAR black bean has spiked to over K1.3 million per tonne in the domestic market, according to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Commodity Depot).

Although the black bean price fell to below K1.3 million per tonne since 17 December, the price currently jumped to K1.378,000 per tonne on 13 January, according to the bean market data. The prices of Myanmar black beans were up owing to the Kyat depreciation in the local foreign market. Besides, the trade is also thriving due to the goods export potential. Currently, the US dollar exchange rate against the Myanmar kyat stood around K2,000 per dollar in the foreign exchange market. Last September, the pulses price skyrocketed due to the sharp rising of foreign exchange rates, hitting a record high of K2 million per tonne in the domestic market. Earlier, the import policy of free imports of three Myanmar pulses — green gram, pigeon pea and black bean — was to expire on 31 January 2022. But now, it has been extended to 31 March 2022.

A memorandum of understanding was signed on 18 June to export a total of 350,000 tonnes of Myanmar pulses, including 250,000 tonnes of black bean and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon pea to India in five consecutive years (from the 2021-2022FY to the 2025-2026FY), according to the Ministry of Commerce. India is the largest consumer of pulses in the world. India's annual consumption of pulses is estimated at 2.7 million or 2.8 million tonnes.

Presently, Myanmar conveyed 354,218.164 tonnes of beans and pulses to foreign markets through border routes and sea routes from 1 October 2020 to 31 December 2021 in the current financial year 2020-2021, generating over US$1,91.891 million, it is learnt.

In the 2020-2021 financial year, Myanmar shipped 2,019,695.882 tonnes of beans and pulses to foreign markets through border routes and sea routes, fetching over $1,570.707 million, according to the figure released by the ministry. The black bean plantations are yielding around 400,000 tonnes annually in Myanmar. Besides, Myanmar has also produced about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas yearly.

The black bean, which is mainly bought from India, is mainly grown in Myanmar. Other pulses, including green gram and pigeon pea, are grown in Africa and Australia in addition to Myanmar, according to the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. — NN/GNLM

# Illegal timber, vehicles, consumer goods seized across country

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts are being made to effectively take action against illegal trade under the law. On 13 January, a combined inspection team from the Yepu Permanent Inspection Station confiscated about 0.7678 tonne of undocumented teak (estimated value of K2,303,400) and, the carrier, Toyota Hi-Ace (estimated value of K17,000,000) near Yepu village on the Lashio-Muse Road.

Similarly, another vehicle (Toyota Hi-Ace (estimated value of K13,000,000) carrying 0.6712 tonnes of undocumented teak (estimated value of K2,013,600) was confiscated under the procedures of the Department of Forest near the same village.

In Ayeyawady on 14 January.

During the inspection of the motorcycle spare parts imported from China at the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Inspection Station, two types of spare parts (estimated value of K6 million), one type of cast iron balls (estimated value of K23,114,000), eight types of machine spare parts (estimated value of K1,380,600), which were not listed in the import declaration, were confiscated under the regulations of the Department of Customs.

A Hilux vehicle (X/3309) was also arrested with 10 packs of Thai-made herbal glue (estimated value of K400,000), 15 packs of fertilizer (estimated value of K420,000) and 25 packs of herbal supplement (estimated value of K700,000), which have no official documents, during an unexpected inspection on the way from Hpa-an to Bago.

Under the management of the Ayeyawady Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force, a combined task force conducted a search operation in Mawlamyinekyun Township, Labutta District, and arrested 60.0348 tonnes of teak (estimated value of K107,700,000) and 0.8936 tonne of Mango wood (estimated value of K300,000) under the regulation of the Department of Forest.

Yesterday, 7.677 tonnes of illegal teak (estimated value of K1,510,900) was seized in the forest reserves in Bago and Toungoo districts, and 3.7274 tonnes of illegal teak (estimated value of K1,118,220) in Tamu Township, Sagaing Region, and action is being taken under the procedures of the Department of Forest.

Similarly, A total of 880 thermoflasks (estimated value of K4,664,000) were confiscated at the Kawkareik combined Inspection Station.

According to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, a total of 12 arrests were made on 13 and 14 January (estimated value of K181,624,720). — MNA

Seized goods.

In Bago Region on 14 January.

In Bago Region on 14 January.

Confiscated commodities at Customs on 13 January.

# Narcotic drugs worth K24.5 billion seized in Patheingyi

A combined task force seized illegal drugs worth K24.5 billion from a Fuso 12-wheel vehicle during a search operation in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region on 10 January, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

A total of 1,000 kilogrammes of Methamphetamine tablets (ICE) and three million stimulant tablets were found inside the coal-covered gunny sacks on the car which was parked near milestone number (8/5) on the Htonebo-Myitnge road.

According to Tine Kyaw, the driver of the vehicle, the drugs were to be transported from Shan State (North) to Yangon Region.

It is reported that he has been charged under the law and the related suspects are being investigated. — MNA

An arrestee along with seized drugs and vehicle.

# Myanmar team prepares for ASEAN U-23 Championship

THE Myanmar U-23 team has started training for the 2022 ASEAN U-23 Championship to be played in February, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The squad has been taking training at the camp since 10 January and has selected 30 preliminary players.

The team Myanmar is also preparing for the 31st Viet Nam SEA Games and the ASEAN U-23 Championship.

The team is headed by Popov and is based on the team that competed in the 2022 AFC U-23 Championship at the end of October 2021.

The preliminary list of the newly formed Myanmar U-23 team also includes winger Arthur Pha, who plays for the Spanish second division club Leganes youth team. The 2022 ASEAN U-23 Championship will be held in Cambodia from 14 to 26 February. Myanmar will face defending champions Indonesia, Malaysia and Laos in Group B.

All 11 Southeast Asian nations will compete in the tournament.

Cambodia, the Philippines, Brunei and Timor-Leste are placed in Group A while Thailand is placed in Group C with Viet Nam and Singapore. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

# Toothless Liverpool held by 10-man Arsenal in League Cup semi

Arsenal's English defender Rob Holding (left) vies with Liverpool's Portuguese striker Diogo Jota (right) during the English League Cup semi-final first leg football match at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England on Thursday. **PHOTO: PAUL ELLIS / AFP**

ARSENAL held out for over an hour a man down to leave their League Cup semi-final with Liverpool delicately poised after the first leg ended 0-0 at Anfield on Thursday. The Gunners looked set to pay for another moment of madness from former captain Granit Xhaka when he was sent off for chopping down Diogo Jota after just 24 minutes.

However, Liverpool badly missed the firepower of Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane as they laboured to even create chances against the 10 men.

Chelsea already await the winners at Wembley next month after the first leg, originally scheduled to be played at the Emirates last week, was called off due to a coronavirus outbreak among the Liverpool squad. The Reds were missing Salah and Mane due to their international duties at the Africa Cup of Nations. However, Liverpool otherwise had a clean bill of health and Jurgen Klopp named the strongest side available to him. The home side had the better of a cagey opening quarter with Ben White's miscued clearance from Takumi Minamino's cross that skewed just wide the closest either side came before the red card. — AFP ■

# Rejuvenated Murray battles into first final since 2019

FORMER world number one Andy Murray reached his first final since 2019 on Friday in a massive boost to his confidence ahead of the Australian Open.

The 34-year-old three-time major winner, who underwent career-saving hip surgery, has now strung together four wins in a row for the first time since being crowned champion at Antwerp nearly three years ago.

He again was exceptional against towering Reilly Opelka at the Sydney Classic, battling through their semi-final 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 6-4, successfully blunting the American's giant serve. Murray, who has been given a wildcard into next week's Australian Open,

Andy Murray is into his first final since 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

said he was encouraged by how he was playing heading into the opening Grand Slam of the year, a tournament where he is a five-time finalist.

"It would be amazing to start the year with a win, it's already been a great week for me," said the Scot, now ranked 135, who closed his eyes and let out a huge roar on winning the match.— 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.

# McIlroy starts new year hoping to prove major credentials

RORY McIlroy makes his first appearance of the new year next week at the Abu Dhabi Championship, looking to bounce back to his best after a topsy-turvy 2021.

The Northern Irishman will make his eighth attempt to complete the career Grand Slam at the Masters in April, but ending his eight-year wait for any major title would be an excellent achievement.

McIlroy was the world number one midway through the 2020 season but had slipped to 16th in the rankings just 15 months later.

There were flashes of his best in the closing stages of last year, although it ended with a late collapse and torn shirt at the DP World Tour Championship in November and a low finish in the Hero World Challenge.

He jumped back into the top 10 by claiming his 20th PGA Tour victory at the CJ Cup in October, becoming just the fourth non-American to reach the mark since World War II. "For the last few months, I was trying to be someone else," four-time major winner McIlroy said after that success. "I realize that being me is enough and that's enough to do things like this."—AFP ■

Rory McIlroy won the last of his four major titles in 2014. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**