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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.

Picturesque view of Inlay Lake captivates visitors after hyacinths, debris under control

INLAY Lake is enchanting visitors with scenic views after pieces of man-made floating lands, water hyacinths and lake debris are removed in the aquatic ecosystem.

Inlay Lake, the second-largest lake in Myanmar, is home to migratory birds and rare species and is also rich in biodiversity and cultural heritage.

Earlier, pieces of floating lands, invasive water hyacinths and debris were ubiquitous across the lake. It posed a grave threat to the lake, affecting the ecosystem and causing transport problems. To collect those invasive water hyacinths and pieces of floating lands, the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management has taken control measures by setting seven zones in the lake starting from October 2021, with the use of backhoe dredgers and aquatic weed harvesters. The water hyacinth menace is controlled in one month, the Department stated.



The serene Inlay Lake in the background of ranges of Shan Hills.

“Motorboats are highly vulnerable to water hyacinths and other lake debris which block

water channels and hamper transportation. The authorities have cleared water hyacinths in

the lake so we no longer need to worry about those problems till now,” said Ko Tin Aung Lwin,

a motorboat operator from Nyaungshwe city.

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Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Health
Order No 3/2022
2nd Waning of Pyatho 1383 ME
18 January 2022

THE Ministry of Health hereby announced the order by exercising the authority stipulated in Sub-Section (b) of Section 21 of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

1. The Ministry of Health has taken preventive measures against Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in real-time. Therefore, the orders were issued for the people from some townships of Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states to stay at home in order to more effectively control the infection of the pandemic.
2. However, as the people from these townships exactly abided by the disciplines of preventing the COVID-19, further findings of confirmed patients within 14 days and group-wise infection among the patients declined, while relevant governmental departments, organizations and people emphasized raising the health awareness during the stay-at-home period. Moreover, further finding of confirmed patients and contact persons in laboratory tests declined within 14 days, and township administration bodies, health staff, those from relevant departments and organizations and volunteers as well as the people actively participated in the prevention and control of the pandemic. As a result, it was scrutinized that the number of confirmed patients declined.
3. Hence, the people residing in Haka Township, Chin State were removed from the list of the Stay-at-Home programme as of 4 am on 19-1-2022.
4. The people must strictly abide by the disciplines related to the prevention and control of the COVID-19 issued by the Ministry of Health after removing the township from the list of stay-at-home programmes.

Dr Thet Khaing Win
Union Minister



Myanmar Red Cross Society
holds workshop on performance
assessment and recognition

MYANMAR Red Cross Society President Dr Maung Maung Myint virtually joined an opening ceremony of the workshop on performance assessment and recognition held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the event, the MRCS president made a remark and Head of Delegation Ms Nadia Khoury of IFRC Myanmar Country Office delivered a greeting speech.

The workshop will be con-

ducted for four days up to 21 January aiming to grab the advantages and weaknesses of a national team that links with the wider scope of abilities as the performance assessment and recognition processes are dealing with the whole team.

The event was attended by Vice-President of MRCS Dr Daw Amara Maw Naing, executive committee members and relevant officials of regions/states.

—MNA

MoC oversees daily
imports of essential 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 1,100 empty oxygen cylinders 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

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in
various states, regions

DOCTORS and nurses from public hospitals, Tatmadaw medical teams, healthcare workers and volunteers are working hard to administer 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 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.

On 17 January and yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers injected COVID-19 vaccines to 2,114 people from ten townships in northern Shan State, 2,233 from three townships in eastern Shan State, 4,713 from 15 townships in Kayin and Mon States, 1,235 from Palaw Township, Taninthayi Region, 1,400 from Tamway and Yankin



Locals get vaccinated against COVID-19 in Shan State (North).

townships in Yangon Region, 21,361 from 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region, 10,664 from 11 townships in Rakhine State, 9,346 from seven districts in Mandalay Region and three monks plus 787 people from Toungoo and Htantabin townships in Bago Region, respectively.

Similarly, healthcare officials inoculated 1,132 students from ten townships in northern Shan State and 560 students from 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region on 17 January. It is reported that officials from the respective Military Commands visited the site and coordinated where necessary. — MNA

All stakeholders and organizations are invited to join the peace talks

The year 2022 is of importance. Coming 12 February is the Diamond Jubilee Union Day and the 4 January 2023 will be the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day. As such, this year is the pre-Diamond Jubilee period. Hence, it is important to further strengthen the sovereignty of the State and progress of the nation with development fruits. So, we have to start the new paces for restoration of the peace this year. As it is mentioned in the fourth point of the five-point road map, all stakeholders and organizations are invited to join the peace talks.

(Excerpt from the New Year Message delivered by
Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 1 January 2022)

Union Industry Minister makes inspection tour in Mon state

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Lwin, Minister for Natural Resources of the Mon State Government, made a tour of inspection in Thanbyuzayat and Mawlamyine in Mon State on 16 January. During the tour, the Union minister and party visited the rubber plantation at Min Ywa Rubber Plantation and rubber productions at Crumb Rubber Factory in Thanbyuzayat Township. Afterwards, they visited the plantation of durian trees which are being grown under the joint-venture of the Ministry of Industry and the United Agrifood Co., Ltd.

In the afternoon, they arrived at the Ceramics Manufacturing Department in Mawlamyine and inspected the production process of the factory. Afterwards, they inspected the No (4) Distillery Factory and gave necessary instructions to factory officials. In the evening, the Union minister and party arrived at the Industrial Supervision

and Inspection Department in Mawlamyine and highlighted the need to give priority to the development of activities that directly benefit the people, to be trained to use the aids in inspection work, to carry out the systematic inspection to prevent fire as well as to distribute awareness leaflets, to check boilers systematically to ensure compliance with the standards, to conduct the inspection to ensure no harm to the environment and health, and to be proactive and quick to get good results in carrying out their work. On 17 January, the Union minister met with the Mon State government ministers and discussed the operation of the Ministry of Industry. The deputy minister explained the rubber cultivation and production of the Ministry of Industry in Mon State, the condition of factories, plans to open a rubber technical training school next year to provide more job opportunities for young people in the state. The Union minister said he will



The MoI Union Minister inspects the No (21) Heavy Industry in Thaton.

provide assistance for the development of industrial works. Afterwards, the Union minister and party visited Kyonekaya Rubber Plantation in Paung Township and instructed officials to plan other perennial crops that are suitable for the climate. In the afternoon, they inspected No (21) Heavy Industry in Thaton and gave necessary instructions to the factory manager and officials. The Union minister and party also visited No (8) Industrial Training Centre in Thaton and ordered to focus on making the school effective for the country and the state, to transform the traditional education system into a skills-based system, and to learn and master various subjects related to each instructor. — MNA

Picturesque view of Inlay Lake captivates visitors after hyacinths, debris under control

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Water hyacinths are spreading across the lake and eradication of water hyacinths has been undertaken approximately on 465.43 acres in the designated seven zones. Furthermore, other aquatic weeds were also cleared on 243 acres in the lake. The control and eradication activities were carried out in the main

waterways of Namkat creek and Ngaphe creek as well. Menacing water hyacinth is suitable to turn to manure. The locals, grower groups and the cooperative societies are recycling them as organic fertilizers. “Shan State government is assisting in making fertilizers from hyacinth humus. It also

helps reduce the use of chemical fertilizers for the benefit of the residents and the lake’s ecosystem. It is recycling waste to valuable organic fertilizers in agriculture,” U Nyi Nyi, chairman of Save the Inlay Lake explained. Those harvested water hyacinths and other debris are heaped near Zayatgyi and

Lethit villages. The officials concerned, in cooperation with locals, managed them to make natural fertilizers. The recycling process also helps lessen the degradation of water quality. The department is also taking control measures to keep the lake clean. It will conserve the biodiversity and ecosystem

in the wetland area. Those hyacinths and pieces of floating lands will be collected with hyacinth harvesters along the waterways to villages, in coordination with the residents. Moreover, the department will also raise awareness of the systematic disposal of the hyacinth. — Nay Myo Thurein (Nyaungshwe IPRD)/GNLM

Statement to appreciate teachers' efforts

TEACHERS are honoured as part of the Five Infinite Venerables, and the manner of paying respect to the teachers can be only seen in Myanmar as a tradition. The teachers teach their pupils based on their goodwill like their own children and dutifully serve a teacher's duties. They must train their pupils and students in the best discipline. They see that they grasp their lessons well. They instruct them in the arts and sciences, they provide for their safety in every quarter, and they introduce them to their friends and associates.

As the COVID-19 infection rate is controlled to a certain extent, the basic education high, middle and primary schools under the Department of Basic Education have reopened across nation for the 2021-2022 academic year starting 1 June.

Those who want to seek good sake of one party, political extremist NLD members and supporters, NUG, CRPH and PDF committed arson attacks at the schools using mines, homemade bombs and grenades to fail the teaching processes, and threatened the teachers in addition to the incitements, social punishment and threats against education staff to join CDM while the officials made preparations for the reopening of schools and during the current teaching period. Their doings left some casualties, and the State Administration Council has expressed its deepest condolences and sympathy to the victims' families.

The SAC also appreciates the concerted efforts of teachers, who understand two virtues, Hiri — shame at doing evil —and Otappa—fear of the results of doing evil —for teaching the new generations of the country amid such difficulties and challenges.

The security forces will take extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of teachers who are making efforts in the academic sector for the next generations in order to promote the education qualification. The people should keep security awareness and cooperate with the security members in community peace and peaceful learning of children.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

The following telephone numbers, fax and email address can be reached to safely report information in connection with illegal trade.

Auto telephone number	- 067 409 883
Mobile phone	- 09 404339969
Fax	- 067 409 886
Email address	- antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

Regarding the "request for money from departmental organizations in conducting trade", the following numbers can be reached to safely report such information.

Auto telephone number	- 067 409 881
Mobile phone	- 09 699611116
Fax	- 067 409 887
Email address	- antiillegaltradeoffice@gmail.com

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

Myanmar census working committee on eradication of child labour holds 5th meeting

MYANMAR Census Working Committee on Eradication of Child Labour held its 5th coordination meeting yesterday morning online at the Ministry of Planning and Finance. The meeting was attended by the Chairman of the working committee Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance Daw Than Than Lin, members of the committee and representatives from the state/regional committee.

At the meeting, the deputy minister discussed the completion of child labour surveys conducted in nine regions/states and the submission of the report to the National Committee for the

Eradication of Child Labour, the status of child labour surveys in regions and states during the 2021-2022 Mini Budget Year and the status of submitting the survey report to the National Committee on March 2022.

She urged the regions and states remaining to conduct the survey to draw a work schedule and submit it to the Census Working Committee in Nay Pyi Taw, called on the working committee members to work together in conducting the survey.

The meeting also discussed the progress of the survey, the types of the survey conducted and future plans. — MNA



Forest Dept seizes 424 tonnes of timber

THE Forest Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation adopts the Community Monitoring and Reporting System (CMRS) to curb the illegal timber and forest products.

According to the data collected between 10 and 16 January, the department seized a total of 424.9304 tonnes of illegal timber – 123.4398 tonnes of teak, 34.0278 tonnes of hardwood and 267.4628 tonnes of others in regions/states and

Nay Pyi Taw and arrested 36 suspects with 26 vehicles, the department stated. —Nyi Nyi Than (Nay Pyi Taw)/GNLM

Confiscated illegal timber.



Police seize illegal timber, vehicle and handsets

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee takes strict action against illegal trade under the law.

On 17 January, the inspector (Mandalay) and Inspection and Illegal Trade Eradication Department, Customs Department made an inspection at the

(21/3) milepost on the Mandalay-Lashio-Muse Union Highway. They seized a total of K280,644,000 worth of illegal products – 1,705 handsets (K250,644,000) in 1F/8750 (Yutong bus) and one Yutong bus (K30,000,000), and took action as per the procedures of the Customs Department.



Seized handsets.

Similarly, the Mon State Forest Department also confiscated K3,654,100 worth of illegal gum-kino wood (7.3082 tonnes) near Myoma (Taung) area in Thanbyu-zayat Township of Mawlamyine District and took action according to the procedures of the Forest Department.

Moreover, the Ayeyawady Region Forest Department conducted an inspection and found K292,177,240 worth of various illegal timber (172.085 tonnes) in Pathein, Thabaung and Mawlamyinegyun townships and took action in line with the procedures of the department.

The Bago Region Forest Department also seized a total of K2,111,400 worth of various illegal timber (0.921 tonne) – K2,019,300

worth of teak (10.006 tonnes) and K92,100 worth of other woods in forest reserves of Toungoo and Thayawady districts yesterday. They took action following the procedures of the department.

Then, the Sagaing Region Forest Department seized a total of K167,660 worth of 1.275 tonnes

of various illegal timber and one Jiangdong engine (1hp) in Phaungbyin Township of Mawlaik District and took action as per the procedures of the department.

There were six arrest cases worth K578,754,400 on 17 and 18 January, the committee stated. — MNA



Seized timber.

Robber with fake gun arrested with cooperation of UAB bank staff, people in Latha Township

THE current situation in some parts of the country including terrorist attacks and assassinations have raised public fears and weakened cooperation as an opportunity to rob some banks and gold shops with weapons and fake weapons.

A criminal who robbed UAB Bank in Latha Township with a fake gun in the afternoon of 17 January, was arrested in a short time with the cooperation of bank staff and responsible people.

Bank employees from Thanlyin Township named Daw Khin Cho Cho, 36, a bank manager from Tawa Ward, whose father's name is U Soe Aung, and nine bank employees and a bank security guard were carrying out banking works at the UAB Bank situated at the corner of the 19th Street and Strand Street, No.3 Quarter, Latha Township, Yangon Region, at 12:10 pm on 17 January when a man entered the bank and threatened the



Arrestee Tun Tun.

bank security guard with a gun. The robber was arrested shortly after threatening to shoot a bank security guard with a gun and put K7,975,000 in cash in a backpack while leaving the bank.

Security forces inspected the scene and seized the robber named Tun Tun, 39-year-old, whose father's name is U Tun Win, from No. (124), Phayagon

Village, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region and a fake pistol used in the robbery and K7,975,000 in cash were also confiscated.

Security forces are proceeding to take legal action against Tun Tun, who was arrested shortly after the robbery with a fake gun, with the cooperation of bank staff and responsible citizens. — MNA

Drug seizures in some townships

THE combined team consisting of the members of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force seized 120,000 stimulant tablets in a Kluger car driven by Bran Aung on Nankyin-Ingyandon road of Ingyandon (North-East) Ward of Myitkyina on 17 January.

Moreover, the police raided the house of Ma Nwe Nwe Tun in Myananda Ward of Mong Naung Village in Ma Mone Karing Village-tract of Mohnyin Township on the same day and seized 0.35 kilo of heroin and 1,900 stimulant tablets.

The anti-narcotic agents inspected the Harrier car driven by Chan Nyein Ko at Moegyo village checkpoint in Ward (21) of PyinOoLwin Township and seized 50.5kilos of opium extract. According to the investigation, they arrested other suspects Thura Tun and Ma Thaw Thaw Sett together with a Mazda car near Yay Nge junction in Ward (11) on Lashio-PyinOoLwin road.

Similarly, the anti-narcotics officials seized 0.95 kilo of

ICE in Toyota Mark II and Toyota Town Ace driven by May Thu Khine and Zaw Min Oo (aka) Star in Nanattaw street in No (8) Ward of Kamayut Township. They then raided the house of Zaw Min Oo (aka) Star in Myaynigon (North) Ward of Sangyoung Township and seized 24,000 stimulant tablets and 5.95 kilos of ICE.

Similarly, the police also raided the house of Wam Si Saw in Kone Sar Village of Htin Par Kyaing Village-tract of Lauk-kai Township and confiscated 176,000 stimulant tablets, 0.7 kilo of morphine and 0.39 kilo of ICE.

The police stopped the Pajero car driven by Mar Aung (aka) Tun Naing (aka) Maung Nge to examine near (301/2) milepost in Mang Kham of No (1) Ward of Namkham Township and seized 1.76 kilogrammes of heroin. The suspects were taken action under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

Japan's Fukuoka technology helps implement waste dumpsite project in Thayetpinchaung village



The Thayetpinchaung waste dumpsite project.
PHOTO: KO NAING (BAGO)

A waste dumpsite project in Thayetpinchaung village in the Yangon region is being implemented with the technology of Fukuoka town, Japan.

Urban Pollution Control & Cleansing Department, Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) is implementing the dumpsite project in Thayetpinchaung village, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) township with an aim to have many benefits for the environment, including energy generation from waste and reduction of waste from Yangon region.

Urban Pollution Control & Cleansing Department is de-

veloping the dumpsite project in Thayetpinchaung with the technology of Fukuoka town, Japan. The Fukuoka method is a semi-aerobic landfill design that speeds up the decomposition of waste materials, improves the quality of water draining from the site and reduces methane gas, according to the director from Urban Pollution Control & Cleansing Department, YCDC.

As part of the project, the department is currently upgrading the road, building a 500-foot site for landfills, including drainage and earthworks, as well as office space and residential areas for staff.

In the future, the department is planning to work together with foreign companies to generate electricity from waste, CNG from waste, compost from waste and carbon dioxide from waste. The Thayetpinchaung dump will be Yangon's third landfill at the beginning of 2023. The Thayetpinchaung dump covers about 187.3 acres, according to the YCDC.

The Yangon's first and second landfills are Htein Pin dump in Hlinethaya township and Daweigyaung dump in Dagon Myothit (North) township. — Ko Naing (Bago)/GNLM

Kengtung Township provides free screening for COVID-19

FREE screening for the COVID-19 virus was provided to travellers in Kengtung Township on 17 January to reduce the rate of the pandemic infection as soon as possible, officials said.

In doing so, led by Township Administrator U Hlaing Maung Maung, health workers and officials urged travellers to enter Kengtung by following COVID-19

rules.

Information and necessary medical check-ups are also provided free of charge to control the pandemic.

Authorities are conducting daily check-ups for COVID-19 disease and free screening for the virus at the Kengtung entry checkpoint. —Aung Zin Myint (IPRD)/GNLM



Free screening is underway. **PHOTO: AUNG ZIN MYINT (IPRD)**

Officials welcome back Myanmar returnees at various borders

MYANMAR nationals from abroad are being welcomed at various border crossings this month.

On 17 January, a total of 176 returnees — 90 males and 86 females — came back home through Muse, northern Shan State and one female through Laukkai, respectively.

Healthcare officials from relevant public hospitals and members of the Tatmadaw Medical Corps conducted COVID-19 tests and provided quarantine

entry documents for the returnees.

Next, instructions of the Ministry of Health were explained systematically and departmental officials provided necessary assistance.

The township administration then escorted them to their respective places in passenger vehicles, and the infected people were kept in separate places to facilitate the necessary medical and administrative matters, officials said. —MNA

YCTA (temporary) formed to take action on miscreant taxi drivers



The association was formed because of congestion and frequent road accidents caused by taxi drivers stopping their taxis at no parking areas such as yellow lines, bus stops and intersections. **PHOTO: KO NAING (BAGO)**

YANGON City Taxi Association (temporary) was formed to take action on miscreant taxi drivers in the Yangon region, according to the Yangon Region Transport Committee (YRTC).

The association was formed because of congestion and frequent road accidents caused by taxi drivers stopping their taxis at no parking areas such as yellow lines, bus stops and intersections. Currently, the awareness period has been set for one month, said U Lyan Ciint Mang of the YRTC.

"The taxi drivers stopped their taxis at no parking area such as bus stop. Currently, we are providing awareness to taxi drivers. Later, we are going to take legal action against them as suspension of CNG or business license," he was quoted as saying.

The Yangon City Taxi Association (temporary) was formed with 25 members from YRTC and other legal advisers to draw the draft of rules and regulations. The rules and regulations of the association are being drafted now, according

to the YRTC.

Around 60,000 taxis from the Yangon region were registered as city taxis at the YRTC. These taxis stopped at the bus stops and there are no places for buses to stop at bus stations, U Lyan Ciint Mang clarified.

The purpose of the Yangon City Taxi Association (temporary) is to make Yangon city taxis systematic, keep taxi drivers be recorded and designate city taxi parking areas, according to the YRTC. —Ko Naing (Bago)/GNLM

163 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 18 January, total figure rises to 533,408

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **533,408** after **163** new cases were reported on 18 January 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **511,483** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **19,305** after **1** died.—MNA

Telegraphic Transfer system permitted for gold transaction below US\$50,000

THE international remittance for gold transaction valued at below US\$50,000 is allowed to use Telegraph Transfer (TT) system, said U Myo Myint, Chair of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

This move will revive gold export market, he continued.

“Traders are no longer face hurdles in gold export. They are prepping for export. The goldsmith businesses also resume their operations. Transportation agents also embark on export procedures,” he was quoted as saying.

Nevertheless, the transaction worth above \$50,000 can be done only with Letter of Credit

(LC).

Those who want to export gold can inquire the procedures at the One-Stop Service Centre. They can also request the YGEA for certain matters.

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

Myanmar is placed on the grey list by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the inter-governmental body that sets anti-money laundering standards. Therefore, the country needs to monitor on the gold and jewellery exports and imports in



A gold jewellery outlet in Yangon.

order to ensure there is no illegal income. As per the notification released by the according to the

Trade Department, payment method was changed to LC.

The payment using LC can

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

Starting from 20 December, TT system was given the green light for transaction valued at below \$50,000 in gold exports. The transaction worth higher than that are permitted only with LC, Trade Department notified.

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

About 50,000 visses of onion enter Pakokku market



Currently, the price of onion hit a maximum of K3,000 and a minimum of K1,000 per viss.

ABOUT 50,000 visses of onion enter the onion brokerage market in ward 8, Pakokku township, Magway region daily, it is learnt.

The onions from Pakokku, Seikphyu, Pale-Minnaing, Pauk and Yaw regions have entered the onion brokerage since April 2021 with a minimum of about 15,000 visses and a maximum of over 350,000 visses entering daily to the market.

Today, about 1,450 bags of monsoon onion weighing about 50,000 visses came in the market and those were sold for a maximum of K550 and a minimum of K100 per viss. Last year, the

onion price was ranged between K1,800 and K2,000 per viss. The transport difficulties came up due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The price of onion in the domestic market has also fallen due to a sharp drop in demand. Currently, the price of onion hit a maximum of K3,000 and a minimum of K1,000 per viss,” said U Than Win, Chairman of the Pakokku District Committee for Agricultural Products Management.

“Besides, local farmers cultivated about two acres with 198 pits per acre of monsoon onion this year. Its cultivation costs

over K1.2 million per acre in toto, including labour charges, fertilizer, irrigation cost and cattle hire fee. Each pit of onion yields about 20 visses and is still on sale period. Consequently, it is hard to estimate the value of profit,” elaborated U Nyi Nyi Min Kyaw, the onion grower from Pyinchaung village, Pauk township.

Farmers in the villages mostly grow the onion. So, they hope that they will be free from COVID-19 and sell them at good prices in the international market, he added. — Salai Ko Kee (MA)/GNLM

Dried chilli pepper valued at K8,000 per viss on China demand

DRIED chilli pepper was offered K8,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) on the back of strong demand by China, said Daw Ohnma Kyaw, chair of the Myanmar Chilli Market and Technology Development Association.

It is the current market price in Yangon. China has proposed a purchase order at present, she added.

“The fresh chilli pepper is currently harvested in Magway, Ayeyawady and Mandalay regions. The price is dropping at the moment, at K2,000 per viss.

If the fresh chilli pepper is dried and stored, the growers will receive a great profit,” Daw Ohnma Kyaw shared her opinion.

Last year, the price of fresh chilli pepper stood at K4,000 per viss, the association stated.

This year, the yield plummeted due to weather impact. Additionally, the number of acreages was reduced as well.

Myanmar’s chilli pepper is primarily conveyed to Thailand and China. Nonetheless, the closure of the major border Muse post between Myanmar and China from 8 July brought Myanmar’s fresh chilli pepper export to China to a halt. Consequently, the chilli pepper produced by the Kyaukse area, which was supposed to be conveyed to China, was shifted to Thailand through the Myawady border post.

It is commonly grown in Ayeyawady, Mandalay and Magway regions and Shan State. The export varieties of fresh chilli peppers are 692, 777, 999, Karta Demon, Sunshine, Tharmo and Lucky One. — NN/GNLM



Farm workers are seen picking chillies.

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

Facilitate each region/state with one university for local youths

THE university is an institution not only to lecture academic subjects but to teach the techniques to students and to let students themselves learn knowledge and techniques.

The students who have already passed the matriculation examination would have to face experiences in new environments of universities. Hence, these universities need to create good environments and chances for students to have valuable experiences. The universities must give knowledge about academic subjects and social relations to be applied in society along with their lives.

It is necessary to turn out a large number of well-versed educated human resources for the development of the country. As the State has arranged the opening of schools and universities to produce educated human resources, students must be encouraged to pursue education to be intellectuals and intelligentsia.

University students need to discard the rote system of learning but they have to discuss lessons and knowledge about respective subjects with the help of faculty members. University students need to search necessary subjects related to syllabuses as the self-study measures.

The students must rely on their own in studying the literature and search documents and books related to the lessons. Moreover, the university campus must be pleasant for students. Authorities concerned need to arrange the environs of the university, including the recreation centre, for students to enjoy scenic and pleasant scenes for having relaxation in studies.

Local authorities need to provide accommodation to the university students at hostels. Moreover, arrangements must be made for fulfilling food and accommodation to the students who come from remote areas.

All universities must add economics and law subjects for the students to have a wider scope of knowledge. Whenever students face difficulties in business and legal affairs, those endowed with knowledge about economics and law subjects are sure to solve the problems in an easy manner.

As part of implementing the long-term academic plans, all regions and states must be facilitated with each university that would be capable of conferring PhD on the doctoral students so as to keep abreast of the international community.

As part of implementing the long-term academic plans, all regions and states must be facilitated with each university that would be capable of conferring PhD on the doctoral students so as to keep abreast of the international community.

The university must also be an institution that can provide training to the students to have physical and mental health and fitness. As such, when they depart from the university, they would have physical and mental capabilities of overcoming challenges of society by applying their valuable experiences.



Thoughts on the 110th anniversary of Alfred Wegener's 'continental drift' hypothesis



Alfred Wegener

ON 6 January 1912, the German scientist Alfred Wegener (1 November 1880-November 1930) first proposed his 'continental drift' theory (now also known as 'plate tectonics') at the annual meeting of the German Geological Society, Frankfurt am Main.

A few comments can be made on the occasion of the 110th anniversary of the reportage of this novel, pioneering and essentially correct scientific hypothesis.

Alfred Wegener's 'continental drift' theory was generally (albeit not universally) ignored, marginalized and critiqued during his lifetime and a few decades after his death. Hence in part, the following is a discussion of 'What took them [the scientific community] so long' to recognize the essential correctness of Wegener's theory?

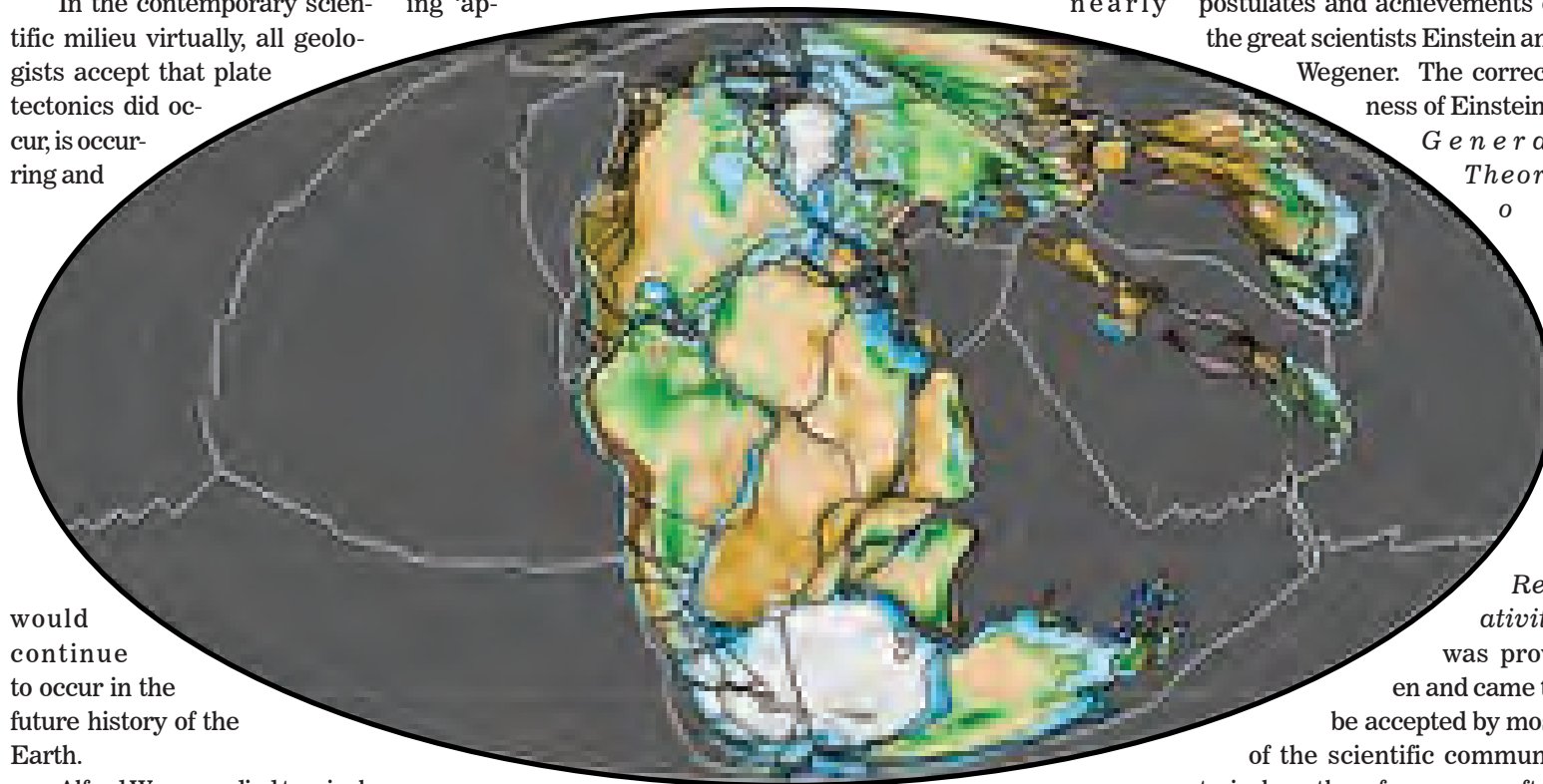
Why did Wegener's continental drift meet such 'resistance' (in the non-Freudian sense of the word) for several decades? It is true that it also took at least several decades for the heliocentric theory to be accepted even by the then scientific community. Opposition to the heliocentric theory occurred from the mid-16th up to the mid-18th century and there were mainly theological and religious reasons for it.

'What took them so long?' and Wegener's theory being 'essentially correct'

From hindsight when one looks at the map of the world it can be seen that the coastlines of Africa and South America fit like a jigsaw puzzle. But that impression

by no means is a sufficient cause to conjecture far less scientifically hypothesised that a few hundred million years ago the African and South American continents were a single continent or for that matter starting around 330 million years ago there was only a single continent now called 'Pangaea'. Further scientific arguments and 'proofs' were made by Wegener when he published his findings and postulates in the German language first in 1915, final revision in 1929: *The Origin of Continents and Oceans* (translated by John Biram, first published 1966).

In the contemporary scientific milieu virtually, all geologists accept that plate tectonics did occur, is occurring and



would continue to occur in the future history of the Earth.

Alfred Wegener died tragical-

rect scientific hypothesis' has been used a few times above. The mechanics, the rate of expansion of the continents and other details as envisaged and proposed by Wegener from 1912 to the late 1920s might not have been correct in all details. But they were and they are essentially correct.

Essentially (in)correct geocentric and heliocentric theories and proposed 'mechanisms' of Ptolemy, Copernicus and Kepler

The statement below may seem that this writer is comparing 'ap-

mental drift became less 'imperfect' since adjustments and improvements to the details were made.

Why did Wegener's continental drift meet such 'resistance' (in the non-Freudian sense of the word) for several decades? It is true that it also took at least several decades for the heliocentric theory to be accepted even by the then scientific community. Opposition to the heliocentric theory occurred from the mid-16th up to the mid-18th century and there were mainly theological and religious reasons for it.

Wegener proposed his continental drift theory in January 1912 nearly

By Dr Myint Zan

the eclipse of the Sun were sent to a few places around the world. Wegener's continental drift theory could not, with immediacy and concreteness, be proven as such since the plate tectonics occurred by less than an inch a year.

Continental drift cannot be physically, empirically observed as the eclipse of the Sun that occurred in May 1919 was in confirming the correctness of Einstein's *General Theory of Relativity*. This is not to equate or even analogize the discoveries, postulates and achievements of the great scientists Einstein and Wegener. The correctness of Einstein's *General Theory of*

Relativity was proven and came to be accepted by most of the scientific community in less than four years after Einstein published it in 1915. In contrast, it took over 40 years (till the 1950s) for most of the scientific community to accept the essential correctness of Wegener's theory after he first proposed it that January day in 1912. Perhaps this writer's query indeed sort of puzzlement is such that he would ask *Pourquoi* (in French) *bar gyaunt lae* (in transliterated Burmese roughly 'for what reason?') ဘာကြောင့်လဲ

370 years after the publication of Copernicus' *On the Revolution of Heavenly Bodies* in May 1543. And starting from the early 20th-century modern science has progressed leaps and bounds. Notwithstanding such major advances, many in the scientific community were sceptical of Wegener's theory. One reason may be that the historical sciences (not 'history of science') cannot be proven time and again like some of the physical sciences.

The mode of proving Einstein's General Theory of Relativity and of proving Wegener's Continental Drift

The General Theory of Relativity of Albert Einstein (14 March 1879-18 April 1955) first published in 1915 was empirically proven within four years in May 1919 when expeditions to observe

Two mischievous queries regarding 'Piltown Man' and continental drift

In the same year of 1912 (almost to the month) that Alfred Wegener first proposed his continental drift theory amateur archaeologist Charles Dawson (11 July 1864-10 August 1916) reported his 'discovery' of the 'Piltown Man'. He later claimed and quite a

few archaeologists accepted that it was the 'proven link' between the great apes and humans.

In July 1938 near the site where the so-called Piltown Man was 'discovered' a memorial plaque was erected.

In November 1953 (over 40 years after the fake 'discovery') *Time* magazine published an article 'The End of Man' written by a group of scientists which conclusively proved that Piltown Man was a forgery. Fast forward from 1912 (the 'discovery'), 1938 (the memorial plaque), 1953 (the debunking and proof that Piltown Man was a fraud) all the way to 2016 where with a very large degree of certainty it was proven that Charles Dawson at least initially single-handedly initiated the forgery that was the 'Piltown Man'.

The first 'mischievous query'

The query that was asked in an earlier section can be asked here again: 'What took them so long (to discover that 'Piltown Man' was a forgery and Charles Dawson was the forger)?'

It took about 40 years, perhaps more, for most of the scientific community including but not limited to geologists, earth scientists, geographers to accept and recognise the essential correctness of Wegener's findings. Although there was scepticism among (but not limited to) archaeologists, anthropologists palaeontologists about Lawson's 'findings' it took 40 years (from 1912) to conclusively identify it as a fraud and over a century to identify that Charles Dawson was the forger.

A second 'mischievous' but not irrelevant or irreverent query

Among the geologists and archaeologists between the years 1912 (when both Wegener legitimately and Dawson fraudulently) reported their discoveries to the mid-1950s when Lawson's fraud was proven and Wegener's hypothesis started to be vindicated who, in general, Wegener or Lawson was 'believed' more?



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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 19 January 2022: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, (Northern and Eastern) Shan States. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing Region and Southern Shan, Chin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 January 2022: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 January 2022: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 January 2022: Generally fair weather.

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Ozone pollution costs Asia billions in lost crops: study

PERSISTENTLY high levels of ozone pollution in Asia are costing China, Japan and South Korea an estimated \$63 billion annually in lost rice, wheat and maize crops, a new study says.

While ozone forms a protective layer around the Earth in the upper atmosphere, it is a harmful pollutant at ground level.

It is created by a chemical reaction when two pollutants, often emitted by cars or industry, combine in the presence of sunlight and it can interfere with plant photosynthesis and growth.

The research published Monday harnesses pollution monitoring data from the region and field experiments to show ozone affects Asia's crop yields more than previously thought.

The study's authors said the findings should push poli-

cymakers to reduce emissions that produce ozone.

"Air pollution control in North America and Europe succeeded in lowering ozone levels," said Kazuhiko Kobayashi, a co-first author of the study and professor emeritus affiliated with the University of Tokyo.

"We need to repeat that success across East and South Asia," he told AFP.

Previous estimates of ozone's effects on staple crops such as rice, wheat and maize have sometimes used varieties that are not prevalent in Asia, or tested plants grown in pots rather than fields.

To get a more accurate picture, the researchers looked at varieties common in the region and did experiments with crops in pots but also in fields.

They exposed rice, wheat



Asia supplies 90 per cent of the world's rice. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

and maize to varying levels of ozone and used the resulting crop yields to model how different exposures affected plant

development.

They also tested the model with a second experiment in which the crops were treated

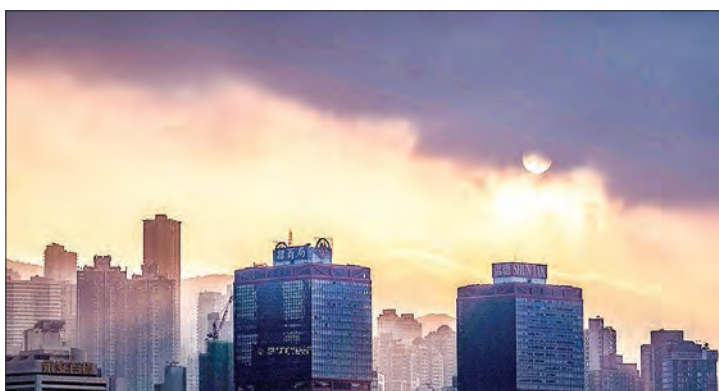
with a chemical that protects against the effects of ozone, to see if the yield increased in line with their estimations.—AFP ■

Dimming Sun's rays should be off-limits, say experts

PLANETARY-SCALE engineering schemes designed to cool Earth's surface and lessen the impact of global heating are potentially dangerous and should be blocked by governments, more than 60 policy experts and scientists said on Monday.

Even if injecting billions of sulphur particles into the middle atmosphere — the most hotly debated plan for so-called solar radiation modification (SRM) — turned back a critical fraction of the Sun's rays as intended, the consequences could outweigh any benefits, they argued in an open letter.

"Solar geoengineering de-



The sun is seen above buildings in Hong Kong's Sheung Wan area. **PHOTO: BERTHA WANG / AFP**

ployment cannot be governed globally in a fair, inclusive and effective manner," said the letter, supported by a commentary in the journal WIREs Climate Change. "We therefore call for

immediate political action from governments, the United Nations and other actors to prevent the normalization of solar geoengineering as a climate policy option."—AFP ■

Aussie researchers aim to shrink heavy industry's carbon footprint

AUSTRALIAN researchers have announced the creation of a new way to capture carbon dioxide (CO2) and convert it to solid carbon, which they believe could ultimately revolutionize heavy industries.

Researchers from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) University say the technology is designed to be smoothly integrated into existing industrial processes.

Creating products such as cement and steel have tradi-

tionally involved pumping large amounts of CO2 into the atmosphere therefore contributing greatly to climate change.

The new technology, described in the latest edition of the journal Energy & Environmental Science, offers a way to "break down CO2 to carbon in an instant".

Dr Torben Daeneke from RMIT told Xinhua on Tuesday that their project streamlined an earlier experimental approach that had "harnessed

the power of liquid metals" but had now been "modified for smoother integration into standard industrial processes."

The RMIT team have used thermal chemistry methods already widely used by industry. It involves heating a liquid metal to about 100-120 degrees centigrade before CO2 is injected into the liquid metal, with the "gas bubbles rising up like bubbles in a champagne glass".—Xinhua ■

Peru beaches suffer oil spill blamed on waves from Tonga volcanic eruption

PERUVIAN authorities sealed off three beaches Monday after they were hit by an oil spill blamed on freak waves caused by the volcanic eruption in Tonga.

The Pampilla Refinery, part of the Spanish company Repsol, said there had been a "limited spill" of oil off the coast of Callao and Ventanilla districts near Lima Saturday due to the violent waves produced by the eruption on the other side of the Pacific Ocean.

It said the spill occurred during offloading from a tanker. The National Emergency Operations Centre said in a statement that the spill had been brought under control.

Environment Minister Ruben Ramirez said the accident had affected a three-kilometre

(two-mile) stretch along three beaches.

"There is great damage to biodiversity, and it could even impact human health," he said.

"And so it has been ordered that the area is cut off for all kinds of activity," Ramirez told reporters.

Pampilla could face a fine of up to \$34.5 million, the environment ministry said, as prosecutors opened an investigation into the company for environmental contamination. Pampilla — which did not indicate exactly how much oil was spilled — said it was working with authorities to clean up the affected beaches.

Ships worked on collecting oil still floating in the water, while workers in protective gear began cleaning oil that had washed ashore.—AFP ■



Workers on a Peruvian beach clean up an oil spill caused by abnormal waves triggered by a massive underwater volcanic eruption half a world away in Tonga. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan maintains economic view in Jan., warns of Omicron-caused risks

THE Japanese government on Tuesday retained its view that the domestic economy remains on a recovery track but warns of downside risks from a recent surge in infections with the Omicron variant of the coronavirus.

The Japanese economy “shows movements of picking up recently as the severe situation (of economic activities) due to the novel coronavirus is gradually easing,” the Cabinet Office said in its monthly assessment report for January. In December the outlook was upgraded for the first time in 17 months.

But the report said close attention should be paid to a potential “further increase in downside risks” from a resurgence of new coronavirus cases, supply-side constraints and higher raw material prices.

The office had also cautioned about a supply crunch and rising prices in the previous report but the warning of the downside risks from the virus situation was the first since September, when the previous state of emergency over



Photo taken on 4 Dec 2021 shows the night view of a street decorated with lights for Christmas and New Year in Roppongi District of Tokyo, Japan. PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHANG XIAOYU

the pandemic was still in effect in some prefectures including Tokyo. It was completely lifted nationwide on Oct. 1 following a decline in virus cases.

The office maintained its evaluation for private consumption, saying it is “picking up recently,” after upgrading it for the second straight month in December. A government official said at a press briefing that the recent virus spread has not had

a major impact yet on consumer spending.

“But we need to keep monitoring its possible impact on the economy,” the official said.

The latest economic assessment comes as the nation has been seeing a rapid increase in daily virus cases close to the highest level since the year-end and New Year holidays on the back of the spread of the highly contagious Omicron variant.—Kyodo ■

Overseas mail disinfection ordered over Omicron fears



File photo taken on 23 July 2018 shows postman Tsering Chuba loading parcels to be delivered into a postal van in Pumaqangtang Township of Shannan City, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. PHOTO: XINHUA/LI HE

CHINA'S postal service has ordered workers to disinfect international deliveries and urged the public to reduce orders from overseas after authorities claimed mail could be the source of recent coronavirus outbreaks.

China, where the virus first emerged in late 2019, has stuck to a strict policy of targeting zero Covid cases even as the rest of the world has reopened.

But the country is now battling multiple small outbreaks, including one in Beijing as the capital prepares to host the Win-

ter Olympics.

In recent days, Chinese officials have suggested that some people could have been infected by packages from abroad, including a woman in Beijing whom authorities said had no contact with other infected people but tested positive for a variant similar to those found in North America.

China Post on Monday published a statement ordering workers to disinfect the outer packaging of all international mail “as soon as possible” and requiring employees handling

foreign letters and packages to receive booster vaccine shots.

The postal service also asked the public to reduce purchases and deliveries from “countries and regions with a high overseas epidemic risk” and said domestic mail should be handled in different areas to prevent cross-contamination.

The coronavirus is spread through small liquid particles exhaled by infected people.

Both the World Health Organization and the US Centres for Disease Control have said the risk of being infected from contaminated surfaces — known as fomite transmission — is low and becomes less likely as time passes. The CDC has said there is a 99 per cent reduction in virus traces left on most surfaces within three days.

But China is not willing to take any risks, even more so ahead of next month's Winter Olympics. The country uses strict local lockdowns, mass testing and people tracing health apps to stamp out infections as soon as cases are detected.—AFP ■

India adds over 2.3 lakh COVID-19 cases, 310 fatalities in last 24 hours

INDIA on Tuesday witnessed a dip in daily COVID-19 infections as the country reported 2,38,018 fresh cases in the last 24 hours, as per the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The new infections were 20,071 less than that reported on Monday. With the addition of new infections, the country's active caseload mounted to 17,36,628, which is 4.62 per cent of the total cases reported so far.

The daily positivity rate is at 14.43 per cent while the weekly positivity rate is 14.92 per cent. A total of 8,891 cases of Omicron variant of COV-

ID-19 have been detected so far.

The ministry said that there is an increase of 8.31 per cent in Omicron cases since yesterday. With 1,57,421 recoveries in the last 24 hours, the cumulative recoveries mounted to 3,53,94,882. Consequently, the recovery rate is at 94.09 per cent. However, 310 people succumbed to the infection in the last 24 hours thereby taking the death toll to 4,86,761. In the last 24 hours, 16,49,143 tests were conducted to detect the presence of the virus. Since the onset of the pandemic, the country has conducted 70.54 crore tests so far.—ANI ■



Carton boxes of the Covishield vaccine developed by Pune based Serum Institute of India (SII) are unloaded at the Mumbai airport on 24 February 2021, as part of the COVAX scheme. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police charge Cathay flight attendants at centre of Hong Kong outbreak

HONG Kong police arrested and charged Monday two Cathay Pacific flight attendants for allegedly contravening Covid regulations, after the emergence of the Omicron variant in the territory was traced to their breach of home quarantine.

Like China, Hong Kong maintains a strict zero-Covid strategy that has kept cases low, but has largely cut the finance hub off from both the mainland and the rest of the world for the last two years.

A recent outbreak of Omicron traced to Cathay air crew who breached their quarantine period led to a dramatic tightening of already strict anti-coronavirus controls — including shuttering kindergartens, primary schools, and indoor dining at night.

Police announced late Monday two flight attendants were arrested and charged for violating anti-Covid measures.

“They had conducted unnecessary activities” on 25 and 27 December, when they were supposed to be under home quarantine after returning to Hong Kong, the statement said.—AFP ■

China-N. Korea trade in 2021 down 90% from 2019 before pandemic

CHINA'S trade with North Korea plunged around 90 per cent in 2021 from 2019 before the novel coronavirus pandemic began, government data showed Tuesday.

North Korea claims no infection cases have been found in the country, but it has cut off land traffic to and from China until recently, with worries mounting that the virus, first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019, could enter the nation.

China is North Korea's closest and most influential ally in economic terms, accounting for more than 90 per cent of its trade.—Kyodo ■

**NEWS
IN BRIEF****Show leniency on EU fiscal rules, says senior German MP**

THE EU should continue to suspend strict fiscal rules to help debt-mired countries like Italy until the pandemic is over, the new chairman of the German parliament's powerful EU affairs committee told AFP Monday.

Anton Hofreiter, a senior Green party MP, said Rome in particular deserved leniency as it finds its feet again after the blows levelled by Covid-19.

That flexibility should also extend to countries making ambitious expenditures in climate protection, he added.

Asked how the EU should help struggling countries, Hofreiter replied, "by continuing to temporarily suspend the Stability Pact because we're really in a very special crisis".

"We don't know how long the corona crisis will continue," he said, sounding a more conciliatory note than new chancellor Olaf Scholz of the centre-left Social Democrats. —AFP ■

Mexico's economy growing despite spread of Omicron, says president

MEXICAN President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on Monday said the pace of Mexico's economic recovery has remained on track despite the emergence of the Omicron variant of coronavirus.

"Even with this new wave of (COVID-19) infections, we are still growing, economic growth has not stopped," Lopez Obrador told reporters following a six-day period of quarantine he was in after contracting COVID-19 for the second time.

While restaurants and other sectors have been impacted by the new outbreak, acknowledged Lopez Obrador, he said he was confident that it was a "passing" effect. Lopez Obrador ruled out companies once again resorting to laying off workers as they did when the Delta variant forced the partial closure of some economic sectors. Omicron does not have the same severity as Delta, both in terms of symptoms and recovery time, he added. —Xinhua ■

Brent oil hits highest level in more than seven years

BRENT crude prices hit their highest level in more than seven years on Tuesday on growing demand optimism, easing concerns about the Omicron Covid variant and geopolitical tensions.

The contract hit \$86.84 in Asian trade, a level not seen since late October 2014.

Brent and West Texas Intermediate have climbed more than 10 per cent so far this year as investors become increasingly confident that the demand will

increase as the world slowly returns to normal and economies reopen.

The latest bump comes after Yemen's Huthi rebels claimed attacks in Abu Dhabi that triggered a fuel tank blast killing three people Monday, adding that civilians and foreign firms in the United Arab Emirates should avoid "vital installations".

The news fuelled concerns about supplies from the crude-rich region. —AFP ■



A driver enters the yard to fill up his gas tanker truck at Marathon Oil on 20 May 2021 in Salt Lake City, Utah. **PHOTO: AFP**

UK jobs picture robust as Omicron struck

The UK unemployment fell back almost to its pre-pandemic level late last year. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

BRITAIN'S unemployment rate dropped and payrolls recovered further at the end of last year despite the onset of the Omicron variant, official data showed Tuesday.

The unemployment rate fell to 4.1 per cent in the three months to the end of November, from 4.2 per cent in the quarter ending in October, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement.

The number of payrolled workers meanwhile jumped 0.6 per cent in December from November, the ONS added.

"The number of employees on payrolls continued to grow strongly in December, with the total now well above pre-pandemic levels," said ONS director of economic statistics Darren Morgan.

He added that the unemployment rate "fell back almost to where it was before Covid-19 hit".

Morgan noted however that job vacancies were growing at a slower pace compared with last summer and that real wages in November fell on the year for the first time since mid-2020 following a spike to inflation.

All eyes will be on the latest UK inflation data due out Wednesday, as consumers and businesses struggle with surging costs.

"Rising inflation means that squeezed incomes joins the difficulties firms are facing filling vacancies as major challenges in the UK labour market," Matthew Percival, director of employment at Britain's main lobby group the CBI, said following Tuesday's jobs data.

"To break this cycle and deliver sustainably rising living standards, the UK needs a plan to unleash business investment and raise ambitions for growth."

Economies are battling against decades-high inflation that is forcing central banks to hike interest rates, including the Bank of England which last month raised its key borrowing cost to 0.25 per cent.

The rate was increased from a record-low level of 0.1 per cent. At the same time, Britain's economy has surpassed its pre-pandemic level after recording strong growth in November, recent official data showed. —AFP ■

Chip crisis pushes European car sales to new low

EU car sales fell to a new low last year as the auto sector was hobbled by the Covid pandemic and a shortage of computer chips, industry figures showed Tuesday.

Registrations of new passenger cars in the EU slid by 2.4 per cent in 2021, to 9.7 million vehicles, the worst performance since statistics began in 1990, according to data from the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA).

That follows the historic fall of nearly 24 per cent suffered in 2020 due to pandemic restrictions, and brought new car registrations in the EU to 3.3 million below the pre-crisis sales of 2019.

The lack of semiconductors, the computer chips used in a multitude of car systems in both traditional and electric vehicles, was the main reason holding the industry back.

"This fall was the result of the semiconductor short-

age that negatively impacted car production throughout the year, but especially during the second half of 2021," said the ACEA.

Car manufacturers initially downplayed the impact of the chip shortage, but it eventually led them to slow production and even idle factories.

EU car sales did rebound strongly in the second quarter, but for most of the second half they were down by around 20 per cent.

The short-term perspectives for supplies are not good.

"The start of 2022 will still be difficult in terms of supplies of chips," Alexandre Marian at the AlixPartners consultancy told AFP.

"The situation should improve in the middle of the year, but that doesn't mean other problems won't crop up, concerning raw materials, supply chains and labour shortages," he said. —AFP ■



Car sales in Europe fell to their lowest point since statistics began in 1990. **PHOTO: PATRIK STOLLARZ/AFP/FILE**

Toyota yearly production target hit by chip shortage

THE world's top-selling carmaker Toyota said Tuesday it no longer expects to meet its annual production target with operations hampered by the global chip crunch.

A worldwide shortage of microchips — essential components of modern cars — has forced many automakers including Toyota to slow or temporarily halt production.

In September, the Japanese giant lowered the number of vehicles it hopes to make in the year to March 2022 to nine mil-

lion, down from 9.3 million.

But on Tuesday the company said fresh cuts to a planned bumper factory output next month meant it was unlikely to meet its new target.

“Current demand is very strong, therefore we were aiming for a high February production plan,” Toyota said in a statement.

But “due to the impact of the continuing demand for semiconductors across all industries”, the company said it had reduced its global production target for February to around

700,000 units, some 150,000 fewer than before.

“As a result of the revision, the full-year production forecast for the fiscal year... is expected to be lower than the previous forecast of nine million units,” it said.

Next month's target is still higher than the 668,000 units Toyota made in February 2021, however, as it scrambles to make up for lost output due to the semiconductor shortage and pandemic disruption to supply chains in Southeast Asia.— AFP ■



Toyota said it was unlikely to meet its 2021-22 production target due to the chip shortage. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Small businesses in US “besieged” amid Omicron surge: report

Small businesses in the United States are besieged by problems like supply chain difficulties, periodic staffing shortage and fewer customers, as the pandemic enters its third year amid the Omicron surge, Reuters has reported.

US retail sales fell 1.9 per cent in December amid shortage of goods and surging infections, the US Commerce Department was quoted as saying on Friday.

Daily operations of small businesses across the United States face challenges, although the federal authorities have provided aid to reduce the failure and bankruptcy rate of them, the report said.—Xinhua ■

China on par with Silicon Valley in investment opportunities: analyst

DESPITE the COVID-19 pandemic clouding global economic recovery, foreign investors have seen a gush of opportunities and potential in China, which can be on par with famed Silicon Vally, said an analyst.

In an interview with Voice of America Chinese, Jacob Gunter, a senior analyst from German Mercator Institute for China Studies, explained that investors prefer markets with higher returns.—Xinhua ■

US airlines warn of ‘calamity’ if 5G deployed near airports



The US airline industry on Monday has again called on the Biden administration to halt the deployment of 5G near airports. PHOTO: AFP

THE chief executives of America's largest airlines warned of a “catastrophic disruption” to travel and shipping operations if telecommunication firms roll out their 5G technology as planned Wednesday without limiting the technology near US airports.

Verizon and AT&T have already twice delayed the launch of their new C-Band 5G service, due to warnings from airlines and aircraft manufacturers concerned that the new system might interfere with the devices planes use to measure altitude.

“We are writing with urgency to request that 5G be implemented everywhere in the country except within the approximate two miles of airport runways as defined by the FAA on 19 January 2022,” the CEOs said in a Monday letter obtained by AFP.

The executives, writing to Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and other US government officials, highlighted the risk of “economic calamity” should Verizon and AT&T proceed with deploying the new technology before the necessary upgrades and changes have been made to aviation equipment. “To be blunt, the nation's commerce will grind to a halt,” they said.—AFP ■

Black diamond, largest ever cut, goes on show in Dubai

THE world's largest known cut diamond went on public display for the first time Monday ahead of its sale, when it is expected to reach five million dollars.

The Enigma, the name of the rare black carbanado diamond, was put on display in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates.

The diamond is believed to have been created when a meteorite or an asteroid hit the Earth more than 2.6 billion years ago, according to Sotheby's auction house jewelry specialist Sophie Stevens.—AFP ■



A picture taken on 17 January 2022 shows “The Enigma”, a 555.55 carat black diamond, at Sotheby's in the Gulf emirate of Dubai. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (0307S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (0307S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-1-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

CHANGING DISTRIBUTOR

The foreign manufacturer ZHEJIANG TIDE CROPSOURCE CO., LTD. will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing distributor from former Myanmar Golden Byter Co., Ltd. to Golden Key Co., Ltd.

NO	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Golden Rice 70 WG	Ethoxysulfuron 10% + Mefenacet 60% WDG	Experimental	E 2021-5257

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to Joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing distributor.

Address : Golden Key Co., Ltd.
NO. 258/262, STRAND ROAD, 11th FLOOR, CLASSIC STRAND CONDO, PABEDAN TOWNSHIP, YANGON, MYANMAR.
PH : 01 - 371629

Trade Mark Ads

Call 09251022355, 09974424848

UK government freezes BBC funding for two years



Britain's Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries gives a media update statement on 17 January 2022 in this video grab from the UK Parliamentary Recording Unit. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE /SAUL LOEB**

THE UK government on Monday announced a freeze of the BBC licence fee, arguing a new funding model was needed to ease cost of living pressures and reflect a transformed media landscape.

Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries told parliament the £159 (\$217, 190 euros) annual fee, paid by every television set owner in the country, would be fixed for the next two years.

After that it will rise in line with inflation for four years, she said, saying the rising annual cost of the compulsory charge was hurting cash-strapped families.

The long-term future of the

corporation should not depend on a system which criminalizes non-payers, she added.

But opposition parties linked the move to efforts to keep Prime Minister Boris Johnson in a job, by offering “red meat” to BBC critics, due to anger at lockdown-breaking parties at Downing Street.

Labour media spokeswoman Lucy Powell said monthly payments for the licence fee were small change compared to proposed Tory annual tax increases and soaring energy bills totalling thousands of pounds.

“Is the licence fee really at

the heart of the cost of living crisis or is this really about their long-term vendetta against the BBC?” she asked

“It’s at the heart of Operation Red Meat to stop the prime minister becoming dead meat,” she added, referring to a proposed government fight-back plan of populist measures to boost Johnson’s standing.

The BBC has come under increasing criticism from right-wingers since Britain’s divisive Brexit referendum in 2016 for alleged political bias, and pushing a “woke”, London-centric liberal agenda.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

UN agency finishes report on flight diverted to Belarus

THE report about the investigation into a Ryanair flight that was diverted to Belarus last year is complete, the International Civil Aviation Organization said Monday, adding that next steps will be set in late January.

All 193 members of the ICAO, including the 36 states currently serving on the organization’s council, were given access to the report Monday, the United Nations agency said in a statement.

The report details the circumstances around the 23 May 2021 incident in which Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko drew international outrage by sending fighter jets to intercept a Ryanair flight from Athens to Vilnius.

The plane was forced to land in Minsk, where Belarusian authorities arrested dissident journalist Roman Protasevich and his partner Sofia Sapega, who were passengers onboard.—AFP ■

At least 26 killed in Afghan earthquake

At least 26 people were killed after an earthquake hit western Afghanistan on Monday, an official said.

The victims died when roofs of their houses collapsed in Qadis district in the western province of Badghis, spokesman for the province Baz Mohammad Sarwary told AFP.

The shallow quake was magnitude 5.3, according to the US Geological Survey. “Five women and four children are among the 26 people killed in the earthquake,” said Sarwary, adding that four more were injured.

The quake also inflicted damage on the residents of Muqr district in the province but details including of casualties were still unavailable, he said. Afghanistan is already in the grip of a humanitarian disaster, worsened by the Taliban takeover of the country in August.—AFP ■

World’s largest holiday migration begins in China before Olympics



Passengers get off a train at Yantai Railway Station in Yantai, east China’s Shandong Province, 8 October 2020. **PHOTO: TANG KE/XINHUA**

THE so-called world’s largest human migration period began on Monday in China, while the ruling Communist Party accelerates efforts to stem the spread of the coronavirus in the run-up to the Beijing Winter Olympics next month.

This year’s 40-day travel season, including the 31 Jan start of the weeklong Lunar New Year holidays, will last through 25 Feb but health authorities have called

on citizens not to make trips unless necessary during the period called “Chunyun” in Chinese. Recently, community infections with the highly contagious Omicron variant have been expanding in China, while President Xi Jinping seeks to successfully host the Beijing Olympics, scheduled to begin 4 Feb with national pride at stake.

The Beijing municipal government said Saturday that it

has found its first Omicron case, weeks after infections with the variant were identified in Tianjin, a city of 14 million that is known as a key gateway to the capital.

For the next 40 days, 1.18 billion trips are expected across China, up 35.6 per cent from the same period last year but down around 50 per cent from 2019 before the pandemic struck the country, according to the central government.—Kyodo ■

Passenger traffic at Frankfurt airport picks up in 2021

PASSENGER numbers at Frankfurt airport picked up in 2021, thanks to the easing of coronavirus restrictions, the airport announced on Monday.

As one of the busiest airports in Europe, Frankfurt received some 24.8 million passengers in 2021, up by 32.2 per cent from 2020, the airport announced.

However, these figures were still well below pre-pandemic levels, it said.

There was a noticeable upswing in demand for air travel from April to December in 2021, with passenger numbers tripling compared to the same period in 2020.

But the pace of this rebound

slowed at the end of 2021, when the Omicron variant began to spread globally.

“Throughout 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a massive impact on Frankfurt Airport,” said Stefan Schulte, CEO of Fraport, the company which operates the airport.—AFP ■



Frankfurt Airport is a major international airport located in Frankfurt, the fifth-largest city of Germany and one of the world’s leading financial centres. **PHOTO: AFP**

Belarus announces military drills with Russia

BELARUSIAN strongman Alexander Lukashenko announced Monday that his army will conduct military exercises next month with Russian forces and criticized what he said was NATO's growing presence in Europe.

"We made plans for a military exercise in February some time ago. Please go ahead and set a specific date and announce it so nobody can accuse us of having massed troops all of a sudden and of being almost ready to go to war," state media quoted Lukashenko as telling military officials. The announcement comes as tensions between the West and Russia have been growing in recent months over the security of Ukraine, a close Western ally that borders Belarus and has been



Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) greets Belarus' President Alexander Lukashenko at the Konstantin Palace presidential residence in Strelna, outside St. Petersburg, on 29 December 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

battling pro-Moscow separatists for several years.

Moscow has deployed tens of thousands of troops near its border with Ukraine and pressed demands for guarantees that its neighbour and other ex-Sovi-

et states never be admitted to NATO. Lukashenko said his plans for drills with Russia had been made in December in coordination with his ally, Russian President Vladimir Putin, but had not been announced at the time.

He did not specify how many troops would be involved.

He said the drills would be dubbed "Determination of the Union 2022," and should focus on a scenario in which his country's military is forced to "resist forces coming from the West".

The Belarusian leader — in power for nearly three decades — justified the drills by what he claimed was a build-up of troops along his country's border in Poland, Ukraine and the Baltic States.

He accused Ukraine of massing thousand of troops, without giving evidence for his claims, and said Warsaw had requested from NATO the deployment of "a multi-echelon network of logistics, supply and technical support." — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Biden's first year score card

US President Joe Biden came in facing extraordinary challenges: a nation divided after the Donald Trump years, the Covid pandemic, and an economy in tumult. And he promised Americans a lot: to heal the country's democracy, defeat Covid, address deep-rooted racial and economic problems, and restore US standing around the world.

How did he do?

Covid-19

Biden made a strong start with a vaccines rollout that stood in contrast to the often confused policies of Trump, who tried to play down the seriousness of the pandemic, although he did oversee the rapid development of the vaccines.

Apparently lulled into a false sense of security, Biden declared 4th July a day of independence from the virus. The Delta variant struck that summer, reversing the downward trends of the spring and by the time the Omicron variant took grip in December, Biden was taking the blame. — AFP ■

UK PM in populist fight-back after 'partygate' scandal

Boris Johnson is hoping a slew of policy announcements, including scrapping controversial Covid passports and abolishing the BBC licence fee, can save his position as British prime minister, reports said on Monday.

Johnson's future has been thrown into doubt by a furious political and public backlash at revelations of illegal parties held at his Downing Street office during coronavirus lockdowns.

The "partygate" scandal has so far seen six of his Conservative party MPs openly call for his resignation, with dozens more said to have done the same behind closed doors.

But several reports claimed Johnson's team has engineered a fight-back — dubbed "Operation Red Meat" — with populist proposals to appease a disgruntled electorate and a mutinous mood among colleagues.

The Times said Johnson will give the Royal Navy "primacy" in efforts to intercept migrants crossing the Channel from France, after record numbers of arrivals last year. — AFP ■

NATO, Ukraine sign deal to 'deepen' cyber cooperation

NATO on Monday inked a deal to bolster its cyber support for Ukraine, after a sweeping hacking attack against Kyiv heightened tensions amid fears that Russia could be plotting an invasion.

Ukraine said on Sunday that it had evidence Moscow was behind the attack last week that knocked out government websites — but the Kremlin has denied any involvement.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said Friday that experts from NATO and its members were already on the ground, working with Ukraine to tackle the latest cyber attack.

He said the new agreement would involve "enhanced cyber cooperation, including Ukrain-



NATO on Monday inked a deal to bolster its cyber support for Ukraine, after a sweeping hacking attack against Kyiv heightened tensions amid fears that Russia could be plotting an invasion. **PHOTO: AFP**

ian access to NATO's malware information sharing platform".

"We have successfully worked with Ukraine for several years, delivering key capabilities and exchanging knowledge,"

Ludwig Decamps, the head of the NATO Communications and Information Agency, said on Monday.

"Under this renewed agreement, we will deepen our collab-

oration with Ukraine to support them in modernizing their information technology and communications services, while identifying areas where training may be required for their personnel."

Ukraine's ambassador to NATO, Natalia Galibarenko, said "with NATO's support we plan to further introduce modern information technologies and services into the command and control system of the Armed Forces of Ukraine".

The cyberattack on Ukraine last week came as tensions have soared between Moscow and the West over allegations the Kremlin could be plotting a fresh incursion into its neighbour after massing some 100,000 troops at the border. — AFP ■

Decade after Norway massacre, Breivik seeks parole

JUST 10 years after carrying out the deadliest peacetime attack in Norway, right-wing extremist Anders Behring Breivik will on Tuesday ask a court for parole, a request widely expected to be denied.

But the families of his victims, who fear he will use the hearing as a stage to air his political views, are calling for him to be deprived of the attention he is seeking. For security reasons, the district court in the southern region of Telemark will hear Breivik's request for conditional release in the gymnasium of Skien prison, where he is incarcerated.

In 2012 Breivik, who killed 77

people during the massacre, got 21 years in prison, which can be extended indefinitely as long as he is considered a threat to society. At the time, that was Norway's harshest sentence, though the law has since been changed to allow for the possibility of handing down longer jail terms.

He had to serve at least 10 years before he could make his first request for conditional release. On 22 July 2011, Breivik, now 42, killed eight people when he set off a truck bomb near the government offices in Oslo, then gunned down 69 others, most of them teenagers, at a summer camp for the Labour party youth



People walk on 7 June 2021 on Utoya where far-right extremist Anders Behring Breivik killed 69 of his 77 victims in 2011. **PHOTO: AFP**

wing on the island of Utoya.

He said he killed his victims because they embraced multiculturalism.

Breivik's attacks were Norway's deadliest since World War II, and his request is widely expected to be rejected. — AFP ■



Myanmar U-23 team players take special training ahead of upcoming international tournaments. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar U-23 team prepares for two international tournaments

THE Myanmar U-23 team is taking training for two international tournaments before the second half of this year.

The Myanmar squad is preparing for the ASEAN U-23 Championship in February and the 31st SEA Games in May, officials said.

The team will be preparing for the SEA Games after the ASEAN Games, so football authorities

have selected players who can be deployed in both competitions.

The youth squad is made up of 30 preliminary players, including players from the U-19 team who competed in the 2022 AFC U-23 Championship in October 2021, as well as winger Arthur Pha, who plays for the Spanish second division club Leganes.

The team is headed by Bulgarian Coach Veliza Popov and

will start training on 10 January.

The ASEAN U-23 Championship will be held in Cambodia from 14 to 26 February. Myanmar team is placed in Group B together with Indonesia, Malaysia, and Laos.

The 31st SEA Games will be held from May 12 to 23, and the ASEAN U-23 Championship will be held earlier. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Lewandowski and Putellas win FIFA 'Best' awards

BAYERN Munich's record-setting striker Robert Lewandowski retained FIFA's top men's player title Monday at "The Best" of 2021 ceremony as Barcelona captain Alexia Putellas collected the award for best women's player.

The 33-year-old Lewandowski set a Bundesliga goal record last season, and edged Argentine Lionel Messi of Par-

is Saint-Germain and Egyptian Mohamed Salah of Liverpool for the award. "I'm happy and honoured to win this award, and I feel very proud," said Lewandowski who scored a total of 48 goals for club and country in 2020-2021. Lewandowski scored three times for Bayern at the weekend taking his 2021-2022 season tally to 39 goals in 33 matches.

The trophy was some consolation for the Polish striker who lost out to Messi for the older and rival award the Ballon d'Or in November.

For Putellas, it marked an awards double as the Spaniard triumphed over Barcelona team-mate Jennifer Hermoso and Chelsea's Australian striker Sam Kerr, just as she did for the Ballon d'Or. The 27-year-old midfielder enjoyed an exceptional 2020-2021 season with Barcelona, leading the Catalans to the Spanish league and cup double as well as the Champions League.

"This trophy is for everyone in the team," Putellas said. "The trophy will be an inspiration for us all." The best starting women's 11 however featured no Barcelona player.

Cristiano Ronaldo won the Special Award in recognition of setting a record of most international goals scored for his country, beating Ali Daei's long-standing mark of 109 for Iran. — AFP ■



Barcelona's Alexia Putellas won the Best FIFA Women's Player 2021 award. **PHOTO: POOL/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.

Myanmar female referee to serve in Asian Cup Women's Championship

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) has announced that a Myanmar female referee named Daw Thein Thein Aye will serve in the 2022 Asian Cup Women's Football Championship to be held in India from 20 January to 6 February.

Only three candidates from Singapore and Thailand, including Daw Thein Thein Aye, from Southeast Asia have been selected to take part in the tournament.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has appointed 16 referees, 16 assistant referees, and six video assistant referees for the tourney.

Referees were selected from Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Ja-

pan, South Korea, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Uzbekistan.

Assistant referees were selected from Australia, China, India, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, South Korea, the Philippines, Palestine, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam. Video assistant referees were selected from Iran, South Korea, Qatar, Thailand and Oman.

Daw Thein Thein Aye is a former FIFA-certified female referee who has participated in the Southeast Asian Women's Championships, and 2016 U-20 Women's World Cup in Puerto New Guinea.

The Myanmar women's team has also qualified for the Asian Cup. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM