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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.

If administrative measures comprise colours of party politics, work process will be difficult, says Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the SAC meeting 1/2022 at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 January 2022.

IT is necessary to strive for creating equal rights for all ethnicities, without prioritizing anyone, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 1/2022 of the SAC at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking at the meeting, the Senior General recounted that the Cambodian Prime Minister

paid a working visit to Myanmar. Both sides discussed the five-point ASEAN consensus agreed on in the ASEAN Leaders Meeting in April 2021. The discussions focused on dialogues with those from the terror acts after ending the terror acts. But, there are some differences between armed organizations and terrorists. The government has invited dialogue partners for peace talks. The discussions focused on the

assistance of humanitarian aid.

The outbreak of COVID-19 harmed the economy of all countries. Hiking prices are based on high transport charges, service charges and high manufacturing costs. Hence, the government in its tenure emphasizes increasing local manufacturing for the resurgence of the State economy.

In the social sector, schools were reopened, and efforts must be made for increasing the per-

centage of attendee students not only at basic education schools but at universities.

The medical doctors who participated in the CDM activities joined the private hospitals and clinics. Some of them open own clinics and went abroad. So, the government is taking action against them under the law.

KIA and KNPP assist CDM groups and give training on explosives and arms and ammu-

nition to them. They also join the terrorist acts and cooperate with CDM groups in blowing up the bridges.

Terrorist attacks have happened in Kayah State, and efforts are being made to restore the stability of the region. Likewise, Chin State NLD and CNF group committed terrorist attacks and set fire to houses of innocent people.

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State Administration Council Press Release

Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who reside in various regions for many reasons

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

Information Team
State Administration Council

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education
Announcement

Opening of final year (majoring in sciences) courses of University of Distance Education for 2022 academic year

THE Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education announced that the practical and lecturing courses of the final year (majoring in sciences) of the University of Distance Education for the 2022 Academic Year will be reopened at universities, degree colleges and colleges as of 22-1-2022.

Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education

128 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 20 January, total figure rises to 533,732

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **533,732** after **128** new cases were reported on 20 January 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **511,798** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **19,307** after **1** died.—MNA

Books invited for 12th Mekong Literary Contest

THE Myanmar Writers' Association is inviting books for the 12th Mekong Literary Awards that will be hosted by Laos. The contestants must compete in either in short story collection or poetry collection, which must be published in both English and Myanmar during 2020 and 2021.

In addition, contest entries for the selected short stories genre must be well-intentioned and well-written to inspire readers whereas the poems for the selected poems genre must be in harmony with traditional Myanmar poetry and

must contain at least 60 poems.

Entry application forms are available at the association's office and must be submitted by 4 February. Details of the competition can be inquired at the association's office No 173/175, 7th floor, Pansodan Road (middle block), Kyauktada Township, Yangon, phone number 01252417 and 09450090486.

The winners of the 11th Mekong Literary Award, who have not received the awards due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be presented at the 12th Mekong Literary Award Ceremony. — MNA

Vaccination processes using Sputnik Light vaccines continue as planned

THE Ministry of Health is making concerted efforts in vaccination programmes following the target groups in Nay Pyi Taw and regions/states.

The government vaccinated 4,050 people against COVID-19 using Sputnik Light vaccines, which are purchased and received from Russia as a gesture of bilateral friendship, in Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha and Insein townships of Yangon Region on 19 January, and 7,549 people in Mingaladon, Hlinethaya, Insein, Hlegu, Hmawby and Shwepyitha yesterday. Therefore, a total of 11,599 people were vaccinated during these two days.

The Sputnik Light vaccine requires only one dose per person and will gain high vaccine coverage in a short peri-

od. The Sputnik Light vaccines will be transported via cold chain and used in townships with low vaccine coverage of respective regions and states including Yangon Region.

A total of 17.98 million people has been fully vaccinated as of 19 January 2022, while 3.6 million receive their first dose of vaccine. Therefore, there are 21.58 million, who receive vaccines more than one time, and a total of 39.56 million doses are delivered in the country.

The people should get vaccinated without fail and those who receive the first dose should get the second jabs on the due date or within the recommended date at nearest vaccination sites, stated the Ministry of Health. — MNA



Purchased and received from Russia as a gesture of bilateral friendly relations, Sputnik Light vaccination continues rolling out.

Most of the factories resume operation

PRIORITIZING agriculture and livestock much supports the State economy. Except for some factories, most of the factories resume operation. The declining disease infection rate helps the tourism sector resume.

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

If administrative measures comprise colours of party politics, work process will be difficult, says Senior General

FROM PAGE-1

Terror events happened in the upper Sagaing Region. The CDM participants who commit terror acts were arrested and some press releases were issued for arrests. Phyo Zeyar Thaw from NLD who led the terrorist acts in lower Myanmar was arrested and action is being taken under the law. Efforts are being made to arrest those who commit terrorist acts. At present, firing and killing events lessen. Killing innocent people and staff from health, education and administrative arenas without reason does not mean opposing the government but unwise acts destroy the country.

The Senior General recounted that his New Year message of greetings mentioned the strengthening of the 75-year independence and sovereignty of the country. Myanmar faces many threats to its sovereignty, so it is necessary to further strengthen the sovereignty of the nation through united strength. The talks will be based on the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) obtained after 2011.

It is necessary to strive for creating equal rights for all ethnicities, without prioritizing anyone. Hence, the peace process must be based on the NCA and the constitution. The gov-

The Senior General recounted that his New Year message of greetings mentioned the strengthening of the 75-year independence and sovereignty of the country. Myanmar faces many threats to its sovereignty, so it is necessary to further strengthen the sovereignty of the nation through united strength. The talks will be based on the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) obtained after 2011.

ernment will accept the talks if it does not undermine the construction of the Union based on democracy and federalism.

Then, the Senior General highlighted equal development of the regions related to the peace process. He said: “Some unequal measures can be seen in regions and states related to the peace process. It can be seen that even Yangon and Mandalay are different in development. Yangon does not similar to Mawlamyine in development and Patheingyi as well. These are differences. Even in Yangon, the regions of urban and outskirt areas are

different. For example, there are Kungyangon, Twantay, Kawhmu, Dala, Hmawby, Taikkyi and other outskirt areas. Their development is not equal to the city areas in education, health and economy. We need to narrow the development gap among them.

Due to the larger development gap, conflicts happen based on the anger of the proletariat mentioned by communists and politicians. We have property. You have property. We don’t have the right to do so and you can do it. We don’t have the right to eat but you can eat. We cannot wear but you can wear. We don’t have a chance to learn but you have rights. These are based on differences. We have to minimize the differences. The other day, I have delivered an address at the education meeting. I talked about it in Dawei, Myeik and Kyaukse. A large gap happens in the education sector. So, we have to narrow the gap in the education sector. So, we will implement the KG+9 plan in all regions and states to uplift the education standard. The larger budget for economic development must be allotted to regions and states.

For example, it is necessary to allow the larger amount of budget to Chin and Kayah states. I am also interested in such plans. I monitor it without losing sight. Indeed, we need to minimize the development gap in the region and region-wise. We must strive for narrowing the development gap in respective regions. To do so, we need a large number of educated people. The uneducated persons cannot do anything. If the persons do not have knowledge and income, they cannot do improvement of health, food and accommodation sectors. Anyone should not operate smuggling, drug trafficking, legal trade and production. They have to do anything under the law with genuine businesses. So, techniques and knowledge are essential for possessing property. We need to uplift education without fail. We have to implement the plans of improving the education standard in the rural areas. It is important for the nation and the future.”

The Senior General stressed the need to arrange for all students to have a chance to move onto the higher grade of the schools with having actual

knowledge. Teachers in respective subjects must be skilful. Moreover, it is necessary to consider the national education law and the law amending the national education laws to be in conformity with the current situations.

Efforts must be made for further achieving success in the yield of 100 baskets of paddy per acre. If so, the paddy can be exported to earn foreign income. Local farmers will have increased income which will contribute to the better local circulation of money.

In previous years, foreign trade scored some US\$1 billion per year. As of the 2020-2021 financial year, the trade surpasses reached US\$532.36 million. If the country reduces oil consumption, the trade surpasses will increase more. Arrangements are being made to further the formation of districts in order to be smooth the administrative process.

Concerning the development of the country, the Senior General said: “The United Nations identifies developing, developed and OECD countries. There are 46 least developed countries including Myanmar. Based on data released last November, there are 152 developing countries, seven G-7 countries namely Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States and EU member countries. There are 38 OECD countries. These countries were classified. I mean these countries are still also trying hard for their development. Especially, the organizations leading the countries are striving for the development of countries. All parents wish to see the prosperity of their offspring. The governments also try to ensure the prosperity of the people, except dictators.

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Indeed, we need to minimize the development gap in the region and region-wise. We must strive for narrowing the development gap in respective regions. To do so, we need a large number of educated people.

If administrative measures comprise colours of party politics, work process will be difficult, says Senior General

FROM PAGE-3

Those dictators may have such thoughts. Generally, the government of the organization leading the country wishes to be prosperous for the country. They all are trying hard to do so. Anything will not be accomplished without effort. So, it is needed to do so. Nobody should satisfy with natural gifts. Some people are wealthy due to the situation of their fore generations depending on the products of the country. For example, the Gulf countries were poor in the past. When they could produce oil and natural gas, they become the wealthiest across the world. It is of natural gift. If not, all countries should generally make efforts for all. If it is a person, their improvement will be based on hardworking. Those who do nothing will be left. If our country does nothing, we will lag behind development. So, we should not stop. All are going on. Every country is marching forward with movement and activities. They create their development. So, those who do nothing will be lagged. One who does not attend school will be lagged behind the development. If they do not carry out work, they will be later. School-age ones need to learn education. The government must look after those at a set aged. The government opens schools and gives chances for learning and the hospitals as well.

We create chances for doing health sector. Job opportunities were created in agriculture and livestock arenas. We open many tracks for all to do works. I frequently urge the people to do agriculture and livestock tasks. Government departments lead the work process. In reality, the relevant persons need to do so for enjoying the fruits of benefits. If not, they will miss chances. I have said only when the persons work will they enjoy fruits of development. If one learns education, one will not become educated. Only when they are educated will they have job opportunities to initiate their improvement. So, we have to take care of working hard to do so. If we do not try hard, others will improve more than us. Those who did not try hard were lagged behind fruits of improvement. It is the nature of human beings and the country and region as well. If we wish to narrow the development gap among the regions, we must make efforts for development. They have to do so, and the country needs to fulfil the requirements. Relevant administrative bodies need to manage the plans to minimize the development gaps. If we do so by understanding nature, we have no reason to develop the nation. If we can restore peace, it will be accomplished. So we have to be able to restore peace if we wish to taste the

... the farmers and workers rallies will be held in regions and states at an opportune time. The government emphasizes the interests of not only the minority but the majority. If administrative measures comprise colours of party politics, the work process will be difficult.

fruits of peace. But, restoration of peace is based on reasons of ethnic affairs, democracy and federalism. So we have to consider the fair process. We need to give a helping hand to others. Otherwise, if one commits instigation among others, the peace process will be worse. If one serves the interests of the State, there will be no reason to restore peace. Hence, we have to consider the nature of humans that all the people need to strive for the restoration of peace to enjoy its fruits. So, all council members need to consider it for their work processes.”

The State Administration Council members discussed revocation of agreements and international treaties signed in the previous governments not in

conformity with the laws, solving of problems of farmers and workers, creation of livelihoods for ethnic ethnics of Rakhine State, assignment of the persons without party colours as ward/village administrators, plans for prompt process of peace restoration, the smoother process of taking out cash at banks, rights of inmates in jails, efficient utilization of forest products, control for gold mining in the confluence area, display of traditional culture and heritages of ethnics, supply of necessary books to the university libraries, plans for security, stability and rule of law in Loikaw and Demawhso townships, and resumption of Kyaikmaraw cement plant.

Lt-Gen Soe Htut and Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun reported on the formation of more dis-

tricts in regions and states, and the functioning of the Myanmar Investment Commission in the time of the State Administration Council.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win reported on preparations for holding the Diamond Jubilee Union Day.

In his response, the Senior General said the farmers and workers rallies will be held in regions and states at an opportune time. The government emphasizes the interests of not only the minority but the majority. If administrative measures comprise colours of party politics, the work process will be difficult.

Measures of the rule of law and security in other regions including Kayah State are to be reported back in time. Allotment of funds is increased for university libraries to be provided with books and publications.

The Senior General replied to administrative and business measures for the resumption of factories. He pledged to mark the Diamond Jubilee Union Day on a grand scale to set the records in history.

In his concluding remarks, the Senior General stressed the need to develop the social life, economic, education, health and transport sectors of the nation. The council members were urged to the people for clarifying the respect and emphasis in their organizational measures.

— MNA

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

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.

The laboratory samples of the

COVID-19 virus of the returnees were sent to the National Health Laboratory and No 1 Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed) on 20-1-2022 and the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant was found in 28 laboratory samples.

28 Omicron cases were Myanmar nationals — 11 entered the country

from Malaysia, six from the Philippines, three from Thailand, four from Singapore, two from India, one each from the UAE and Russia by relief flights.

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.

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

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NUPRCC meets work group of political parties

THE National Unity and Peace Restoration Coordination Committee (NUPRCC) organized a discussion with the work group of political parties in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae of the Union Government Office (1), in his capacity as Chairman of the NUPRCC and committee members and leader of political party groups Chairman of Shan Nationalities Democratic Party U Sai Aik Pao and other represent-

atives.

During the meeting, the NUPRCC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and leader of political party groups U Sai Aik Pao delivered greeting speeches.

Then, the two leaders discussed the political discussion framework prepared by the government, Hluttaw and Tatmadaw in 2020 and further peace processes.

Afterwards, they concluded the meeting after the closing remarks. — MNA



MoST holds ISO 9004:2018 awareness workshop



THE Ministry of Science and Technology held an online workshop on “ISO 9004:2018 Quality Management – Quality of an organization – Guidance to achieve sustained success” to promote yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw said that standards play an important role in strengthening the national quality infrastructure and, thus, it is important to be able to apply the standards and understand the contents of the standards.

He said that by holding ISO 9004:2018 workshops and training, the processes to be implemented in implementing the quality management system of the organization for sustainable success can be understood, the organization’s level of maturity can be accessed with the Self-Assessment Tool so that the strengths and weakness of the organization can be analyzed to implement it for further development.

The workshop was attended by directors-general, deputy directors-general and officials from the seven departments of the Ministry of Science and Technology. — MNA

Korean Ildong Foodis Co donates goat milk powder to Social Welfare Ministry

ILDONG Foodis Co., Ltd from Seoul, the Republic of Korea provided goat milk powder tins to the Child Care Centre opened by the Department of Social Welfare, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday morning

The donation ceremony was made virtually and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine and officials, the head of Yangon Region Social

Welfare Department, donors from Ildong Foodis Co., Ltd and Sunshine Yangon Co., Ltd attended.

At the ceremony, the Union minister said that the consumption of goat’s milk donated by donors was a good support for the nutritional needs of children.

The goat’s milk powder was donated to the Department of Social Welfare. It will be distributed to child care centres and charitable shelters as soon as

possible.

The children cared for are the human resources of the future nation. She thanked all the donors from Ildong Foodis Co., Ltd. and Sunshine Yangon Co., Ltd and officials from the Ministry of Relief and Resettlement who assisted in the ceremony.

Then, Chief Executive Officer Mr Tae Win Kim of the donor Ildong Foodis Co., Ltd thanked and donated 8,880 tins of goat’s milk powder to the



head of Yangon Region Social Welfare Department.

After that, the Union minister handed over the certificates to the Department of Social Welfare and the director-general and officials accepted on behalf of the donors. —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.

Two oxygen generators were imported via the international airport and seaport 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

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

81st Intake of Tatmadaw (Navy) Junior Officer (Management), 55th Intake of Tatmadaw (Navy) Junior Officer (Engineering) conclude



Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zaya Kyaw Htin Moe Aung addresses the passing-out parade of Tatmadaw (Navy) Junior Officer (Management) Course (81) and Junior Officer (Engineering) Course (55) in Thanlyin yesterday.

THE passing-out parade of Tatmadaw (Navy) Junior Officer (Management) Course (81) and Tatmadaw (Navy) Junior Officer (Engineering) Course (55) was held at the Naval Training Command Headquarters in Thanlyin yesterday.

During the event, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zaya Kyaw Htin Moe Aung delivered a speech.

First, the graduate company and Guard of Honour marched into the parade ground and saluted the State Flag.

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zaya Kyaw Htin Moe Aung took the salute of companies and Guard of Honour.

He then presented the

awards to the outstanding students of the courses.

In his speech, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zaya Kyaw Htin Moe Aung said that during the training period, the officers were trained in maritime skills as per international naval standards and skills with lecture and practical sessions, and they will be also trained to serve dutifully in work fields with the naval vessels. After the practical training, the qualified persons will be assigned to the naval vessels and they can join the further Specialize Courses.

Tatmadaw (Navy) emerged together with the independence of Myanmar and it has good traditions such as it fought against

the local and foreign threats by cooperating with Tatmadaw (Army) and Tatmadaw (Air). When Tatmadaw (Navy) was established, it possessed only a few warships, and now it can draw designs of the frigates and possesses the amphibious vessels including the attack submarines.

In the speech of the State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services delivered in the ceremony to commission the warships into services conducted on 24 December 2021, he said the best guarantee for the perpetuation of the sovereignty of the State is to possess a dynamic and capable defence force. The Tatmadaw (Navy) is

being built to have a **Three-Dimensional Combat Ready Navy** to defend the Exclusive Economic Zone of Myanmar territorial waters for the first phase with the formation of the submarine fleet, building of warships and improvement of human resources."

Therefore, modern warships are constructed with such aims and so it needs to study to be skilful and teach the junior personnel.

As the capacity of Tatmadaw (Navy) becomes high, it can more effectively defend any sea invasions in the frontline and achieve more abilities to conduct Army/Navy/Air joint military operations to protect the maritime

interests of the country.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) then highlighted the four main sectors — military, the rule of law, diplomacy and humanitarian aids and the seven objectives of Tatmadaw (Navy) and the need to serve duties with the motto.

He continued that it also needs to make preparations to participate in COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities. It should know and follow international maritime laws and local maritime laws in addition to the Law of Armed Conflicts and Rules of Engagement.

It also must be skilful in maritime techniques and should practice to always meet the three-skill. It must uphold three main national courses and work together in building the Three-Dimensional Combat Ready Navy to protect the State security and defend the Exclusive Economic Zone of Myanmar territorial waters.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) took the salute of the graduate company and Guard of Honour and took a commemorative photo with graduate officers and senior military officers. — MNA



The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) presents awards to the outstanding students.

Royal Thai Armed Forces Day celebrated in Yangon

THE celebration of Royal Thai Armed Forces Day was organized at Park Royal Hotel in Yangon yesterday and attended by Lt-Gen Thet Pon of the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe, senior military officers, the military attaché and guests.

First, Deputy Ambassador of the Embassy of Thailand to Myanmar Mrs Kanokwan Pengsuwan, Thai Military Attaché Senior Colonel Saranyanis Sutthiwajehinadej and wife welcomed Lt-Gen Thet Pon and guests.

Then, the attendees saluted

after the two national anthems were played, and the Thai military attaché made a greeting speech. Afterwards, they played the video clip of Royal Thai Armed Forces Day.

Then, Lt-Gen Thet Pon and the Thai military attaché cut the cake and took a commemorative photo together with the guests.

Finally, the attendees enjoyed the lunch hosted by the Thai military attaché and wife. — MNA

Royal Thai Armed Forces Day celebration in progress.



Five dead, one injured when arrested by PDF terrorists in Sagaing Region

THE armed PDF terrorists arrested four males and two females in Mingin Township of Sagaing Region, and five (three males and two females) were dead and one male injured.

At around 8:30 pm on 18 January, about 40 PDF terrorists ar-

rived at Maugon (North) Village in Mingin Township of Sagaing Region and arrested six innocent civilians — U Yar Aye, his wife Daw Htay Htay Win, U Kyaw San Win, Daw Kyi Kyi Win, U Kyaw Naing Oo and U Soe Lay (aka) Taw Kyi. Terrorists stabbed and

shot them at about three furlongs from the west of the village. Due to their attacks, U Yar Aye, Daw Htay Htay Win, U Kyaw San Win, Daw Kyi Kyi Win and U Kyaw Naing Oo died cuts of knife and gunshot wounds on their bodies. U Soe Lay (aka) Taw Kyi escaped



PDF terrorists killed five males and caused injuries to a man in Mingin Township.

from the terrorists with wounds, and now he is at Mingin people's hospital for medical treatment.

Security forces cooperate with the local military columns to arrest these PDF terrorists.—MNA

Teachers brutally killed by terrorists in Sagaing region

POLITICAL extremists and terrorists who do not want the opening of schools and teaching literature to young people are committing brutal killings and threats, in addition to bombing education buildings and schools across the country.

On 19 January, Daw Than Than Nwe, headmistress of the Daiyauk Basic Education Primary School, was being shot while she was with her husband and her daughter at home in the afternoon. Four armed men in black clothes reportedly came to the house and opened fire at them brutally, and the headmistress and her husband died of gunshot wounds at the scene

and the daughter has been under medical treatment at Taze People's Hospital. One A USA 320 Auto bullet and one MM6 NRO Luser bullet were found and confiscated at the scene.

Similarly, PDF terrorists holding homemade guns, rods and knives arrived in the Ywa-than village in KhinU Township and called out two teachers, 50 and 55 years old, and brutally killed them for not joining the CDM campaign at around 10 pm.

It is reported that local people are disgusted by brutal killings committed by the terrorists, and local security forces are working hard so that students can study in peace. — MNA



PDF terrorists shot to death the headmistress and her husband with their daughter being wounded in Taze Township.

Cut expenditure, too much consumption of cooking oil for healthy life

THE Taninthayi Region has been decorated with thriving oil palm plantations for many years. In recent decades, the region was dubbed as an oil pot for the country. Likewise, the Ayeyawady Region was identified as an oil pot for the nation for many decades. Cultivation of various edible oil crops also thrived in the Magway Region and the Mandalay Region.

In Myanmar, individual oil consumption is still high. Based on the data calculated by experts, each person consumes 1.58 ticals of cooking oil for health per day and some six visses of oil per year.

Truly, too much consumption of oil cannot benefit the physical structures of humans and it brings bad impacts on health conditions.

Everybody needs to know too much consumption of cooking oil invites various fatal diseases. Hence, it is necessary to reduce oil consumption while striving for increasing the production of cooking oil for both local consumption and export purpose.

foreign exchange needs to be spent on the import of cooking oil. So, foreign exchange to be spent on cooking oil, as usual, can be used in other sectors.

Everybody needs to know too much consumption of cooking oil invites various fatal diseases. Hence, it is necessary to reduce oil consumption while striving for increasing the production of cooking oil for both local consumption and export purpose.

That is why everybody needs to consider that it would be the first and last chance for their longevity in good health conditions to be free from oil-based diseases by cutting the expenditure to import cooking oil and reducing oil consumption.



WHO says pandemic ‘nowhere near over’ as France, Germany post record cases

The World Health Organization has warned that the Covid-19 pandemic is far from over, as France, Germany and Brazil posted new records of infections in the past 24 hours.

THE highly transmissible Omicron strain has spread unabated around the world, pushing some governments to impose fresh measures while speeding up the rollout of vaccine booster shots.

“This pandemic is nowhere near over,” WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters Tuesday from the agency’s headquarters in Geneva.

Europe is at the epicentre of alarming new outbreaks, with Germany’s cases soaring past 100,000 and France reporting nearly half a million cases on Tuesday.

The UN health chief warned against dismissing Omicron as mild, as the dominant Covid strain continues to flare new outbreaks from Latin America to East Asia after it was first detected in southern Africa in November.

“Omicron may be less severe, on average, but the narrative that it is a mild disease is misleading,” he said.

European surge

Five millions cases were reported in Europe last week and the WHO has predicted Omicron could infect half of all Europeans by March, filling hospitals across the continent.

Germany on Tuesday recorded 112,323 coronavirus cases and



Officials have expressed concern over the rapid spread of the Omicron variant in France, which reported 104,611 cases over the previous 24 hours on Christmas Day. PHOTO: STEPHANE DE SAKUTIN /AFP/FILE

239 deaths, officials said, with Omicron found in more than 70 per cent of the infections.

The surge has pushed German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to seek compulsory vaccinations to ramp up the immunity of the population in Europe’s biggest economy.

Other European countries are also battling soaring Omicron rates, with neighbouring France recently averaging around 300,000 cases daily.

The latest data issued by Public Health France showed that

there were 464,769 new cases in the last 24-hour period, a record number.

The record cases come days after the two-year anniversary of the announcement of the first person dying of a virus in China only later identified as Covid.

Since 11 January 2020, known fatalities in the pandemic have soared to more than 5.5 million.

Hopes for Europe’s tourism recovery remain bleak with the World Tourism Organization saying Tuesday that foreign arrivals will not return to pre-pandemic

levels until 2024 at the earliest, despite a rise of 19 per cent last year compared to 2020.

‘Quasi-emergency’

Elsewhere in the world, Brazil registered a new record number of daily cases of more than 137,000 on Tuesday.

The country suffered a devastating second wave last year with deaths topping 4,000 a day, pushing its death toll to the second highest in the world behind the United States.

President Jair Bolsonaro, an

avowed vaccine sceptic who has downplayed Omicron, is increasingly under fire for his handling of the pandemic, and he is on course to lose the country’s October presidential election, according to polls.

In Asia, Japan was set to tighten restrictions across the country, including Tokyo, as it battles record infections fuelled by Omicron while China partially relaxed transport restrictions in the megacity of Xi’an where millions have been confined to their homes for weeks.

Japanese experts on Wednesday backed placing 13 regions “under quasi-emergency measures from 21 January to 13 February” Daishiro Yamagiwa, minister in charge of coronavirus affairs, told reporters.

Inter-city train routes in Xi’an

China’s resumption of some inter-city train routes in Xi’an from Tuesday comes just before the Lunar New Year holiday later this month, traditionally a period of mass travel.

It also comes as Beijing battles multiple clusters that are testing its enforcement of a strict “zero-Covid” approach ahead of next month’s Winter Olympics.

Hamsters and big cats

Focus is increasingly turning

to animals and how the virus interacts with them, after at least two countries reported Covid-19 cases in creatures big and small potentially passed between them and humans.

A study published Tuesday in South Africa said big cats caged in zoos are at risk from catching Covid from their keepers.

Researchers found clues pointing to the infection of three lions and two pumas by their handlers at a zoo in Johannesburg, some of whom were asymptomatic.

In Hong Kong, hamsters were bearing the brunt of the semi-autonomous Chinese city’s similarly strict approach to Covid, with officials appearing to blame them for two human cases.

The financial hub’s government faced growing outrage Wednesday over its decision to cull 2,000 small animals in pet shops after several hamsters in a store allegedly tested positive for Covid-19.

“Internationally, there is no evidence yet to show pets can transmit the coronavirus to humans,” Health Secretary Sophia Chan told a press conference.

“But... we will take precautionary measures against any vector of transmission.”

SOURCE: AFP

World tourism won’t return to pre-pandemic levels until 2024: UN

Tourism arrivals around the world are not expected to return to their pre-pandemic levels until 2024 at the earliest, the World Tourism Organization said Tuesday.

THE highly contagious Omicron variant, though mild, will “disrupt the recovery” in early 2022 after last year saw four per cent growth over 2020, according to the Madrid-based UN agency’s World Tourism Barometer.

Tourism revenue

Tourism revenue in 2020 was 72 per cent down on the previous year — which closed with the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.

“The pace of recovery remains slow and uneven across world regions due

to varying degrees of mobility restrictions, vaccination rates and traveller confidence,” the UNWTO said in a press release.

In Europe and the Americas, foreign visitor arrivals surged by 19 per cent and 17 per cent, respectively, last year over 2020.

In the Middle East, however, arrivals declined by 24 per cent in 2021, while in the Asia-Pacific region they were 65 per cent below 2020 levels, and 94 per cent down on pre-pandemic levels.

The statement said tourism professionals “see better prospects” for

this year after turbulence in the early months because of the Omicron wave.

International arrivals

The agency predicts a 30 to 78 per cent rise in international arrivals this year over 2021, while remaining far below 2019 levels.

Most experts say they do not foresee a return to pre-pandemic levels until at least 2024, it said.

Many countries are highly dependent on tourism and are eagerly awaiting a return to normal.

SOURCE: AFP



A group of tourists takes a photo at the Taj Mahal after it reopened to visitors following authorities easing coronavirus restrictions in Agra, India, 16 June 2021. PHOTO: AFP

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of Service Organizations Confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as the Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names after the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Kyi Zin Htun	Director-General Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission Ministry of Planning and Finance
(2) U Aye Kywe	Director-General Information and Public Relations Department Ministry of Information



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 20 January 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair over the North and West Central Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 21 January 2022: Weather will be partly cloudy Magway Region and Rakhine State. Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Kachin, Eastern Shan States, scattered in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and (North and South) Shan, Mon States 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, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 January 2022: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 January 2022: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 January 2022: Partly cloudy.

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

(Issued at 11:30 hour M.S.T)

A slight earthquake of magnitude (3.9) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (10) miles north of Shwegu), latitude 24.36 °N, longitude 96.80 °E, depth (10) kilometers, about (32) miles northeast of Katha seismological observatory was recorded at (11) hr (13) min (04) sec M.S.T on 20 January 2022.



Returnees from Thailand receive Covid tests at the reception centre.

Officials welcome back Myanmar returnees at various borders

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

On 19 January, a total of 176 returnees — 90 males and 86 females — came back home through Muse, northern Shan State and 10 returnees — six males and four females — through Chinshwehaw, respectively. One male also came back home through Laukkai and 179 returnees – 124 males and 55 females – through Tachilek.

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

Crime news

Illegal timber, foods, consumer goods, vehicles confiscated



Seized timber.

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is being taken effectively under the law.

On 15 and 16 January, a combined task force under the management of the Illegal Trade Eradication Special Force in Rakhine State conducted field inspections and seized 41.9056

tonnes of illegal timber (estimated value of K634,798) in Thandwe and Taungup townships in Rakhine State as per the rules and regulations of the Department of Forest.

According to a report on 19 January, a Customs inspection team in charge of the Ma-yanchaung Permanent Check-

point inspected the vehicles coming from the detour near Moppalin village in Kyaukto Township and confiscated undocumented foods, medicines, consumer goods with two motorcycles and four minibuses (estimated value of K50,345,800) accordingly to the Department of Customs.

The Department of Forest also seized three illegal boats made by gum-kino wood (estimated value of K15,000,000) in the Thanlwin River and action is being taken in line with the procedures of the Department.

In addition, 5.7016 tonnes of illegal teak (estimated value of K1,710,480) and 3.1985 tonnes of illegal timber (estimated value of K223,706) were seized in the forest reserves in Bago District and Toungoo District. In Homalin Township in Sagaing Region, two China-made engines and accessories used for gold mining (estimated value of K300,000) were seized and action is being taken under the Myanmar Mining Law.

On 15, 16, 19 and 20 January, there was a total of 14 cases (estimated value of K68,214,784), the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee stated. — MNA



Confiscated goods.



A seized bike.

Stimulant tablets seized in some townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a motorcycle driven by Maung Tint near Konmahat Village, Konmahat Village-tract, Bhamo Township and found 1,925 stimulant tablets on 19 January at 4:10 pm.

At 7:10 pm that night, Anti-Drug Police Force also stopped and searched a Honda Fit vehicle driven by Naing Naing Oo on the Indu-Zarthapyin Road near Thayet Pin Village, Zarthapyin (West) Village-tract, Hpa-an Township and 2,000 stimulant tablets worth K210,000 were confiscated.

At 1:10 pm that day, a joint team consisting of security forces searched a Crown vehicle driven by Kyaw Soe Hlaing and Phyo Min Kyaw (alias) Ko Phyo on the Maugon Road, Maugon Quarter, Tamway Township, Yangon and 230,000 stimulant drugs were seized.

At 6.45 am that morning, a search of Soe



Two arrestees along with seized drugs and saloon.

Heitay's house by the Anti-Drug Police Force in Kosammein village, Mongyang Township turned up 5,200 stimulant pills.

They are being prosecuted under the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to the Police Force. —MNA

One woman jailed for 20 years in human trafficking case

A woman who tried to force another woman to marry a Chinese man has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for human trafficking.

Daw Hla Hla Yi, Ma Thazin Phoo (alias) Shwe Sin Moe and Kyaw Gyi persuaded Ma ..., 38-year-old that she would earn about K20 million a year if she worked as a florist in Mandalay, and arranged for her to be taken to Kengtung via Yangon and forced to marry a Chinese man.

The case has been filed under Section 28/Code 512 of the Anti-Human Trafficking Law at Kyauktan Myoma Police Station (W) 1936/2019 and the woman named Hla Hla Yi was sentenced to 20 years in prison under Section 28 of the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Law on 18 January. — MNA

Foreigners hold over 4.48 mln shares in equity market as of 19 January

FOREIGN investors have purchased over 4.489 million shares of four listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) so far, according to statistics released by the exchange.

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) has allowed foreigners to invest in the local equity market from 20 March 2020.

At present, shares of six listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd, Ever Flow River Group Public Co., Ltd (EFR) and Amata Holding Public Co., Ltd (AMATA) — are available for local investors for trading. Foreigners invest in FMI, MTSH, TMH and EFR on the exchange. FPB is for block trade only.

The foreign investors are about to reach the upper limit of 14 per cent for shareholding

with FMI and consequently, the status of buy order acceptance is suspended for now. The foreign shareholding ratio of the companies on the exchange, except FMI, is less than one per cent.

As of 19 January 2022, foreigners hold over 4.45 million shares of FMI, over 27,897 shares of MTSH, 5,445 shares of TMH and 3,002 shares of EFR, YSX's statistics indicated.

The SECM, under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, issued a notice on 12 July 2019, announcing that foreigners would be allowed to invest in shares listed on the YSX.

After opening bank and securities accounts, an investor can send buying/selling orders under the stock trading rules stipulated in the Trading Business Regulations, the SECM notified.

Foreign participation would entail better capital inflows, long term and sustainable investment, encourage good corporate

governance, and support market orientation, YSX stated.

Regarding share trading, foreign investors must strictly comply with the rules stipulated by the Central Bank of Myanmar.

The security companies will monitor the daily trades of foreigners, in keeping with the rules and regulations, so that they do not exceed the limit set for each listed company.

Under Section 42 (a) of the Securities and Exchange Law and Section 4 of the Trading Participant Business Regulations, the YSX has granted trading qualifications to the following securities companies — Myanmar Securities Exchange Centre Co. Ltd. (MSEC), KBZ Stirling Coleman Securities Co. Ltd. (KBZSC), CB Securities Limited (CBSC), AYA Trust Securities Co. Ltd. (AYATSC), KTZ Ruby Hill Securities Co. Ltd. (KTZRH), and UAB Securities Limited (UABSC). YSX launched



The Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX).

a pre-listing board (PLB) on 28 September 2020 in order to provide unlisted public companies with fund-raising opportunities and build a bridge toward listing on the exchange, YSX stated.

The YSX was launched four years ago to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowl-

edge of share trading through stock investment seminars. The stock exchange has also sought the government's support to get more public companies to participate in the stock market and help more institutional investors, such as financing companies, investment banks, and insurance companies, to emerge. — KK/GNLM

Palm oil being sold via mobile market truck in Yangon region



The price of palm oil currently hit around K4,800 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the Yangon market. The association imported the palm oil at the CBM reference rate and sold it at the fair price of K4,400 per viss with the mobile oil tankers in the Yangon region. PHOTO: MEODA PAGE

THE palm oil is being sold via mobile market truck in the Yangon region, according to Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association.

The association has already distributed the edible oil to the consumers at a cheaper rate through wholesalers, retailers and mobile market trucks as of the last week of November last year. But the mobile market trucks were suspended for a while and have been resumed on 14 January 2022.

The price of palm oil currently hit around K4,800 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes)

in the Yangon market. The association imported the palm oil at the CBM reference rate and sold it at the fair price of K4,400 per viss with the mobile oil tankers in the Yangon region.

At present, the prices of palm oil somewhat rose, following Kyat depreciation against the US dollar in the local foreign exchange market.

Currently, the local currency is approximately K2,000 per dollar.

Thus, the association has distributed the edible oil to the consumers at a cheaper rate through the relevant compa-

nies.

Last year, more than 30,000 tonnes of palm oil, with an estimated value of US\$41 million that the CBM directly sold to the oil sectors during Kyat weakening in the forex market, have been sold at an affordable price.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the self-sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported from Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/GNLM

Internal Revenue Dept notifies agents of resuming lottery sales

THE Department of Internal Revenue's Aung Bar Lay Lottery Branch under the Ministry of Planning and Finance declared that those interested sellers and agents can seek a permit to buy and retail lottery tickets.

The department will resume sales of K1,000 lottery tickets in April for the 2022-2023 financial year. Those interested agents are able to submit the necessary documents to the departments concerned until 31 January.

They can enquire and apply for a ticket sales licence at Aung Bar Lay (State Lottery) Branch in Yangon and Mandalay and the respective township Internal Revenue Departments.

The agents must present the Citizenship Scrutiny Card, household registration and a commitment letter to retail the tickets at the set price to the

department.

Those former agents who were allowed to sell 500 tickets and above in the 2020-2021FY must also attach a recommendation letter that they are eligible and obligated to pay a tax that comes from township Internal Revenue Departments concerned.

They must pay a three-month deposit of K600 per 11-tickets pack. Additionally, they must sign an agreement concerning the number of tickets sales for the whole FY. If they breach the agreement, their licences will be revoked and deposits will be confiscated as the country's revenue.

Those eligible agents must enter into agreement by 28 February. They will be delisted for failing to do so, according to the notification of the department. — Ko Naing (Bago)/GNLM

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NEWS
IN BRIEF

World Bank chief contrasts Microsoft deal with poor countries' debt

After Microsoft announced it would spend tens of billions of dollars to buy a video game company, World Bank President David Malpass on Wednesday drew a contrast between the deal and the amount of money rich nations have pledged to help poor countries facing higher debt loads.

"I was struck this morning by the Microsoft investment — \$75 billion in a video gaming company" compared to just \$24 billion over three years in aid for the poorest countries, Malpass said, referring to donations allocated in December by 48 high- and middle-income governments.

"You have to wonder, is this the best allocation of capital?" he said of the Microsoft deal in a discussion at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

"There has to be more money and growth flowing into the developing countries."—AFP ■

Japan's exports, imports hit record highs in December

JAPAN'S merchandise exports and imports both hit record highs in December on the back of stronger demand for cars and higher energy prices, government data showed Thursday.

Exports jumped 17.5 per cent from a year earlier to 7.9 trillion yen (\$69 billion), up for the 10th straight month, while imports surged 41.1 per cent to 8.5 trillion yen, up for the 11th consecutive month, according to preliminary data released by the Finance Ministry.

As a result, Japan marked a goods trade deficit of 582.4 billion yen in December, for the fifth straight month of red ink.

While the Omicron variant of the coronavirus spread rapidly in Europe and the United States in the reporting month, the impact on Japan's exports to such countries was limited, economists said.—Kyodo ■

5G launches in US without huge impact on flights

TELECOM giants AT&T and Verizon began 5G service in the United States Wednesday without major disruptions to flights after the launch of the new wireless technology was scaled back.

A handful of international carriers removed flights to the United States from their schedules Wednesday, but there were not mass cancellations and some of those companies said they planned to resume service on Thursday.

At 1915 GMT Wednesday, there were 261 flights either planned to depart or land in US airports that were cancelled, according to the website Flight-Aware. That figure is less than the 538 reported last Wednesday, although the number could climb throughout the day.

Airlines that had cut flights for Wednesday included Emirates, Air India, ANA and Japan Airlines.

Both ANA and Japan Airlines said they were restoring service on Thursday after assurances from regulators at the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).



After cancelling flights the day prior, Japan Airlines said it planned to resume service to the United States on 20 January 2022 following assurances from US airline regulators. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

"As the launch of the 5G service in the US has now been partially postponed, operation of ANA flights from January 20 will follow the normal schedule based on FAA notification that there is no safety issue with the operation of Boeing 777 aircraft to the US airports that we serve," said a statement from ANA President Yuji Hirako.

Telecom giants spent tens of billions of dollars to obtain 5G licences last year but aviation industry groups have raised

concerns about possible interference with airplanes' radio altimeters, which can operate at the same frequencies and are vital for landing at night or in bad weather.

On Tuesday, both AT&T and Verizon agreed to scale back the launch of 5G near airports following an outcry from US airlines, who warned of mass disruptions. The White House, which has negotiated with both the aviation and telecommunications industries, praised the move.—AFP ■

'Throwaway economy' thwarting climate goals: report

COUNTRIES are neglecting the massive impact of the "throwaway" economy on planet-warming emissions, according to research published Wednesday that calculated more than half a trillion tonnes of virgin materials have been consumed since the 2015 Paris climate deal.

From clothing to food, planes to buildings, research by the organization Circle Economy estimates that 70 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions are linked to the manufacturing and use of products.

But in its annual report on the state of the world's use of materials, researchers said national climate pledges to reduce emissions focus narrowly on fossil fuel use and ignore the mounting global appetite for stuff.

Matthew Fraser, head of research at Circle Economy, said the report aimed to look beyond just fossil fuel use and the transition to green energy and ask about the emissions implications of using fewer resources.—AFP ■



Countries are neglecting the massive impact of the "throwaway" economy on planet-warming emissions. **PHOTO: AFP**

China cuts lending rates, boosting property firms

CHINA further reduced bank lending costs Thursday in the latest move to boost its stuttering economy, providing some much-needed support to the country's beleaguered developers.

Property firm shares and bonds surged on the fresh rate cut from People's Bank of China — the second in two months — days after Beijing reported slower growth in the final months of 2021.

The slowing real estate industry has put downward pressure on growth, with several large companies including debt-laden development giant Evergrande defaulting in recent months. The central bank said it had lowered the one-year loan prime rate (LPR) to 3.7 per cent, from 3.8 per cent in December.

It had reduced the LPR — which guides how much interest commercial banks charge to corporate borrowers — in December, for the first time in 20 months, as the economy was



China's struggling property developers saw shares rally following a cut in lending rates by the central bank. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

threatened by the real estate crisis and coronavirus flare-ups.

The launch of a regulatory drive last year to curb speculation and leverage had cut off avenues to crucially needed cash, sparking a crisis in the property sector.

But investors regained confidence amid expectations of regulatory easing with shares in Hong Kong-listed Agile Group

up more than six percent and Country Garden climbing 7.4 per cent.

Property developer bonds also surged Thursday on news of the rate cut, in what Bloomberg said was a record-breaking rally, highlighting the huge sums of money primed to flow into distressed securities if the property sector crackdown was eased.—AFP ■

Stimulus package heralds prosperous New Year for Vietnam’s workers

IN a bustling Hanoi flower market, factory worker Hoang Thi Lan is looking for a kumquat tree as decoration for New Year celebrations. In recent months, she has been forced to cut her spending. Being disrupted due to COVID-19 means even less money than usual. Festivities were not a priority. Last Tuesday, the National Assembly of Vietnam, the country’s top legislature, passed a package worth nearly 350 trillion Vietnamese dong (about 15 billion U.S. dollars) to support those affected by the pandemic and revive the economy.

The policies will “take the initiative in the prevention of COVID-19 and timely support for sustainable socio-economic development,” to help Vietnam achieve the economic growth target of 6.5-7 per cent per year in the 2021-2025 period, top legislator Vuong Dinh Hue said while announcing the approval. The stimulus will focus on health care, social security, employment and businesses fiscal and monetary policies, and increasing public investment. Last year, the Southeast Asian country posted a modest gross domestic

product expansion of just 2.6 percent, the lowest in a decade. Its economy was estimated to have lost some 37 billion dollars due to the pandemic, instead of growing 7 per cent per year in the past two years as previously expected. “Through impacts on consumption, labour and production, the policies will solve people’s social security needs and prop up the economy in the short term,” Vo Dai Luoc, former head of the Hanoi-based Institute of World Economics and Politics under the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, told Xinhua.—Xinhua ■



Photo taken on 31 March 2020 shows customers wearing face masks and gloves in a supermarket in Vietnamese capital city of Hanoi. PHOTO: XINHUA/VNA

P&G profits up on strong consumer demand, higher pricing

Procter & Gamble raised its full-year forecast Wednesday as robust consumer demand enabled the company to notch higher sales even as it increased prices on consumer goods.

The maker of Tide detergent and Bounty paper towels, P&G saw a six per cent jump in net sales in the quarter, with half of the increase coming from volume and half from higher prices taken to offset increased commodity costs.

“We are taking pricing generally,” said P&G Chief Financial Officer Andre Schulten on a conference call with reporters, adding that “we’ve seen a good pass through of pricing” with retailers.

P&G highlighted strength in several premium items, such as teeth whitening goods and higher-priced grooming items. A “more intense” flu season has increased demand for products to treat cold and cough symptoms, while cleaning supplies have continued to sell well during the pandemic, P&G said.

Net income for the quarter was up 10 per cent at \$4.2 billion on a six per cent increase in revenues to \$21 billion.—AFP ■

Wall Street ends lower amid rising oil prices



Crude prices rose to their highest level since the 2014 shale-induced oil crash, a milestone in a rally that is gathering momentum as geopolitical tensions threaten to knock supply. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

US stocks reversed course in Wednesday’s trading session, ending lower for the second day amid rising oil prices and fears that the Federal Reserve will have to move more aggressively to contain inflation. The see-saw day started out upbeat following a good batch of earnings reports from Procter & Gamble and other companies, but shares tumbled after midday. The benchmark Dow Jones Industrial Average fell nearly 340 points, or one per cent,

to finish at 35,028.65. The broad-based S&P 500 also dropped one per cent to end at 4,532.76, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index fell 1.2 per cent to 14,340.25, and is about 10 per cent below its November record. Meanwhile, oil prices continued to march towards \$100 a barrel, with WTI at \$86.60 in late afternoon trading, 1.4 per cent higher. “I think that a lot of the stocks that have been doing very well over the past couple of weeks like

food, energy, financials are running out of steam,” Tom Cahill of Ventura Wealth Management told AFP. And amid the prospect of rising borrowing rates, “you are getting a little bit of bargain hunting in some of the technology stocks.” Investors were spooked Tuesday as the yield on the 10-year Treasury note jumped above 1.85 percent, amid expectations the Fed could hike interest rates as many as four times this year.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK NESNA VOY.NO. (202W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK NESNA VOY.NO. (202W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-1-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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Invitation For Open Tender No.(3/2022)

1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Department of Mines invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender of (1208.574) Metric Tons, (7) Lots of Cathode Copper by United States Dollar as follow;
(a) (108.574) Metric Tons (1) Lot, Yangon, Warehouse
(b) (100) Metric Tons (1) Lot, Yangon, Warehouse
(c) (200) Metric Tons (5) Lots, Yangon, Warehouse

2. The base price of the Cathode Copper will be determined based on the Unknown Price of the Copper at the London Metal Exchange on the opening day of the tender, and the bidding price will be (LME + Premium) and the highest bidder will be the winner of the tender.

3. The closing date and time of the tender is 22.2.2022 at (14:00) hours and opening time of tender is at (15:00) hours that day.

4. For any further detailed information, it is requested to contact the telephone number (+95) 067 3409378 and 067 3409372, Mineral Development Division, Department of Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Tender Committee
Department of Mines
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

NEWS
IN BRIEFIndonesian militant
jailed for 15 years
over 2002 Bali
bombings

An Indonesian court sentenced an Al-Qaeda-linked Islamist militant to 15 years in prison on Wednesday for his role in the 2002 bombings that killed more than 200 people on the resort island of Bali.

The blasts, which came just over a year after the 9/11 attacks on the United States, ripped through two bars packed with foreign tourists, and remain the deadliest militant assault in Indonesia's history.

Zulkarnaen, a high-ranking member of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) militant group, was on trial for the Bali bombings as well as several other attacks carried out by a special unit under his command. He "is guilty of committing terrorism and is sentenced to 15 years behind bars", said the presiding judge at East Jakarta District Court, punishing him for assisting militants, hiding information about attacks and his association with the JI cell. —AFP ■

Spaniard recognized
as world's oldest
man dies at 112

Saturnino de la Fuente, a 112-year-old Spanish man who was recognized by the Guinness Book of Records as the world's oldest man in September last year, died on Tuesday at home in the city of Leon in northwest Spain, his family has confirmed.

Saturnino was born on 12 February 1909 and was close to celebrating his 113th birthday. He survived the Spanish flu pandemic that broke out in 1918 and started working in a shoe factory when he was 13 years old. He had eight children, 14 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren and during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic he became the first man being vaccinated in Leon.

Saturnino also founded a football club in his neighborhood in Leon - CD Puente Castro, which currently has several junior teams and the club published their condolences in a message that read "the oldest man in the world, from our neighbourhood and who we will always remember with all our love." — Xinhua ■

1st aid flights arrive in Tonga following
eruption, tsunami

THE first international aid flights carrying humanitarian supplies arrived in Tonga on Thursday, after an undersea volcanic eruption last weekend triggered a tsunami that caused severe damage to the South Pacific island nation.

Aircraft from New Zealand and Australia carrying much needed aid and supplies were finally able to touch down in the capital Nuku'alofa on Thursday afternoon, following the completion of cleanup efforts to remove volcanic ash from the runway of its main airport.

The eruption of the Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcano on Saturday sent tsunami waves across the Pacific, killing at least three people and causing extensive damage to buildings



Photo uploaded to the official Facebook page for the Tonga Geological Services on 14 January 2022 shows geologists watching plumes coming from the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano. **PHOTO: KYODO**

and infrastructure in Tonga.

Australian Defense Minister Peter Dutton confirmed the arrival of a Royal Australian Air Force plane carrying supplies Thursday afternoon, saying in a

Facebook post, "The first of Australian humanitarian assistance and disaster relief supplies have landed in Tonga."

"Tonga is a very important member of our Pacific family and

we have committed to supporting them however we can," he said.

New Zealand's Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta said in a statement the C-130 Hercules aircraft that arrived from her country is carrying "humanitarian aid and disaster relief supplies, including water containers, kits for temporary shelters, generators, hygiene and family kits, and communications equipment." An offshore naval patrol vessel sent by New Zealand is also expected to arrive in Tonga later Thursday, carrying hydrographic and dive personnel to survey shipping channels and assess wharf infrastructure. A Seasprite helicopter is onboard to assist with supply delivery, the New Zealand government said. — Kyodo ■

New IOC transgender
rules criticized by group of
medical experts

INTERNATIONAL Olympic Committee (IOC) guidance on transgender inclusion poses a risk to the integrity of female competition, according to a study produced by 38 medical experts.

A new IOC framework released in November says it should not be assumed a transgender athlete automatically has an unfair advantage in female events.

The framework, which replaced IOC guidelines issued in 2015, also took out the requirement for transgender women to suppress testosterone levels to participate in those events. However, a paper published in the "Open Sport and Exercise Medicine" medical journal said that guidance is "drafted mainly

from a human rights perspective, with less consideration for medical/scientific issues".

The IOC struggled to establish a uniform position after a two-year consultation with over 250 participants, instead passing rules on to individual sports' governing federations.

Among the signatories to the report are the head of World Athletics' medical department, the medical director of cycling's ruling body the UCI and the chair of World Rowing's medicine commission.

And they question why the IOC has passed on responsibility to individual federations who will not have the capacity to implement such a framework. —AFP ■



New Zealand weightlifter Laurel Hubbard's selection for this year's Tokyo Olympics sparked a debate about the place of transgender athletes in elite sport. **PHOTO: MOHD RASFAN /AFP**

Colombian court thwarts
plans to spray drug crops

A Colombian soldier advances through a field of coca in Barbacoas, Colombia, while a plane sprays pesticides in 2000. President Iván Duque is pushing to resume aerial fumigation of the crop, which was effectively halted by Colombia's constitutional court in 2015. **PHOTO: LUIS ACOSTA/AFP**

A Colombian court has ruled that the government cannot conduct anti-drug fumigation without the consent of rural communities, in a blow to plans to resume an aerial assault on coca cultivation.

The Constitutional Court ruled in favor of rural, black and indigenous communities who sought judicial relief against government plans to renew spraying with the controversial glyphosate herbicide.

They claim the chemical causes disease, destroys traditional crops and pollutes the water. The court, in an order obtained Wednesday, ordered authorities to consult residents of areas to be sprayed and find

agreement before doing so.

It set a deadline of one year for agreement to be reached, effectively stopping the practice from resuming on the watch of President Ivan Duque, who completes a four-year term in August with no option of re-election.

Colombia, the world's largest producer of coca, the raw material used to make cocaine, stopped its anti-drug spraying in 2015 after the World Health Organization classified glyphosate as a probable carcinogen.

A court then made the program's resumption conditional on minimizing the impact of the herbicide, but even that has now been stalled. —AFP ■

N. Korea hints at resuming nuclear, ICBM tests to counter US

NORTH Korea on Thursday hinted at resuming nuclear and inter-continental ballistic missile tests, saying it may restart “activities” that it had temporarily suspended to build trust with former US President Donald Trump.

A key ruling party gathering held Wednesday concluded that North Korea should take “practical action to more reliably and effectively increase our physical strength” to counter the United States, the official Korean Central News Agency reported.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who held talks with Trump three times, presided over the meeting held by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the ruling Workers’ Party of Korea, according to KCNA.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attends a meeting held by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the ruling Workers’ Party of Korea in Pyongyang on 19 January 2022. **PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO**

At the first-ever US-North Korea summit in June 2018 in Singapore, Washington promised to provide security guarantees to

Pyongyang in return for “complete” denuclearization of the country. Since then, North Korea has refrained from nuclear and

ICBM tests.

Pyongyang, however, has claimed that Washington has not implemented the agreement despite North Korea taking what it says are concrete measures to discard its nuclear arsenal.

Recently, North Korea has carried out test-firings of what appeared to be short-range ballistic missiles in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions banning Pyongyang from developing ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons.

Direct talks between the United States and North Korea have been at a standstill for more than two years, with the administration of President Joe Biden unlikely to make concessions over denuclearization and sanctions relief.—Kyodo ■

US Senate sinks Biden push for major voting rights reforms



Police arrest activists outside the US Senate during a rally for voters’ rights on Capitol Hill, 18 January 2022, in Washington, DC.

PHOTO: BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP

US senators dealt a death blow Wednesday to President Joe Biden’s push to defend voting

rights against what Democrats frame as an all-out assault by conservative states targeting

racial minorities.

Faced with a blockade from Republicans complaining of federal overreach, the ruling Democrats were unable to push through the Freedom to Vote Act and John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act passed by the House of Representatives last week.

“I am profoundly disappointed that the Senate has failed to stand up for our democracy. I am disappointed — but I am not deterred,” Biden said in a statement posted to social media immediately after the vote.

“We will continue to advance necessary legislation and push

for Senate procedural changes that will protect the fundamental right to vote.”

Democrats and voting rights activists have championed the measures as a necessary response to Republican efforts to restrict voting, especially among Black and Latino Americans.

“I know this is not 1965. That’s what makes me so outraged. It’s 2022, and they’re blatantly removing more polling places from the counties where Blacks and Latinos are overrepresented,” New Jersey Democrat Cory Booker said on the floor of the Senate.—AFP ■

Police deploy in Rio to retake gang-controlled favelas

SOME 1,200 heavily armed military police launched an operation Wednesday to wrench control of Rio de Janeiro’s slums from drug gangs, starting with the notorious Jacarezinho favela where residents took cover. Jacarezinho was the scene last May of reportedly the deadliest police operation in Rio’s history. It left 28 people dead, prompting the UN to call for an “impartial” investigation into claims of summary executions. The shantytown of some 90,000 inhabitants, according to community leaders, is considered

a stronghold of the Comando Vermelho (Red Commando) criminal group. “The (Rio) state government began a territorial recovery in the Jacarezinho community. Surrounding communities will also be occupied,” the military police said on Twitter, with photos of black-clad officers patrolling the streets. According to AFP journalists on the ground, the streets of Jacarezinho were all but deserted, with shop shutters lowered as police patrolled with assault rifles amid palpable tension.—AFP ■



The operation is part of a government programme aimed at transforming Rio communities at the mercy of criminal gangs and drug-traffickers.

PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-pope Benedict under scrutiny in German child abuse probe

A potentially explosive report into the handling of child sex abuse in the Catholic Church will on Thursday be published in Germany, with former pope Benedict XVI among those in the spotlight.

The report by law firm Westpfahl Spilker Wastl (WSW) will analyse how abuse cases were dealt with in the archdiocese of Munich and Freising between 1945 and 2019.

The Munich archdiocese, which commissioned the report, said it will examine “whether those responsible complied with legal requirements... and acted appropriately in dealing with suspected cases and possible perpetrators”.

Ex-pope Benedict — whose civilian name is Josef Ratzinger — was the archbishop of Munich from 1977 to 1982.

During this time, a now notorious paedophile priest named Peter Hullermann was transferred to Munich from Essen in western Germany where he had been accused of abusing an 11-year-old boy.—AFP ■

Greece takes delivery of Rafale jets from France

Greece on Wednesday received six Rafale jets from France in a multi-billion-euro arms deal which Athens and Paris claim boosts the EU’s defence capabilities, but is mainly seen as countering Turkish ambitions in the Mediterranean.

The six warplanes landed at Tanagra air base, some 70 kilometres (43 miles) north of Athens, after overflying the Acropolis, escorted by Greek Mirage jets previously purchased from France. Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, who attended the ceremony, said the new additions “make our air force one of the strongest in Europe and the Mediterranean” and bolsters the “flexibility” of Greek diplomacy.

He said there was an “urgent need” to upgrade the Greek air force, which regularly engages in mock dogfights with Turkish jets in Aegean airspace disputed by Ankara.—AFP ■

Pre-match press conference held for Myanmar vs Japan match

A pre-match press conference between Myanmar and Japan Group C match of 2022 Asian Cup Women's Championship was held on 20 January.

The first day of Group C will be held on January 21 (today) at 2:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time. South Korea will also play against Viet Nam at 8:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

In the pre-match press conference, Myanmar head coach U Tin Myint Aung said, "Myanmar team has been taking training for this match since winning the previous qualifiers.

"Adequate time was given, but due to COVID situation, the international tournament was postponed. Thanks to the players who gave their best training in difficult situations, unlike at other times.

"I believe they can do their best. The Japanese team is



Myanmar women's national team head coach U Tin Myint Aung (left) and team captain Khin Malar Tun (right) pose for a photo at the press conference of the 2022 Asian Cup Women's Championship on 20 January. **PHOTO: MFF**

strong in women's football. We will compete to the best of our ability," the Myanmar head coach added.

Next, Myanmar women's team captain Khin Malar Tun said, "We will not only play against Japan but also against

South Korea and Viet Nam in the group.

"I'm really excited to play in a group match against such a powerful team. No worries. We will play the best we can," Khin Malar Tun commented. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Olympics meaningful even without fans, Tokyo 2020 chief says ahead of Beijing

NEXT month's Beijing Winter Olympics can still be meaningful even with the general public locked out because of Covid-19, a top official from last year's pandemic-delayed Tokyo Games has said.

China on Monday cancelled plans to sell Beijing Olympics tickets to the public as the number of coronavirus cases in the

country reached its highest level since March 2020.

Beijing 2022 chiefs said they will instead "organize spectators to watch the Games on-site", without explaining how they will be selected.

The pandemic-postponed Tokyo Olympics were held almost entirely behind closed doors last summer, and Tokyo

2020 CEO Toshiro Muto said his experience had shown the Games can thrive even without full stands.

"I think it's preferable to have fans at an Olympics, but I don't think the meaning of hosting it was lost just because antivirus measures meant fans couldn't be there," he told AFP. — AFP ■

Premier League may bring in new Covid-19 postponement rules in February



22 Premier League matches have been postponed over the past two months. **PHOTO: OLI SCARFF/AFP/FILE**

ACCORDING to reports, the Premier League could bring in new postponement rules

regarding Covid-19 as early as the first week in February.

Premier League clubs are

expected to meet next week to discuss changes to the criteria for calling games off.

League officials have started talks with clubs and it is believed that the new rules would be implemented on 8 February.

The league is looking at the issue against the backdrop of falling case numbers within the competition and in the country more widely.

There is nothing within the Premier League's rules to prevent such a change happening mid-season, but any amendments would require the usual 14-club majority. — 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.

Australian Open under pressure over 'optional' Covid tests



Germany's Alexander Zverev believes there are players with Covid at the Grand Slam. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE Australian Open was under growing pressure Thursday to make Covid tests mandatory after leading players questioned the seemingly lax policy and the Grand Slam got its first positive case.

Frenchman Ugo Humbert said following his first-round exit on Tuesday that he tested positive on his exit test to leave Australia and would isolate for a week.

Men's third seed Alexander Zverev said in response that players were not getting

tested, even as infection numbers surge in Australia, and believes that "quite a few players" are infected, without providing evidence. Official attendees at Melbourne Park, such as tournament staff, are provided with rapid antigen tests each day and must be negative to remain on site. Tennis Australia (TA), which organises the Australian Open, said players were encouraged to test themselves regularly but it was only mandatory if they had symptoms.—AFP ■