

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.

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen through videoconferencing



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds discussions with Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen via videoconferencing on 26 January 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held talks with Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen through videoconferencing yesterday afternoon.

At the talks, they frankly discussed the participation of Myanmar in ASEAN, implementation of the five-point ASEAN consensus, needs for cooperation in ASEAN with a constructive attitude, the plan of Myanmar to make the best cooperation with the ASEAN, sending of the special envoy of the ASEAN Chair to Myanmar, efforts to restore internal peace in Myanmar, endeavours being made to eradicate terrorist acts in the country, provision of humanitarian aid, and the issue of the special envoy of the UN Secretary-General.

Also present at the talks together with the Senior General were Joint Secretary of the State Administration Council Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and officials. — MNA

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National Objectives of Diamond Jubilee Union Day 2022

- (1) All ethnic nationals to safeguard non-disintegration of the Union, national unity and sovereignty forever

(2) To perpetually ensure strengthening dynamic Union Spirit which is a genuine patriotic spirit

(3) To further strive for the perpetual existence of the country through strong and united strength of all ethnic national brethren
- (4) To build the Union based on democracy and federalism in the realization of genuine, disciplined multiparty democracy

(5) To equalize development of all regions and states while making efforts for the enhancement of health, education and job opportunities of the ethnic nationals

MoC facilitates daily imports of essential anti-COVID-19 equipment

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

A total of 9.96 tonnes of gloves were imported via international seaports and airports 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

Motto of 75th Anniversary Union Day 2022

* **United strength across Myanmar focuses on Union affairs forever**

120 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 26 January, total figure rises to 534,503

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **534,503** after **120** new cases were reported on 26 January 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **512,581** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,310** without casualties for three consecutive days.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 25-1-2022, a total of **21,911,911** people have been vaccinated. Of them, **18,525,215** people have been fully vaccinated and **3,386,696** people yet to get the second shots.—MNA

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

More than K490 mln spent on development of Chindwin River waterway system

MORE than K490 million are spent on the development of the Chindwin River waterway system, said U Htet Zaw Oo, Assistant Director of the Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems in the Sagaing Region.

"The department, region 6, Monywa town in Sagaing region is annually carrying out the improvement project of Chindwin River. In this current financial year, the old dam upgrading and tunnel sand cleaning projects are conducted starting from last week of December to improve waterway system of the Chindwin River in Mawlaik and Monywa townships," he clarified.

In order to develop the waterway system of the Chindwin



The development work for the Chindwin River waterway system.

River, the linking of a 1,800-foot-two tired dam and a 300-foot old dam is carried out at a cost of K197.122 million in Mawlaik township, while the similar dam project is undertaken at a cost of K296.155 million in Monywa township.

In the 2021-2022FY mini-budget period, the develop-

ment of the Chindwin River waterway project is under implementation in Mawlaik and Monywa townships beginning from the last week of December 2021 with the spending of K493.277 million from the Union budget on the smooth and safe movement of vessels.

In the last 2020-2021FY, the Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems implemented seven different projects in the development of the Chindwin River, spending K901.5 million of the Union funds.

There are 604 cargo vessels from 19 cargo vessel associations and 346 high-speed passenger vessels from 46 passengers' vessel associations that regularly ply in the Chindwin River, according to the Sagaing Region Department of Marine Administration. — Lu Lay/ GNLM

Focusing on learning opportunity with convenience and effectiveness

Universities are institutions to create environments for the students to consider knowledge and skills and take the learning opportunities. Classrooms and practical rooms must be systematic for students to have easy access to the learning. As the qualifications of faculty members are of great importance, they have higher academic skills and knowledge to give comprehensive lectures to the students.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the coordination meeting on the higher-education sector on 18 January 2022.)

SAC member, Union ministers attend opening ceremony of Manaung Island Resort



The SAC member and dignitaries cut the ceremonial ribbon to inaugurate the Manaung Island Resort on 26 January 2022. **PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)**

STATE Administration Council Member Daw Aye Nu Sein, accompanied by the Union ministers, the Rakhine state chief minister, the Commander of Western Command, and other departmental officials, attended the opening ceremony of Manaung Island eco-tourism industry near Kaei Village

and Manaung Island Resort in Manaung Township yesterday. First, officials unveiled the signboard of the Manaung Island eco-tourism industry project. The Rakhine traditional dance troupe performed and the state chief minister and the commander presented the cash

awards. Then, the SAC member and officials viewed the natural beauty of the beach of Kaei Village from the Viewpoint of the Manaung Island Resort. SAC member Daw Aye Nu Sein and officials cut the ribbon to open the Manaung Island Resort signboard.

In her opening speech, SAC member Daw Aye Nu Sein said the government implemented the Regional Master plan to achieve proportionate development in Kyaukpyu and Yanbye and Manaung while developing the Kyaukpyu SEZ. The place boasts of natural resources and can catch the interest of people. Therefore, Manaung Island will become a well-known destina-

tion for its natural beauty. Then, Rakhine State Chief Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min delivered a remark and town elder of Manaung Township and the chairman of the Manaung Public Company Limited expressed words of thanks. The SAC member and party inspected the Manaung Island Resort compound after the ceremony. — Tin Tun (IPRD)/GNLM



The view of the Manaung Island Resort.

Special SOME-2022 and ACE meetings held to discuss energy sector

THE Special Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (Special SOME-2022) and the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) were held by Brunei Darussalam on 26 and 27 January through a videoconference system. Permanent Secretary U Than Zaw and officials from the energy sector attended the meeting. At the meeting, they reviewed and approved the activities carried out by Brunei Darussalam in the second phase of the ASEAN Plan of Actions for Energy Cooperation-APAEC 2016-2025, which is the cooperation among ASEAN member countries in the devel-



opment of the energy sector which is important for the development of ASEAN region. Next, officials focused on

ASEAN energy cooperation sub-sectors, including issues of the ASEAN Petroleum Council, Coal and Refinery Technology

Division, ASEAN Electric Power Sector, Energy efficiency and energy saving sub-sector, renewable energy sub-sector,

regional energy policy and management sub-sector, and urban nuclear power sub-sector. The ASEAN Energy Policymakers Network and the ASEAN Energy Centre Upgrading Sector also agreed to co-chair the ASEAN Energy Sector chairmanship of Cambodia in 2022. In addition, the meeting of the ACE Governing Council will be held on 27 January and senior ASEAN energy officials will discuss and approve the staffing, financial and governance issues of the ASEAN Energy Sector. — MNA

MoE Union minister inspects basic education schools in Manaung Township

UNION Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe inspected BEMS in Mainmakywe Village in Manaung Township yesterday.

During the inspection tour, he met the headmaster and teachers, saying the educational family should cooperate to achieve a proper image of schools and to develop the teaching methods and education quality in line with the guidance of the Head of State.

The government will provide assistance to develop the education sector and teachers should teach students to become educated persons in

reality.

Then, the Union minister viewed peaceful learning sessions of students.

Afterwards, the Union minister also inspected the BEMS branches, BEMS, BEHS, BEPS, BEPPS and BEHS branches in Manaung Township and comforted teachers and students who were learning peacefully.

— MNA

The MoE Union minister warmly greets teachers in Manaung Township.



Kachin State Chief Minister makes inspection tour in Khaunglanphu



The Kachin State Chief Minister makes an inspection tour around Khaunglanphu Town.

KACHIN State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan conducted an inspection tour to Khaunglanphu Town from Putao Township on 24 and 25 January to ensure the road construction and town-

ship development programmes in Khaunglanphu together with the cabinet members.

The State Chief Minister and party first inspected the 180 metres long Magweza

Bridge construction site over the Kasamkha Creek on Magweza -Khaunglanphu road in Nagmon Township including the construction of a 400 metres long approach road.

He then met with the staff at (65/4) miles Ziwanan road project office being conducted by the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs. He also inspected the erection of signboards at 7,700 feet high Sanlutchat valley and construction of viewpoint building, ice after the snowfall, set up of signboard at Nawarat Koekwekwae of Sanlutchat valley and welcoming signboard with Rawamg and Lisu ethnic people statues in Lonton.

Then, they arrived at Khaunglanphu in the evening.

On the morning of 25 January, the chief minister and party inspected the land expansion programmes and concrete ladder construction of municipal committee in Khaunglanphu Town.

He then met town elders and members of ethnic litera-

ture and culture organizations at Khaunglanphu town administrative office and discussed the development programmes in Putao district being implemented by the union government and state government, Putao-Khaunglanphu road construction, future work plans and urged the officials to work together to develop the tourism industry in Khaunglanphu and border trade in Sheinkhaung region.

Then, one of the town elders presented their requirements and the state chief minister and relevant officials provided a total of K8.2 million for township-level departments, departmental heads, employees, security forces and Nagmon township administrator.

The state chief minister and party finally inspected the other construction sites in Khaunglanphu town. —State IPRD/GNLM

Motto of 75th Anniversary Union Day 2022

* **Joining hands in unison among ethnic nationals of the Union**

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

gnlmnews@gmail.com
www.gnlm.com.mm
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COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

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

COVID-19 vaccine is administered 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,



Yankin locals get jabbed against COVID-19 in Yangon Region.

people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP

camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively.
On 25 January and yester-

day, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 4,071 people from eleven townships in northern Shan state, 1,534 people from three townships in eastern Shan state, 3,572 people from ten Townships in Mon and Kayin States, 919 people from Yankin and Tamway townships in Yangon Region, 25,040 people from 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region, 6,380 people from five townships in Rakhine State, 8,449 from seven

districts in Mandalay Region and 236 people from Htantabin township in Bago Region, respectively.

Similarly, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 230 students from Kutkai Township in northern Shan State, 208 students from Kengtung Township, eastern Shan State, and 265 students from 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region on 25 January and yesterday.

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

CRIME NEWS

Illegal consumer goods, vehicles, timbers seized in regions/states

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, action is being taken against illegal trades under the law in regions and states.

A combined inspection team led by the Customs Department conducted inspections at the Ma-

yanhaung Permanent Checkpoint in Mon State on 25 January and confiscated undocumented consumer goods (estimated value of K10,270,000) from a bus, and action is being taken under the Customs Law.



Seized items.

A combined inspection team led by the Department of Forest

River and action is being taken under the Forest Law.

The Hpa-an Customs Inspection Team also seized food items (estimated value of K840,000) and the carrier (Toyota HiAce) (estimated value of K19,000,000), which was on the way to Mawlamyine from

Myawady during a surprise inspection.

In addition, 200 baskets of China-made chocolate cakes (estimated value of K4,000,000) were also confiscated on a road near the Yepu permanent checkpoint in Shan State and action is being taken under the Customs Law.

A combined team led by the Myanmar Police Force under the management of the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Force conducted inspections and seized illegal jade stones (333.51 kilogrammes), and action is being taken under the Myanmar Gems Law.

The Department of Customs in the Bago Region also seized consumer goods (estimated value of K1,790,000) during a surprise check near Shwe Thanlwin tollgate, and action is being taken under the Customs Law.

On 26 January, 9.5964 tonnes of illegal timbers (estimated value of K1,253,192) were seized in the forest reserves in Bago District and Toungoo District, in Bago Region, and action is being



Confiscated timbers.



taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, on 25 and 26 January, there was a total of 11 cases (estimated value of K60,338,992)

and 333.51 kilogrammes of jade, the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee stated. — MNA



Seized drugs.

Narcotic drugs seized in Kayin State, Mandalay Region, Shan State (East)

A combined team comprising members of the Anti-Drugs Squad stopped and searched a CRV car driven by Zaw Ko Ko Oo together with his companion Than Sein (aka) Kyargyi on the Hpa-an-Zathabyin Road near Shwedaw village, Shwedaw village-tract, Hpa-an Township on the afternoon of 24 January and the team confiscated

2,000 stimulant pills from them. On the same day, a combined team in Mandalay searched a man namely Myint Oo at a teashop in Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Region and 1,400 stimulant tablets were found from him.

Similarly, a combined team comprising members of the Anti-Drugs Squad raided and

searched room No. 6 of a house, where Ah Sot (aka) Bawhayar has stayed, in Yanaungmyae Ward, Tachilek Township, Shan State (East) and the team confiscated 134,000 stimulant tablets. Police have filed charges against them under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

DHT seeks seven new travel destinations in Bagan Cultural Zone



Chonmatwin ravine on the mouth of Mount Popa the extinct volcano.

THE Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Bagan Branch) has developed seven new travel destinations in Bagan cultural heritage zone in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region.

The DHT created appealing holiday destinations to enjoy the beautiful natural landscapes and heritage tourism in Bagan. Additionally, community-based tourism will also ensure job creation for the residents. Those destinations are aimed to draw the attention of local travellers and tourists, said U Myo Min Aung, assistant director of the DHT (Bagan Branch).

Awe-inspiring natural wonders of Rocky Lake

The rocky lake is a 30-minute hike from Tuyintaung monastery. Tuyin Hill is located one mile and seven furlongs away from NyaungU town. It is also a bird-watching hike as the visitors can observe the habitat of the dove, Indian roller, Eurasian skylark, Barbary dove and other bird species. The lake is 80 feet long, 80 feet wide and 30 feet deep. The lake has a unique feature with a rocky floor and wall. The lake is located in the south of Myakan Dam and the northwest of the ancient city Bagan. The travellers can drop in the



Rocky Lake.



The 900-year-old Tamarind Tree in Zee-O-Hla village.

rocky lake during their trips to Bagan temples and picturesque views of Tantkyi Mountain.

Community-Based Tourism in Zee-O-Hla village

Zee-O-Hla village lies between latitudes 25° 30' N and longitudes 95° 02' 15" E in the southeast of NyaungU town. It is 13 miles far from NyaungU town. The Sal Forest conserved by the Forest Department is covering 25 acres. About 900 years old Tamarind Tree is the attraction of the village, coupled with the ancient iron furnace that are considered to be from the 1st century AD. This community-based tourism site will captivate the tourists and local travellers with the scenic view and historical narrations of the residents.

Set-Set-Yo village preserving ancient culture

Set-Set-Yo village is situated 20 miles from NyaungU town and it is between latitudes 21° 06' 30"N and longitudes 95° 08' 04" E in the southeast of NyaungU town. The living condition in the ancient village is enchanting with a myth history. Myanmar traditional hairstyle Sanyitwine (top-knot with a fringe) culture of the village boys and girls and toddy plants climbing occupation and the lifestyle of the villagers are surprisingly attracting the visitors.

Mount Popa with primate species

Mount Popa is 30 miles from NyaungU town and located between latitudes 20° 52' N and

longitudes 95° 14' E. It is a three-mile-six-furlong hiking trip from Popa village.

The leaf-eating primate species – Popa langur can be found only in Myanmar. The primate species is discovered in the vicinity of Mount Popa, an extinct volcano and pilgrimage site that is home to Myanmar’s most venerated spirits and also provides a vital sanctuary for wildlife. The visitors can enjoy the most stunning hiking tours to Nwalapo, Semon, Hmanpya and Sapapon mountains and study the orchard species.

Viewpoint at Kyaukmyat-maw Pagoda

Kyaukmyatmaw Pagoda is in the south of Myinkaba village between latitudes 21° 08' 40.7"N and longitudes 94° 51' 14.4" E and on the bank of the Ayeyawady River. It is a two-storey temple and architecture of the Pyu Era. Temple’s interior design is similar to that of Lawkananda Pagoda. The unique architecture inside the temple is not brickwork yet



Kyaukmyatmaw Pagoda.



Ancient Monastery.

three feet wide poles are tied between the inner and outer posts of the pagoda. It is considered to be established 12th-13th century AD. The sunset view on the bank of the Ayeyawady River and picturesque mountains are

attracting homegrown visitors and tourists.

Gemoe Pond awaiting fun and adventure

Gemoe Pond is located between Legwa and Latpantai



Gemoe Pond.



Set-Set-Yo boys and girls wear Myanmar traditional hairstyle “Sanyitwine”.

villages, two miles and three furlongs from Maha Bodhi Pagoda, which is seven miles away from the Kyaukpadaung-Meiktila Road in the east of Kyaukpadaung town.

The preserved body of the monk U Candha can be seen. The visitors can go on an adventure tour to the rocky ravine with Latngachaung, Getalonso, Sakawwine and Byawbyawkya ponds.

Antique tour in Thepyintaw (CBT) site

Thepyintaw village, which is 12 miles far from the south of NyaungU town, is home to 1,685 residents from 199 households

of Kaungtaawsit village and 200 households of Thepyintaw village. The about 150-year monastery is also located in the village. They believe in spiritual offerings as well. The villagers are relying on handweaving business, toddy plant climbing, blacksmith and traditional edible oil production. The visitors studied antique hand-winding clocks before the emergence of the inscriptions such as cartouches and ancient carved boxes, as per narrations. Those enthusiastic can observe the antique objects beyond the beautiful mound of Shwenat Mountain. — Ko Htein (KPD)/GNLM



Efficiently consume electricity without waste

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy manages generating electricity at various hydropower plants, natural gas power plants and recycling power plants to the national grid which feeds various power stations for electrifying the public households and industries on a daily basis.

Generally, the electricity sector can produce some 4,200 megawatts in maximum. Hence, the needy electricity is imported abroad at high prices. Currently, the offshore natural gas stations regularly are under maintenance, declining 540 megawatts. Meanwhile, as terrorists blow up 230kV towers many times, the supply of electricity lessens about 180 megawatts.

As such, the supply of electricity is lessening some 1,470 megawatts than the actual generation. Although the government is striving for generating electricity at full capacity, some 930 megawatts of electricity may be declining for various reasons. As a result, people will partially face outage of electricity in limited times.

While paying charges for electricity bills they have actually used to the relevant governmental department, the entire electricity consumers should cooperate with the authorities in saving electricity consumption, safeguarding the electrification facilities and using the energy saved electronic equipment.

Indeed, people should save consumption of electricity without unnecessary uses. Individual practices of saving electricity can help others as much as possible with sympathy to have the right to use the electricity. They all need to accept the arrangements of the relevant ministries in implementing the limited electrification plan. At a time when the situation is properly turned into normalcy, they all will have to consume the electricity as usual.

Electrification is one of the factors to the development of the nation. But now, all the people need to follow a new electrification plan with restraint on the partial outage of electricity. While paying charges for electricity bills they have actually used to the relevant governmental department, the entire electricity consumers should cooperate with the authorities in saving electricity consumption, safeguarding the electrification facilities and using the energy saved electronic equipment.

■ ■ ■

'No free ride' for COVID, it's here 'for the foreseeable future': Tedros

The world must accept that COVID-19 is with us "for the foreseeable future", even if it is possible to end the acute phase of the pandemic this year, UN health agency chief, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said on Monday.

SPeAKING in Geneva, World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros noted that on average last week, 100 cases were reported every three seconds, and somebody lost their life to the coronavirus every 12 seconds.

It is still "dangerous to assume that Omicron will be the last variant, or that we are in the endgame" of the pandemic, he said.

"On the contrary, globally, the conditions are ideal for more variants to emerge," Tedros insisted, exactly two years and a day since he declared the deadly virus a public health emergency of international concern.

Emergency phase

Also on Monday, the WHO's top European official said that although the SARS-CoV-2 crisis was far from over, he was "hopeful" of seeing the end of the "emergency" phase in 2022.

"While Omicron appears to cause much less severe disease than Delta, we are still seeing a rapid rise in hospitalizations, due to the sheer number of infections," said Dr Hans Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe.

"This is in addition to a Delta burden that has not entirely passed, and also to the high number of incidental admissions. Fortunately, hospitalizations with



On 14 December 2021, people line up at a virus testing centre in Seoul to be tested for COVID-19. PHOTO: JUNG YEON-JE/AFP

Omicron result much less frequently in intensive care unit admission. As predicted, most people needing intensive care across the region are unvaccinated."

Future-proofing

In an appeal to WHO Member States, Tedros said that their top priorities should be to stop future health threats from taking hold and causing such massive disruption to "health systems,

economies and societies the world over".

To do this, all States should promote health and wellbeing, "preventing disease by addressing its root causes", he said, in a call for a renewed focus on primary healthcare for everyone.

On tackling the coronavirus specifically, Tedros urged better management of acute respiratory diseases, via a "sustained and integrated" international plat-

form, to coordinate preparedness against future pandemics.

Under-reported deaths

Two years into the pandemic, with almost 350 million cases reported and more than 5.5 million deaths – numbers known to be an "underestimate" – Tedros insisted that many other measures needed to be implemented to protect the most vulnerable.

"Learning to live with COV-

ID cannot mean that we give this virus a free ride," he noted. "It cannot mean that we accept almost 50,000 deaths a week, from a preventable and treatable disease. It cannot mean that we accept an unacceptable burden on our health systems, when every day, exhausted health workers go once again to the front line."

Repeating his call for all countries to vaccinate 70 per cent of their populations to help bring an end to the acute phase of the pandemic, the WHO Director-General said that 86 States across all regions had been unable to reach last year's target of vaccinating 40 per cent of their populations.

Vaccine have-nots

More than 30 countries – mostly in Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean – have not vaccinated even 10 per cent of their populations and 85 per cent of people in Africa have yet to receive a single dose of vaccine.

While vaccines remain a key part of the COVID-19 exit strategy, Tedros re-emphasized the importance of equitable access to diagnostics, oxygen and antivirals, too.

Much better testing and sequencing of the virus was also needed, the WHO chief explained, "to track the virus closely, and monitor the emergence of new

variants".

On a positive note, Tedros insisted that progress was being made to tackle long-running treatment disparities, thanks to the UN-partnered COVAX initiative, which had delivered its one billionth dose just a week ago, and which had also shipped more vaccines in the past 10 weeks "than in the previous 10 months combined".

Misinformation threat

Also at WHO headquarters on Monday, top agency officials warned of the ongoing challenges posed to national vaccination campaigns as a direct result of wilful misinformation about COVID-19 jabs and treatment.

"I think we have to acknowledge this is not an issue that is immediately solvable, and I think there is a very high concern that disinformation and the undermining of evidence and data and science, may come out of this having even greater impact on some of the other essential preventive programmes," said WHO Immunization Director Dr Kate O'Brien.

To tackle false information, WHO encourages community and faith leaders to present an accurate and science-based view of the pandemic and its risks.

SOURCE: UN

Pfizer-BioNTech begin Omicron vaccine trial

Pfizer and BioNTech have begun enrollment for a clinical trial to test the safety and immune response of their Omicron-specific Covid-19 vaccine in adults aged up to 55, the companies said in a statement Tuesday.

Pfizer's CEO Albert Bourla has previously said that the pharmaceutical giant could be ready to file for regulatory approval of the shot by March.

Boosters against the original Covid strain

The company's head of vaccine research Kathrin Jansen

said in a statement that while current data showed that boosters against the original Covid strain continued to protect against severe outcomes with Omicron, the company was acting out of caution.

"We recognize the need to be prepared in the event this protection wanes over time and to potentially help address Omicron and new variants in the future," she said.

Ugur Sahin, CEO of the German biotech company BioNTech added that the protection of the original vaccine against mild and moderate Covid appeared

to wane more rapidly against Omicron.

"This study is part of our science-based approach to develop a variant-based vaccine that achieves a similar level of protection against Omicron as it did with earlier variants but longer duration of protection."

The trial will involve 1,420 people aged 18-55.

A spokesperson for Pfizer said that it did not include people older than 55 because the goal of the study was to examine the immune response of participants dosed, rather than estimate vaccine efficacy.

Trial is taking place

The trial is taking place across the United States and South Africa, and the first participant was dosed in North Carolina.

The volunteers are split into three groups.

The first involves people who previously received two doses of the current Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine 90-180 days prior to enrollment, and will receive one or two doses of the Omicron vaccine.

The second will be people who got three doses of the current vaccine 90-180 days prior to the study and will receive either another dose of the original shot



The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was the first Covid shot to be authorized in the West, in December 2020. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

or an Omicron-specific vaccine.

The third and final group are people who have never previously received a Covid vaccine, and will receive three doses of the Omi-

cron-specific vaccine.

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was the first Covid shot to be authorized in the West, in December 2020.—AFP

Motto of 75th Anniversary Union Day 2022

* **Unity is strength: Ethnic nationals join hands as strengths of the Union**

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 26 January 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 27 January 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Sagaing Region and Kachin, Northern Shan, Chin States, scattered in Mandalay Region and (South and East) Shan and isolated in Magway Region and Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be generally fair in Ayeyawady Region and Kayin State and partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

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

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 January 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 January 2022: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 January 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Earning from Myanmar aquaculture products export exceeds \$276.5 mln as of 14 January

THE value of Myanmar’s seafood exports as of 14 January in the current six-month mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022) was estimated at over US\$276.58 million, which increased slightly from \$2.57 million in the corresponding period of the last financial year 2020-2021, the Ministry of Commerce’s data indicated.

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is focusing on boosting production, exploring new markets, increasing export items, enhancing the livelihood of local people, providing financial assistance to the breeders, promoting the fish consumption of the people and tackling the challenges together with all the stakeholders.

Moreover, the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) is attempting to grow fishery export regardless of the COVID-19 disruption on maritime



Female workers are seen working in the seafood processing workplace. — GNLM FILE PHOTO.

trade, closure of borders and fuel oil price instability.

The high input cost such as fishing net, oil price posed another burden for the industry, coupled with the devaluation of

Kyat in the forex market, the Mawlamyine Commodity Centre stated.

The marketable fish products, especially fish, shrimp, eel and crab from Taninthayi

and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine State are primarily exported to foreign markets.

Myanmar normally exports fisheries products, such as fish, prawns, and crabs, to markets

of 40 countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and countries in the European Union. Chinese market constitutes about 65 per cent of Myanmar’s fishery exports, accounting for US\$254 million out of the overall fishery export value of over \$850 million in the FY2019-2020. At present, China shut down the border areas in wake of the COVID surge in Myanmar. The federation is turning to the Bangladesh market with export potentials at present.

There are 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the country and more than 120 cold-storage facilities in Myanmar.

During the last financial year 2020-2021 (October-September), Myanmar shipped approximately \$785 million worth of seafood, the Ministry of Commerce’s data showed. — KK/GNLM

CBM sells US\$77 million to edible oil sector



Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association set the price of palm oil depending on the CBM’s reference rate and the prices of imported oil.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$77 million to the edible oil sector to distribute the oil at subsidized prices.

Between 15 September 2021 and 13 January 2022, the Central Bank of Myanmar sold \$77 million multiple times to the oil importers at the reference rates of K1,753-K1,820.

Of them, \$74 million worth of over 57,000 tonnes of palm oil has been imported so far. More than 53,000 tonnes of palm oil have been distributed. Over 3,900 tonnes are left for sales, said an official of the Consumer Affairs Department.

Additionally, the CBM sold \$3 million to three oil companies at the reference rate of K1,781

on 13 January. However, the process is not finished yet. So, the volume of palm oil which is equivalent to \$3 million is remained to put on sales.

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association set the price of palm oil depending on the CBM’s reference rate and the prices of imported oil.

Consequently, the relevant oil importing companies distribute the palm oil at the daily set price by the association and submit a sales report to the steering committee on the importation and distribution of the edible oil, according to the Consumer Affairs Department.

The consumers can complain about overcharging for

edible oil which is sold at the subsidized rate under the public distribution system, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

If any overcharging is found, the consumers can complain about it through the contact numbers (09 43666668) of Yangon Region Consumer Affairs Department and 09 262079105, 09 965136377) of the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association.

The edible oil remains on the high side of around K4,900 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the Yangon market, following Kyat devaluation on the US dollar in the domestic forex market.

The retail price of oil is pegged at K4,400-K4,500 per viss at present. The edible oil is distributed with the mobile market trucks, in coordination with the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association.

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. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar lima bean price surges one time this year

MYANMAR lima beans are destined for the Mandalay market this 2022 pulses season and the opening price has mounted one time this year compared to last year, according to the Mandalay pulses traders.

The lima bean is primarily entered from Madaya and Singu townships. Same period last year, the lima bean was priced at 80,000 per bag (containing three baskets). But this year, a bag of lima bean is sold for K180,000 for big size, K160,000 for median size and K110,000 for small size, lifted the price one time than last year opening price, said U Soe Win Myint, an owner of the Soe Win Myint Brokerage from Mandalay.

“The price of lima bean has reached a record high in the early harvest season. The demand for consumption is also high. The Chinese traders are also purchasing the lima bean when the border checkpoint is start-

ed resuming. In the 2022 pulses season, the lima bean price has raised a record high over the past five years. The lima bean is yearly exported to China, India, Japan and European countries. The lima beans are also growing in special fields. It can be grown as a winter crop only once a year and started harvesting in January. It is entering the market abundantly in February and March. The demand for lima bean has also been increasing year by year due to market demand,” he added.

The lima beans are grown chiefly in central Myanmar as well as Minbu, Sinbyukyun and Salin areas of Magway region, Mahlaing, Taungtha and Natogyi areas of Mandalay region and Gangaw, Kalay, Kalewa, Shwebo and Kabaw valley areas of Sagaing region, it is learnt. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM



Indian medical authority says Omicron dominant in cities

INDIA'S medical authority said on Sunday that the Omicron variant of COVID-19 is currently in the community transmission stage in the South Asian country and has become dominant in cities where new cases have been increasing exponentially.

"Omicron is now in community transmission in India and has become dominant in multiple metros, where new cases have been rising exponentially," said Indian SARS-CoV-2 Consor-

tium on Genomics (INSACOG) which studies various variants of COVID-19 and their genome sequencings.

The INSACOG said most cases with the Omicron variant so far have been asymptomatic or mild. However, it said, hospitalizations and intensive care unit (ICU) cases have been increasing in the current wave of infections.

"The threat level remains unchanged ... There is no evi-

dence of rapid spread and while it has features of immune escape, it is currently not a variant of concern," it said.

The INSACOG under the federal ministry of health reports genomic surveillance of COVID-19 across India through genome sequencing of samples.

According to the INSACOG, a total of 150,710 Omicron samples have been sequenced and 127,697 samples have been analyzed.—Xinhua ■



A medical worker takes a swab sample from a man for nucleic acid test at a COVID-19 testing site in Bangalore, India, 19 January 2022. **PHOTO: STR/XINHUA**

EU eyes shift in Covid travel rules to individuals

EU member states on Tuesday recommended changing the way Covid travel rules are applied in the bloc, shifting away from the risk profile of countries to that of individuals.

"Under the new recommendation, COVID-19 measures should be applied taking into account the status of the person instead of the situation at regional level, with the exception of areas where the virus is circulating at very high levels," the European Council — representing the member states — said in a statement.

It suggests that travellers going from one EU country to



EU member states on Tuesday recommended changing the way Covid travel rules are applied in the bloc, shifting away from the risk profile of countries to that of individuals. **PHOTO: AFP**

another should not face any additional restrictions if they can show an EU Covid certificate proving they are fully vaccinated,

have a recent negative test, or a certificate that they have recovered from Covid in the preceding six months.

That is already largely the situation across the European Union, although some individual countries had tightened restrictions against neighbouring states with higher infection rates.

The vaccination proviso in the recommendation is for those who can show they have had a booster shot, or if their last shot from the "primary vaccination series" is within the previous nine months.

An "emergency brake" provision is included, under which

"coordinated" restrictions may be applied to an EU country or region where a new variant of concern emerges.

"As a general principle, we want to make sure that if you are properly vaccinated, and if you have Digital Covid certificate, that it should make the travelling across the EU easier," commission Vice-President Maros Sefcovic told a news conference.

France's Europe minister Clement Beaune said that, while the recommendation was not binding, it aimed to ensure vaccinated people face only "limited, proportionate restrictions" to their movements in the EU.—AFP ■

South Africa: 940 Covid fraud cases to be punished



People visit the Umhlanga Pier in Durban, South Africa, after the government prohibited the public from swimming in December. **PHOTO: RAJESH JANTILAL/AFP**

SOUTH African investigators have referred 940 cases of corruption and malfeasance involving millions of dollars of Covid funds for prosecution and disciplinary action, President Cyril Ramaphosa said Tuesday.

The Special Investigating Unit (SIU), an independent law enforcement agency with similar powers to the FBI, probed 5,467 contracts awarded for Covid-19 services and supplies worth more than \$900.

More than half of the contracts were found to be irregular.

"It is unacceptable that so many contracts associated with saving lives and protecting livelihoods were irregular, unlawful or fraudulent," Ramaphosa said in a statement.

With more than 3.5 million diagnosed infections and over 94,000 deaths, South Africa's pandemic toll is the highest on the continent.

The investigators have referred 386 of the cases to the National Prosecuting Authority, according to the report released to the public on Tuesday.

Another 224 cases were sent for disciplinary action against government officials, while 330 will be handed in for "administrative action", including black-listing from public contracts.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

China to step up control over cold-chain food imports amid pandemic

CHINA will ramp up control measures over imported cold-chain food and farm produce to prevent the spread of COVID-19 through entry points, a customs official said Monday.

Ni Yuefeng, head of the General Administration of Customs (GAC), said the country will "strictly monitor and test imported cold-chain food, agricultural products and high-risk non-cold-chain container goods." Ni made the remarks when speaking at a meeting mapping out the GAC's work agenda this year. China recently found imported infections related to cold-chain goods or international mail, and the Omicron variant currently dominating the global spread also posed an increasing threat to the country.—Xinhua ■

Lockdowns hit Pacific islands as Covid-19 defences falter

Lockdowns in Samoa and the Solomon Islands were extended Tuesday as Covid-19 outbreaks worsened in remote Pacific island nations that have previously held the pandemic at bay.

Pacific nations, many just dots in the vast ocean, successfully used their isolation as a buffer to the pandemic when they closed their borders in early 2020.

But two years later, the hyper-transmissible Omicron variant has breached those defences.—AFP ■

NEWS
IN BRIEF

IMF urges El Salvador to remove bitcoin as legal tender

THE IMF on Tuesday called on El Salvador to change course and stop using bitcoin as legal tender, citing “larger risks” posed by the cryptocurrency.

The small Central American nation in September became the first country in the world to embrace the digital money, allowing consumers to use it in all transactions, alongside the US dollar.

The call by the Washington-based crisis lender came as the cryptocurrency dropped in value amid wider volatility on Wall Street in recent days, undoing much of the gains it had made during a record-setting climb in value last year. The IMF staff had previously called on El Salvador’s President Nayib Bukele to reconsider putting bitcoin at the centre of his country’s finances. The latest pronouncement used much stronger language and came from the IMF’s board, which is comprised of representatives of member governments including the United States.—AFP ■

Central Asia hit by large-scale power blackout

MILLIONS of people were left without power after a huge blackout hit three Central Asian countries Tuesday following an unspecified accident, officials in the ex-Soviet region said.

The capitals of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan as well as Kazakhstan’s economic hub Almaty suffered power cuts at around lunchtime local time, with media and officials reporting that the blackouts had extended far into the provinces of the three countries.

Uzbekistan’s energy ministry said in a statement on its official Telegram channel that the power outage had been triggered by an accident in Kazakhstan’s power grid. “As a result of a major accident in the power grids of the Republic of Kazakhstan, there was a power outage in the (southern Kazakh) cities of Almaty, Shymkent, Taras, Turkestan (regions) and adjacent areas,” the statement said.—AFP ■

Japan wage talks begin amid Kishida’s pay-hike call, murky outlook

CORPORATE executives and labour unions began this year’s spring wage negotiations on Tuesday, with the focus on whether companies will move toward hikes as urged by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida amid economic uncertainties caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Masakazu Tokura, chairman of Japan’s most powerful business lobby known as Keidanren, urged companies to “respond proactively in consideration of social expectations,” siding with the premier’s call for aggressive pay hikes by businesses.

“I believe it is extremely important for companies to fulfill their responsibility of working toward raising wages and improving working conditions by distributing their earnings and



Prospective employees listen to a company representative at a job fair held in Tokyo on 11 April, 2019. PHOTO: KYODO

the outcome (of their performance),” Tokura, head of the Japan Business Federation, said at the opening of a man-

agement-labor union forum. The “shunto” wage talks began as Kishida, who took office last October, has called for pay hikes

of over 3 per cent by companies that have seen their earnings recover to pre-pandemic levels.

Under its guidelines for the wage talks released on 18 January, Keidanren called on companies with favourable earnings to increase base pay in addition to regular pay hikes, stipulating “it is desirable to bring wage hikes that are suitable for initiating a new type of capitalism” advocated by Kishida.

For companies not performing well, however, the lobby requested that they respond accordingly, saying “the top priority is continuing operations and maintaining employment” as recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic remains uneven among different business sectors.—Kyodo ■

Freight lobby urges UK-France talks to ease port queues



Lorries wait in Dover to cross the Channel to France. A leading logistics company has asked the French and British governments to hold talks to resolve traffic issues. PHOTO: BEN STANSALL / AFP

A leading UK freight lobby group has urged the British and French governments to hold talks to

ease miles-long backups at Channel ports that have been blamed on Brexit.

Trucks have faced queues of up to six miles (10 kilometres) this month on the approach to Dover — Europe’s busiest port for roll-on, roll-off freight — with tailbacks also reported in northern France.

A number of factors have been blamed, including the UK government implementing further customs controls at the start of January, a year after the country quit the European Union’s single market and customs union. Trucks now take longer to pass through Channel ports as their paperwork is verified.

“We’re urging both the French and UK governments to have constructive dialogue to ease the situation,” a spokes-

person for Logistics UK, which represents an array of road, rail, sea and air operators, said on Monday.

“How much friction we will see in the system long term remains to be seen.”

The spokesperson added talks were “doubly important” because Britain is planning to implement new sanitary checks and passport control systems later this year, “which will undoubtedly add friction to the border transit and cause delays”.

Britain and the EU have been holding negotiations over post-Brexit issues, but they have been primarily focused on the complex situation in Northern Ireland.—AFP ■

Used cars turn to gold as Sri Lanka economy skids on the edge

SUPERMARKET shelves are bare and restaurants can’t serve meals, but Sri Lanka’s economic crisis is a bonanza for used car dealers, with vehicle shortages pushing prices higher than a house in a nice area.

The island nation of 22 million is on the brink of bankruptcy, inflation is red hot and the government has barred a range of “non-essential” imports to save dollars needed to buy food, medicine and fuel.

In the car market, this two-year ban has kept factory-fresh

automobiles off local roads, forcing desperate buyers to pay some of the world’s highest prices for beaten-up compacts and no-frills family sedans.

Anthony Fernando spent a recent weekend courting through sales lots in the Colombo outskirts on behalf of his daughter, who has tried to find an affordable set of wheels for nearly a year.

“She was thinking that prices will come down,” the 63-year-old told AFP, but now she is “paying for procrastinating”.—AFP ■



Repair garage owners are also enjoying a surge in trade from owners whose vehicles are busted but they cannot afford a new car. PHOTO: AFP

VW and Bosch join forces to rev up automated driving

CAR giant Volkswagen and parts supplier Bosch have embarked on an “extensive partnership” to bring automated driving to the mass market by next year, the German companies said on Tuesday.

Bosch and VW software subsidiary Cariad are aiming to “make functions available that will allow drivers to temporarily take their hands off the steering wheel” in vehicles sold under the Volkswagen Group brand, according to a statement.

These will range from so-called “hands-free” systems for urban and motorway driving to a system that takes over all driving functions on the motorway, the companies said.

The first of these functions are to be installed in 2023.

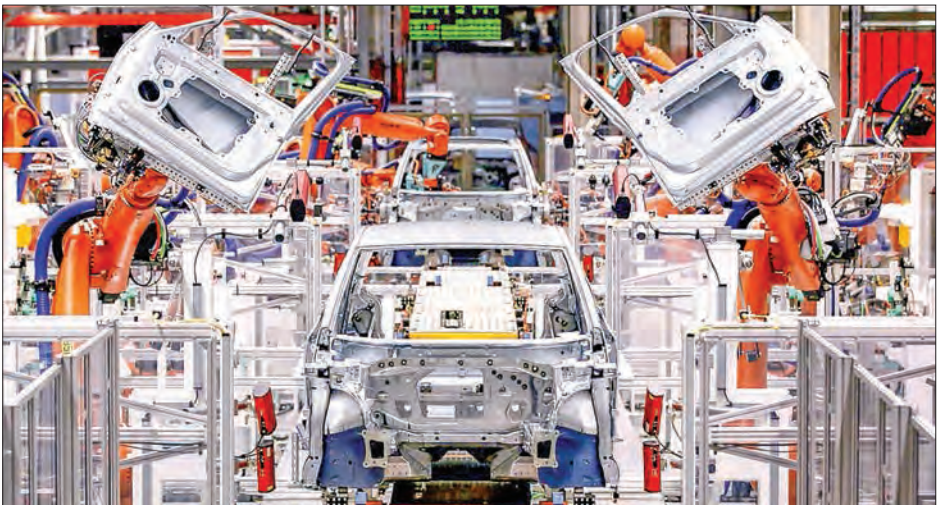
It will also be possible to integrate the component parts developed by the alliance into vehicles made by other carmakers, they said.

The main focus of the project will be data-driven software development on the basis of information from 360-degree surround sensing.

“With the help of one of the world’s biggest connected vehicle fleets, we will gain access to a huge database. This will allow us to take automated driving systems to a new level,” said Mathias Pillin, president of Bosch Cross-Domain Computing Solutions.

The project is expected to require the skills of around 1,000 employees and the two companies have already started recruiting new experts to work in the alliance.

Bosch and Volkswagen had already announced a partnership earlier this month to explore the possibility of establishing a European battery equipment solution provider.—AFP ■



Robots mount doors on an ID.3 Volkswagen electric car. Germany’s pivot to electric vehicles means carmakers are racing to retrain their workforces. PHOTO: AFP

Microsoft sees strong earnings on cloud computing

MICROSOFT beat market expectations Tuesday with strong quarterly performance in cloud computing and software, still benefitting from the pandemic’s online shifting of work, play, shopping and learning.

The US tech colossus, which announced last week a blockbuster deal to buy gaming giant Activision Blizzard, said profit jumped to \$18.8 billion in the final three months of last year.

“Digital technology is the most malleable resource at the world’s disposal to overcome constraints and reimagine everyday work and life,” CEO Satya Nadella said, in announcing revenue of \$51.7 billion.

Microsoft investments include pouring money into the booming video game market and by extension the metaverse, the virtual reality vision for the internet’s future.

The Redmond, Washington-based tech company last week announced a landmark deal to buy scandal-hit “Call of Duty” maker Activision for \$69 billion.

This would be the largest buyout ever for Microsoft, well ahead of LinkedIn in 2016 for \$26.2 billion. Revenue at the career-focused social network was up 37 per cent when compared with the same quarter a year earlier, according to the earnings report.

Acquiring the troubled but highly successful Activision will make Microsoft the third-largest gaming company by revenue, behind Tencent and Sony, Microsoft said.

The proposed merger faces regulatory approval at a time when Europe and the United States are seeking to rein-in Big Tech.—AFP ■



Digital technology is the most malleable resource at the world’s disposal to overcome constraints and reimagine everyday work and life. PHOTO: JONATHAN NACKSTRAND/AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Casino operator to develop ‘gaming’ resort in UAE

A US-based casino operator on Tuesday announced plans to develop a multi-billion-dollar resort off the coast of the United Arab Emirates, a Muslim state in the Gulf where gambling is prohibited. Wynn Resorts, along with UAE property developer Marjan, said in a statement that an “integrated resort”, including “gaming facilities”, will be set up on Al-Marjan island in the emirate of Ras al-Khaimah.

Ras al-Khaimah is one of the seven members of the UAE, which includes the city state of Dubai.

Tuesday’s announcement comes as the Ras al-Khaimah tourism development authority (RAKTDA) said it formed a new division focused on the regulation of integrated resorts.—AFP ■

Tunis-born AI firm raises US\$100 mln

ARTIFICIAL intelligence firm InstaDeep, created on two laptops in Tunisia in 2014, has raised \$100 million from investors including Google and BioNTech, the company said on Tuesday. InstaDeep will use the funding to develop its infrastructure, hire experts and speed up launching AI projects in “biotech, logistics, transportation and electronics manufacturing”, it said in a statement.—AFP ■

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3101S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3101S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-1-2022** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP MAKASSAR VOY.NO. (243N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP MAKASSAR VOY.NO. (243N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-1-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

NEWS
IN BRIEF

China to improve waste recycling

CHINA will improve its capacity in recycling waste materials amid the country's efforts to facilitate green and low-carbon development, according to a guideline on recycling of waste materials.

By 2025, China will build a network for waste recycling with more than 1,000 green sorting centres, said the guideline jointly issued by seven government departments including the National Development and Reform Commission.

About 60 cities will have complete waste re-use systems by 2025.

The re-use of nine major resources will reach 450 million tonnes by 2025, including iron and steel, copper, aluminum, lead, zinc, paper, plastics, rubber and glass.

The government will map more policies to support waste re-use involving tax cuts and fund-raising, according to the guideline.

China has announced that it will strive to peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.—Xinhua ■

More than 30 Panamanians to be tried over Panama Papers scandal

Thirty-two Panamanians will be prosecuted for alleged involvement in graft revealed by the so-called Panama Papers in 2016, the country's justice department said Tuesday.

The 32 defendants will be prosecuted for "the alleged commission of the crime against the economic order, in the form of money laundering, in the case known as 'Panama Papers'", according to a statement.

The trial will take place from 15 to 18 November.

The leak of 11.5 million documents from the Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca in April 2016 caused political earthquakes across the world, naming stars, billionaires and banks involved in tax evasion and money laundering.—AFP ■

93 potential graves found at Canada school site



Demonstrators honour Canada's missing Indigenous children during the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Parliament Hill in September 2021. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

AN Indigenous community in Canada has identified nearly 100 "potential" graves at a residential school site, months after the discovery of hundreds of children's remains at former boarding schools rocked the country.

The Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN) community said on Tuesday that a geophysical survey revealed "93 reflections" with characteristics "indicative of potential human burials" at the former St. Joseph's Mission

residential school in British Columbia.

Investigators "surveyed approximately 14 hectares of the broader 480-hectare site", which is about 300 kilometres (186 miles) north of Kamloops – where the remains of 215 children were found in May.

Since May, more than 1,000 anonymous graves have been found near former "Indian residential schools" run by religious groups, shedding light on a dark

chapter in Canadian history and its policy of forced assimilation of First Nations people.

Thousands of Indigenous children attended St. Joseph's Mission between 1886 and 1981 when it operated as a residential school run by various religious sects as part of a Canadian government system, according to WLFN, a community of around 800 people.

"There is much more work to do on the St. Joseph's site, and we have every intention of continuing with this work," WLFN Chief Willie Sellars said in a statement.

In early January, Ottawa announced \$1.9 million Canadian dollars (\$1.5 million) in funding for the investigation at St. Joseph's mission.

"To date, \$116.8 million has been committed to support First Nation, Inuit and Metis Survivors, their families and communities and go toward locating and commemorating missing children who attended residential schools," the government said in a statement at the time.—AFP ■

Kurds locked in tense Syria prison standoff with jihadists

US-backed Kurdish forces tightened the noose around armed jihadists hunkering down inside a Syrian prison Tuesday, with both sides facing a bloodbath or talks to end the five-day-old standoff.

Around 100 Islamic State group fighters attacked Ghwayran prison in the northeastern city of Hasakeh on 20 January, in their biggest military operation since their "caliphate" was defeated in 2019.

The ensuing clashes with the Kurdish forces running northeastern Syria have left more than 160 people dead, including 45 in Kurdish ranks, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Some of the estimated 3,500 IS prisoners inside the facility have already been bused out to other detention centres in recent hours but it was unclear how many remained holed up inside Ghwayran.—AFP ■



US troops are seen on the ground near the prison in the Kurdish-controlled Syrian city of Hasakeh where Islamic State group fighters are holed up. PHOTO: AFP

Denmark says it received 'clear invitation' for Mali deployment

DENMARK sent special forces to Mali following a "clear invitation" from the Malian regime and wants to "clarify" why it suddenly asked for them to leave, its top diplomat said Tuesday.

"Denmark is there against the background of a clear invitation and on a clear basis, like the others in the operation," Denmark's Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod told reporters during a trip to Brussels.

In a statement released on Tuesday, Copenhagen also said the Danish contribution has "been welcomed by both the previous Malian government and also on earlier occasions by the current transitional government".

On Monday evening, the ruling military government which came to power in a coup in August 2020, called on Denmark to "immediately withdraw its recently arrived contingent of nearly 100 special forces".



Dubbed Task Force Takuba, made up of European special forces, is based on an initiative by France, eager to share the burden of looking after Mali's security with its partners. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

In a statement broadcasted on state TV and published on social media the junta said the deployment, which is part of the European Takuba force, "was undertaken without consent".

"There is currently a difficult diplomatic discussion with the transitional government.

They have suspended democracy, and we want to see it return as soon as possible," Kofod said.

Kofod also lamented that the Malian government had "invited Russian mercenaries in the form of the Wagner group", which he said was "deeply problematic". —AFP ■

Riyadh and Bangkok restore ties, decades after gem theft



This handout picture provided by the Saudi press Agency (SPA) shows Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (R) meeting with Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha (C) in Diriyah on the outskirts of the capital Riyadh. **PHOTO: SPA/AFP**

SAUDI Arabia and Thailand have announced the resumption of diplomatic ties, after more than three decades of frozen relations linked to the theft of jewels from a Saudi palace.

Thai-born janitor Kriangkrai Techamong stole \$20 million worth of precious gems in 1989 from the home of a Saudi prince, triggering a spate of murders in Bangkok and a feud between the countries dubbed the "Blue Diamond Affair".

The two countries announced in a joint statement late on Tuesday "the full re-establishment of diplomatic relations" during a visit by Thai-

land's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha to Riyadh.

"This historic step is the result of long-standing efforts at different levels to re-establish mutual confidence and friendly relations," the joint statement added, following a meeting between the Thai premier and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The two countries agreed to appoint ambassadors in the near future.

Saudi Airlines meanwhile announced that flights to Thailand would resume in May.

The Thai government said the Saudis had flagged that

they were seeking eight million skilled workers, including in hotels, healthcare and construction projects.

Thailand indicated it had a ready supply of skilled workers to help fill the need, Rachada Dhanadirek, a Thai deputy government spokeswoman, said in a statement.

Thailand had repeatedly sought to restore ties, in part to benefit its crucial tourism industry. Saudi Arabia had long accused Thai police of bungling their investigation into the jewel theft, with allegations that the stolen gems were snapped up by senior officers.—AFP ■

No intention of putting US, NATO troops in Ukraine: Biden

US President Joe Biden reiterated Tuesday that there is no intention in his administration or within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to send troops into Ukraine, but that Russia will face serious economic consequences if it invades the former Soviet republic, reported Xinhua.

"We have no intention of putting American forces or NATO forces in Ukraine," Biden told reporters when he was at a store in Washington buying gifts for his wife and grandson. "But I said there are going to be serious economic consequences if (Russian President Vladimir Putin) moves" Russian troops into Ukraine.

Biden's remarks came one day after Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin placed some 8,500 US troops to be on "heightened preparedness to deploy" to Europe, citing "Russia's continuing provocations along its border with Ukraine".

Biden told reporters that



The United States has ordered families of diplomats to leave the Ukrainian capital Kyiv amid rising tensions. **PHOTO: AFP**

the ready-to-deploy action is a "NATO operation" rather than "a sole US operation," and that it is a manifestation of Washington's commitment to NATO's Article VI collective defence obligation.

Biden said if Putin "continued to build up" Russian forces along Ukraine's border or if he "was to move" the troops into Ukraine, the United States will be "reinforcing" its troops.

Asked whether he is con-

sidering sanctioning the Russian president personally if he orders the invasion of Ukraine, Biden said: "Yes, he would receive that."

The president didn't give a definitive answer to whether the possibility of Russia invading Ukraine is increasing, decreasing or steady, saying what's in Putin's mind remains vague, and that "it all comes down to his decision."—Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran jails French 'tourist' for eight years for spying

An Iranian court has sentenced a French man to eight years in prison on spying charges, his family and Paris-based lawyer said Tuesday, arguing that Tehran was using him as a "hostage" in talks with the West.

Benjamin Briere, 36, is the only Western detainee known to be currently held in Iran who does not also hold an Iranian passport.

He was also given an additional eight-month sentence for propaganda against Iran's Islamic system, his lawyer Philippe Valent said in a statement. Briere, who is being held in Vakilabad jail in the eastern city of Mashhad, was arrested in May 2020 after taking pictures in a national park with a recreational drone and is currently on hunger strike.

"This verdict is the result of a purely political process and... devoid of any basis," Valent said.—AFP ■

Gun insurance would become compulsory under proposed California city law

GUN owners would be compelled to take out insurance to cover any damage caused by their weapon, under a law being debated Tuesday in one California city.

The planned ordinance will also require that they pay an annual fee that will fund a non-profit group to help victims of gun violence.

The law, which is expected to go to its first vote in San Jose on Tuesday, is intended both to reduce the harm caused by firearms and to cut down the costs to taxpayers. "We have seen how insurance has reduced auto fatalities over several decades, for example, by incentivizing safer driving and the purchase of cars equipped with airbags and antilock brakes," Mayor Sam Liccardo said.—AFP ■

Libya parliament in push to replace interim PM

LIBYA'S parliament, in a push to replace interim Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah, on Tuesday published criteria governing candidates for the post.

Dbeibah is a rival of parliamentary speaker Aguila Saleh, and the move comes a month after UN-sponsored presidential elections were delayed.

The ballot was intended to help move the North African country past a decade of chaos

following the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that toppled dictator Moamer Kadhafi.

Saleh's chamber, also known as the House of Representatives, is based in the eastern city of Tobruk while Dbeibah's administration is western-based in Tripoli, reflecting the country's deep divisions. In a session with 120 MPs present, the parliament "approved the conditions to be met by candidates to head the

next government", spokesman Abdullah Bliheg said.

The assembly published a list of 13 criteria for hopefuls, including a commitment not to stand in future elections, having only Libyan nationality and receiving the backing of at least 25 parliamentarians. The 24 December election was postponed following months of wrangling over its legal basis and who could stand.—AFP ■



Aguila Saleh, pictured chairing a House of Representatives session on 7 December 2020, is a rival of interim Prime Minister. **PHOTO: ABDULHAMID DBEIBAH/ AFP/FILE**

Myanmar to play Viet Nam today in AFC Women's Cup Group match

THE last day of the 2022 AFC Women's Cup Group matches will be held in India today and the Myanmar women's team will play against Viet Nam.

As it is the last day of the group matches, the two matches of Group B and C will be played at the same time.

At the same time with Myanmar vs Viet Nam match, defending champions Japan will also take on South Korea at 2:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time in Group C, while Australia will take on Thailand and Indonesia to play against the Philippines in the same Group B at 8:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

In Group C, Japan and South Korea have already advanced to the quarter-finals with six points each from two matches, and the match between the two teams will be played for first place in the group.

In the match between Myanmar and Viet Nam, they have lost two matches in a row, so only the winning team can get third place in the group.

According to the format of the tournament, the top two teams from each of the three groups and the top two teams from third place will advance to the quarter-finals.

In Group B, Australia has

reached the quarter-finals with six points, while the Philippines and Thailand had three points each, while Indonesia had no points.

With Thailand playing Australia, it will be difficult to finish second, while the Philippines, who play Indonesia, are almost certain to finish second in the group.

Most of the teams that have reached the quarter-finals will qualify for the Women's World Cup in 2023, and if Myanmar can qualify for the quarter-finals, that expectation can be realized, football experts said. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Japan can overcome injuries in World Cup qualifiers: Minamino



Labourers work at the Khalifa International Stadium, ahead of the Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup. PHOTO: AFP/KARIM JAAFAR

JAPAN can overcome losing half their defence to injury and take a big step towards World Cup qualification this week, their Liverpool forward Takumi Minamino said Wednesday.

Captain Maya Yoshida and Arsenal full-back Takehiro Tomiyasu have both been ruled out of Japan's crunch home qualifiers against China on Thursday and Saudi Arabia on 1 February.

But Minamino insisted the four-time Asian champions have enough quality in reserve to get the job done and move closer to a seventh straight World Cup appearance in Qatar.

"For sure, not having our captain can be a negative, but it's in times like this that the team comes together," said Minamino.

"It's a team sport so we just have to get over it. We're not paying too much attention to that and we have a lot of other good players."

Yoshida was injured playing for Italian club side Sampdoria earlier this month, while Tomiyasu pulled out of the squad on Sunday.

Japan have recovered from a rocky start to climb into second place in Group B, one point ahead of third-place Australia and four

behind leaders Saudi Arabia.

Hajime Moriyasu's side head into their game against China on the back of three straight wins, and the manager is confident they can cope.

"Maya and Tomi have contributed a lot and it's a big loss not to have them here, but it will hurt them more than anyone," he said.

"New players will come in to replace them and we will have to get used to a new combination. But I want all the players to come together and show their strengths as they do with their clubs and play with confidence." — 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.

Salah and Haller go head to head as African heavyweights clash

WEDNESDAY'S Africa Cup of Nations last-16 tie between Egypt and the Ivory Coast brings together two of the continent's heavyweight teams who have plenty of history as well as two of the most exciting attacking players in the world just now.

Mohamed Salah leads an Egypt side looking to add to their record haul of seven AFCON titles, while the Ivorians — with Sebastien Haller leading the line — are chasing a third crown. Not everyone in Cameroon will have the appetite

for the competition to continue after the tragic events of Monday in Yaounde, but there will be a big, expectant crowd at the Japoma Stadium in economic capital Douala, where the majority of supporters will likely be backing the Elephants. They must find a way of stopping Salah without neglecting the rest of Carlos Queiroz's team, even if Egypt hardly set the tournament alight in the group stage, losing 1-0 to Nigeria before beating Guinea-Bissau and Sudan by the same scoreline.—AFP ■



Mohamed Salah in training with the Egypt team in Douala on Tuesday. PHOTO: CHARLY TRIBALLEAU/AFP