THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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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.

Chairman of the Security, Peace and Stability and Rule of Law Committee State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the Committee meeting 1/2022

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the Security, Peace and Stability and Rule of Law Committee 1/2022 in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 January 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the Security, Peace and Stability and Rule of Law Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address at the meeting 1/2022 of the Committee at the Office of the State Administration Council Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the Senior General explained systematic supervision for implementing the peace and stability of the State, measures on the rule of law and security, need of teaching citizens to have school education for accumulating the knowledge to follow the law, rules and regulations, emphasis to be placed on an increasing number of intellectuals and intelligentsia in the country, collaboration in the enactment of laws without weakness, deep consideration of relevant ministries in legislative measures, efforts of the Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force for combating the terrorism in taking security measures for citizens and state-owned buildings, security awareness of ministries, and concerted efforts for narrowing the development gap among regions and states for the unity of the entire people.

SAC members, Union ministers, chief ministers and deputy ministers reported on respective sectors, legal affairs, security, peace and stability, and rule of law measures.

After giving necessary instructions over the reports, the Senior General gave guidance on systematic preservation of ancient areas and ancient buildings for long term existence, situation to increase the income of the State with the maintenance of ancient buildings to attract the foreign tourists, systematic conservation of forests and trees in the conservation of forest reserves, supervision of officials for cultivation tasks with effective utilization of forest areas allowed as cultivable lands, security measures, peace and stability measures and rule of law measures. — 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

Daily imports of COVID-19 equipment operated as usual

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 nine tonnes of masks were imported via the Chinshwehaw trade camp yesterday.

Officials from 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

*** Let's forge Union Spirit to bring about peace and tranquillity!**

More than 4,000 acres of salt farm in Mon State to produce over 40,000 tonnes of salt in 2022

MON State Salt Department stated that a plan is underway to produce 42,510 tonnes of salt from 4,241.90 acres of farmlands in Mon State in the 2022 salt season.

Although Rakhine and Mon States and Taninthayi and Ayeyawady Regions produce salt on a commercial scale they do not have a chance to penetrate the foreign market.

Businesses and manufacturing industries use dried salt. Hence, salt farms in Mon State are being operated on 4,240.90 acres of land, producing the salt dried under the sun.

At the salt market in Mon State, one viss of salt is sold at K120 in December 2020, K140 in December 2021 and K80 in January 2022. So, local salt farmers do not have cost-effectiveness in the production of salt.

In Mon State in 2021, 73 salt farmers operated 4,214.74 acres of salt but 87 producers are engaged in the production of salt in 5,414.90 acres in 2022. Mon State produces some 40,000 tonnes of salt on a yearly basis. A total of 12 iodized salt mills manufactures some 40,000 tonnes of iodized salt yearly.

Htanbinchaung salt farm is located in Paung Township in Mon State, Kyaikkhami, Setse, Pint and Karuppi salt farms in Thanbyuzayat Township, and Hnitkayin and Palaikee salt farms in Ye Township.

At the salt market in Mon State, one viss of salt is sold at K120 in December 2020, K140 in December 2021 and K80 in January 2022.

Mon State is famous for production of quality salt in successive eras. These salt farms create job opportunities for local people. With RBF assistance of Denmark in the 2019-20 financial year, Mon State Salt Farmers Association tests production of quality salt on 100 acres of land on plastic sheets in Palaikee Village of Ye Township. So, salt production with the use of plastic sheets is being operated on a commercial scale in Mon State. —GNLM

168 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 27 January, total figure rises to 534,671

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 534,671 after 168 new cases were reported on 27 January 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 512,742 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,310 without casualties for four consecutive days.—MNA

Good environments must be created

UNIVERSITIES must be facilitated with sports grounds and gymnasiums for students to take sports. Faculty members need to teach students with good behaviours, good morals, techniques and critical thinking. As it is necessary to train the students to have experiences for life as well as learning education at the university, good environments must be created for students to widen their scope of vision.

(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.)

Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sends a video message as an opening address to 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting-2nd ADGMIN

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sent a video message as an opening address to the 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting-2nd ADGMIN hosted by Myanmar through videoconferencing yesterday morning.

The opening ceremony was held with the national anthem of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the ASEAN song.

The Senior General delivered an opening address by sending a video message to the meeting.

(The opening address of the Senior General is reported separately on page 4.)

Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San, who will take alternate chair extended greetings.

Deputy General Secretary Madam Mastura Ahmad Mustafa, on behalf of the Malaysian Minister of Communications and Multimedia who took chairmanship for 2021 gave an opening address. Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San, who takes the current chair, extended greetings. ASEAN digital ministers discussed guidance for implementation of the outcomes from the 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits held on 26 October 2021 and meeting participants from relevant countries, the ASEAN Secretary-General and officials exchanged views on matters related to the theme of the second meeting "Digital Transformation: the Engine for ASEAN Economic Recovery from COVID-19".

The second ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting-2nd ADGMIN in progress online.

The first-day session of the meeting focused on approval for progress in implementation of the projects of the ICT sector in 2021, discussions and approval to implement the projects of the ASEAN Digital Senior Officials' Meeting-ADGSOM and the ASEAN Telecommunication Regulators' Council Meeting-ATRC, discussions on tasks done and to be done with dialogue partner countries, putting the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on record, and approval for the joint media statement of the second ministers' meeting.

The ASEAN has convened the Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers' Meeting-TELMIN 19 times starting from 2001. As of 2020, the meeting was renamed as ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting-ADGMIN. Alphabetically, Myanmar in its term hosted the 11th meeting in Nay Pyi Taw in 2011 and this meeting was the second time.

Today's meeting recognized the important role of the digital reform process in the comprehensive development of the ASEAN economy and aimed to lessen the economic and social impacts in infection of COVID-19 in the region, discuss the implementation of the project of the ASEAN Digital Strategy 2025 and regional digital cooperation measures and effectively implement the digital reform process approved by the 20th ASEAN Economic Community Council-AECC.

The second-day session of the meeting will continue on 28 January. — MNA

Coordination meeting held to discuss implementation of China-Myanmar Economic Corridor

A coordination meeting with relevant ministries on the implementation of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor was held at 9 am yesterday at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

Deputy ministers of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor Joint Committee from relevant ministries, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, regional economic ministers from Magway Region, Mandalay Region, Rakhine State, Yangon Region, Shan State and Ayeyawady Region, chairpersons and officials of the China-Myanmar Economic Cooperation Working Group attended the meeting. Chairman of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor Joint Committee, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein highlighted the reorganization and implementation of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor Joint Committee, matters to be implemented in the future, and preparations for holding the working group meeting before the third meeting of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor Joint Committee.

Afterwards, members of the joint committee explained the implementation of working groups formed under the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor Joint Committee. They also discussed the need for coordination and future plans.

On the discussions, the Union minister urged all to take practical steps forward and called for "Early Harvest" projects to be completed on schedule. — MNA

Opening Address by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the opening of the 2nd ADGMIN

Honourable ASEAN Ministers and HoDs (Heads of Delegates), ASEAN Secretary-General, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Good morning on this opening of the 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting. It is a great honour and pleasure for Myanmar to host and chair this year's ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting and related meetings with Dialogue Partners.
2. Though we very much like to welcome you all in person to Nay Pyi Taw, the continuing COVID-19 Pandemic outbreak in this region and the rest of the world prohibited the pleasure.
3. On the other hand, being able to organize the 2nd ADGMIN in a virtual format in itself, is a clear demonstration of the increasing value of high-speed Internet and digital technologies to our nations and our economies.
4. Being the sectoral body responsible for overseeing the digital cooperation and ICT infrastructure development in the region, ADGMIN plays a leading role in the economic recovery and growth of ASEAN from the pandemic. And I am very glad to see digital ministers from ASEAN ready to discuss and deliberate to provide guidance to ASEAN until the next ADGMIN meeting.
5. We all know that digital technologies offer immense opportunities to foster inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable developments. The benefits digital transformation will bring to our economies and to individuals' lives are still unfathomable for us.
6. On the other hand, we will face lots of difficulties and challenges if we lag in digital transformation. In this connected world, digital development disparity will have impacts throughout ASEAN. That is why ASEAN Leaders have committed in **"ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Advancing Digital Transformation in ASEAN"** to work together to enable inclusive digital transformation in the region.
7. A study by World Economic Forum last year found that organizations that are more digitalized are more resilient from socio-economic impacts during the pandemic. We all know that the pandemic has brought about significant societal changes around the world. The restrictions imposed on societies by the Pandemic have forced businesses to turn to digital. This has also automatically accelerated digital transformation activities in individual countries.
8. Digital transformation has also given opportunities for countries to better handle the Pandemic. Therefore, it has helped us mitigate the socio-economic impacts felt on us. And it will also have the potential to help ASEAN recover and re-grow economically. That is we have chosen the theme **Digital Transformation – the Engine for ASEAN Economic Recovery from COVID-19** for this year's ADGMIN meeting.
9. Regarding ASEAN's digital transformation, digital infrastructure development, and digital cooperation, I am pleased to note that ADGMIN has adopted and is implementing the **ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025** since last year. The ADM 2025 is to provide guidance for the development of ASEAN digital and ICT sectors for the next five years. And I am confident that ADGMIN will be able to lead the regional digitalization effort. ADGMIN has clear support from ASEAN Leaders in this endeavour.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

10. We are all well aware of the benefits of Digital Transformation, but it is also important to take into account the implications and disruptions it could bring to our region and our lives. ADGMIN should make necessary preparations to prevent the negative effects of this phenomenal change.
11. First, in terms of preparation, we must reduce the connectivity gap and digitalization gaps among member states as well as different regions in our countries. Digital development gaps will be more harmful to socio-economic development in the region than other development gaps.
12. Next, member states should consider enhancing the existing legal frameworks on personal data protection and customer protection. In doing so, we must take into account the borderless nature of digital technologies and digital transactions.
13. Cyber-security is one of the critical components in digital transformation, and member states should strengthen the existing cyber-security efforts. In this regard, I would like to commend ADGMIN for the good work and close cooperation in the past and recommend the meeting to continue building up on the achievements.
14. Next, regarding information, member states should enhance their legal frameworks to better deal with difficulties and restrictions concerning cross border activities arising out of cross border transactions using digital technologies and digital transformation. Therefore, I would like to reiterate the importance for ASEAN governments to protect their citizens from cyber incidents including cyber frauds and cyberbullying.
15. Next, I would strongly encourage ADGMIN to make sure that digital platforms including social media platforms and e-commerce platforms take more responsibility for various activities on their platforms. Dealing with inappropriate usage of the Internet such as circulating fake news, misinformation and rumours, creating hate speech, inciting violence, and cyberbullying over such platforms are also becoming global issues. I would like to encourage ADGMIN to develop a common framework to deal with those broad issues.

Excellencies, and distinguished delegates,

16. The government of Myanmar has accepted the digital economy as one of the key areas for social and economic development for the country. And we are laying down proper foundations for digital transformation and in doing so, taking a public-private partnership approach. And we look forward to working more closely with ASEAN.
17. Since it joined ASEAN Community in 1997, Myanmar has been an active member in the endeavour to the achievement of ASEAN Economic Council's goal of a resilient, inclusive, people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN. While respecting the fundamental principles of ASEAN. The global economic crisis as the result of the pandemic is indicating the urgency with which ASEAN member states should work together to this goal. I would like to reiterate that Myanmar is committed to working together with other ASEAN members for the realization of the ASEAN goals.
18. It is good that we have dialogue partners with advanced technologies and with good experience. We can get a lot of experience and knowledge from them, especially in the digital transformation efforts. However, it is important for ASEAN not to satisfy with just receiving but should also endeavour to keep the driver's seat for our region. We should never lose sight of our goals and our objectives.
19. ADGMIN has a busy schedule for these two days as there will be much to discuss and deliberate to make Digital transformation – the engine for ASEAN economic recovery from Covid-19. And I would like to encourage all the Ministers and delegates to continue with your good work.
20. To this, I would like to congratulate the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Myanmar, as well as those who have provided all necessary support for the successfully organization of this meeting. I also would like to express my appreciation to all ADGMIN and responsible officials as well as ASEAN Secretary-General and ASEAN secretariat for all your achievements and your cooperation.

I want to conclude by wishing everyone to have a fruitful discussion and the 2nd ADGMIN and the related meetings all the success.

Thank you.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspects preparations for youth and literature festival in commemoration of Diamond Jubilee Union Day

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspected the preparation for the Youth and Literature Festival in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee Union Day at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Union Ministers U Maung Maung Ohn, Dr Myo Thein Kyaw and U Min Thein Zan and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Maung Maung Naing explained the programme of the festival and the display of exhibitions to the Vice-Senior General.

State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspects the preperations for Youth and Literature Festival to mark Diamond Jubilee Union Day in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 January 2022.

The Vice-Senior General inspected the exhibitions of each ministry and Myanmar Aerospace Exhibitions and instructed officials to display them following the COVID-19 prevention guidelines and security measures. Afterwards, he arrived at the Wunna Theikdi (B) Stadium and watched the demonstrations of the national sports teams who will be competing in the 31st Southeast Asian Games to be hosted by Viet Nam, and the Fitness Dance Demonstrations by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs.

The Vice-Senior General and party watch the demonstrations of national sports teams at Wunna Theikdi Stadium (B) yesterday.

The Youth and Literature Festival in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee Union Day is co-organized by the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs. The festival will feature more than 40 galleries and exhibitions, including a gallery of historical contracts and documents of Myanmar books, periodicals and biographies of literary scholars published by various publishing houses, COVID-19 disease awareness gallery, maritime science and aviation awareness workshops, science and technology awareness workshops and art galleries. The festival will also include student entertainment programmes and will be open for the public from January 29 to 31 from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm at Wunna Theikdi Stadium. —MNA

Myanmar Pavilion launched on B2B ECPlaza site

MYANMAR products were introduced to the international market through Myanmar Pavilion on B2B e-Commerce platform ECPlaza (www.ecplaza.net) on 27 January, with a view to extending business filed to the global market and conducting business following changes in consumer behaviours during the COVID-19 and meet overseas trade marketing needs, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization (Myantrade) under the Ministry of Commerce.

The opening of the Myanmar Pavilion was virtually launched. Director-General Daw Naw Muta Kapaw of Myantrade, Director Mr Kaung Jun Kyung of the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) and Mr Inkyu Park, chair of ECPlaza Network Inc, officials concerned and suppliers attended the virtual opening

The Myantrade director-general delivered an opening remark and officials from the Republic of Korea negotiated future cooperation in B2B business matters on e-Marketplace.

Myanmar Pavilion was launched with the technical assistance of ECPlaza Network Inc and Myanmar Cyber King Co., Ltd, showcasing 100 Myanmar products. The connection between Myanmar suppliers and international buyers will also help boost exports.—MNA

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Motto of 75th Anniversary Union Day 2022

*** Let's strive for forging unity of the State through Union Spirit!**

SAC member, Union ministers attend opening ceremony of Taungup University

STATE Administration Council Member Daw Aye Nu Sein attended the opening ceremony of Taungup University together with the Union ministers, the Rakhine state chief minister, the commander of the Western Command and departmental officials among others yesterday.

During the ceremony, relevant officials cut the ribbon to inaugurate the entrance to Taungup University, while SAC member Daw Aye Nu Sein pressed the button to open it.

Then, SAC Member Daw Aye Nu Sein said it is such a proud event to open a new university in Rakhine State and it would develop the needed human resources of the state.

The inauguration event of Taungup University in progress yesterday.

Taungup township becomes a well-improved township in a short period and will gain further achievements with the cooperation of government employees, residents and experts. The teachers who were assigned in the state also should serve the duties well to produce good persons.

Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe, SAC Advisor Dr Daw Yin Yin Nwe and Rakhine State Chief Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min made remarks respectively and Rector of Taungup University Dr Than Htut Lwin and town elder U Kyauk Taung expressed words of thanks.

Afterwards, the Rector gave presents to SAC members and officials and the tutors, demonstrators and students presented dance performances with songs. Union Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint and the Deputy Minister donated magazines and the SAC member and party presented cash awards to the dance troupe and took the commemorative photo.

The SAC member and party inspected the university campus after the ceremony. — Tin Tun (IPRD)/GNLM

Hybrid Seminar held for innovative products practices, food processing

THE opening ceremony of the Hybrid Seminar on Innovative Products Practices for Food Processing in Myanmar was held at M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw at 9 am yesterday.

Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Permanent Secretary Dr Wah Wah Maung said that by implementing this project, food businesses will be able to improve food safety, security, production and packaging. The Permanent Secretary said he would gain experience in marketing and servicing innovation ideas and create good conditions for local products to be exported to the ASEAN region.

Then, she explained the status of the ASEAN Secretariat. She explained the conditions that can greatly contribute to the development of small and medium enterprises by implementing the project, small and medium enterprises in ASEAN countries. The Hybrid Seminar is being held on 27 and 28 January. MSME entrepreneurs from Nay Pyi Taw and regions and states, officials from the Department of Industrial Supervision and Inspection attended the event and representatives from Hong Kong and China attended virtually.

The seminar aimed to expand the network of business partners from 11 countries for the development of the food industry in the ASEAN-Hong Kong (China) region. Myanmar entrepreneurs will be able to gain innovative knowledge and experience in the food industry. More and more strategies are being developed based on foreign investment and imports. With the aim of manufacturing products for foreign markets as per the international norms, innovation idea and design thinking, the Department of Industrial Supervision and Inspection under the Ministry of Industry is implementing the "Innovative Products Practices for Food Processing in Myanmar" project with the ASEAN-Hong Kong (China) Free Trade Area fund. — MNA

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

1. The Ministry of Health is continuously conducting "COVID-19 Molecular Disease Surveillance", and releasing information on detection of SARS CoV-2 Omicron variant from those who return by the relief flights in a timely manner.
2. The laboratory samples of the COVID-19 virus of the returnees were sent to the National Health Laboratory on 27-1-2022 and the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant was found in 28 laboratory samples.
3. Twenty-eight Myanmar nationals, who returned by relief flights, have tested positive, and seven returned from Thailand, while seven from Malaysia, six from Singapore, three from Korea, two from the UAE, two from India and one from Japan.
4. The patients are admitted to the designated hospitals for medical treatment and the passengers, who returned together with them, now undergo strict quarantine and lab tests.
5. Therefore, it is announced that the ministry is stepping up the COVID-19 disease monitoring and protecting measures plus disease prevention, control and treatment activities.

Ministry of Health

First kidney transplant succeeds at Aungban Tatmadaw hospital

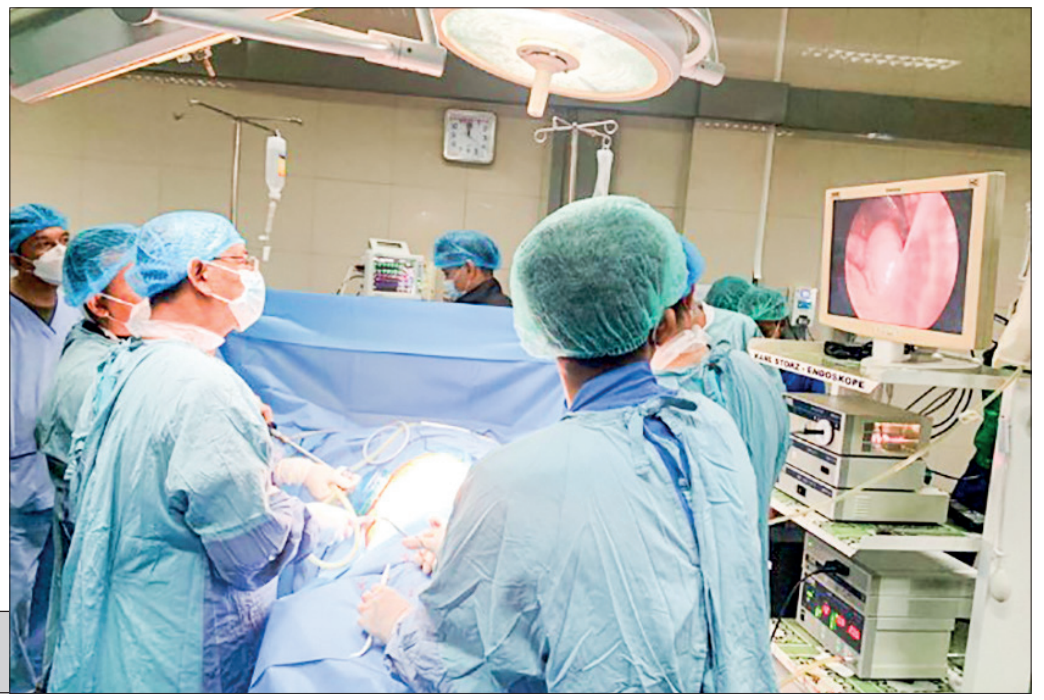
THE first kidney transplant in Tatmadaw hospital in Aungban, Shan State, was performed yesterday with the Laparoscopic Donor Nephrectomy technique, a surgical procedure that allows a kidney donor to recover faster.

According to the guidelines made by the Prime Minister during his visit in June 2020, the first kidney transplant was performed at the Tatmadaw hospital in Aungban in addition to the dialysis for various kinds of kidney patients.

The operation was performed with the cooperation of urologists and kidney surgeons led by Brig-Gen Saw Yan Naing of the Tatmadaw Hospital, kidney specialists led by Col Daw Khin Phyu Pyar, and anesthesiologists and specialized nurses led by Col Daw Yu Aye Latt.

In addition to the national defence duties, the Tatmadaw is also assisting national interests in one way or another and is intensifying the provision of public health services to the people in the regions and states where needed.

Kidney transplants have been performed in Tatmadaw hospitals since 1995, and as of today, 308 patients with kidney failure have been successfully operated on. — MNA



The first kidney transplant operation in progress.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal chemicals, traditional medicines, timbers worth K35.9 mln seized

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts are being made to take legal action against illegal trades in regions and states. On 25 January, a combined inspection team in Shan State found and confiscated 290 plastic containers containing about 20 litres each, believed to be Ethanol (estimated value of K17,400,000), in a field near the ferry station in Tinlong village, Muse Township, and action is taken under the Prevention from Danger of Chemicals and Associated Materials Law.

Combined teams under the management of the Illegal Trade Eradication Special Force conducted inspections in the northern district of Yangon Region on 25 and 26 January and confiscated 90 visses of Litsea tree bark and 1.5416 tonnes of illegal teak (estimated value of K465,630 in total). Action is taken under the Forest Law.

On 26 January, a combined inspection team led by the Customs Department in Mon State conducted inspections at Mayanchaung Permanent checkpoint and seized 101 undocumented cartons of "Hermit" brand traditional medicines (estimated value of K5,454,000) from a passenger bus, and action is taken under the Customs Law.

Moreover, 29.1372 tonnes of illegal Gum-kino wood (estimated value of K8,741,160) from two vehicles near the Thanbyuzayat-Ye road in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mawlamyine District in Mon State, and action is taken under the Forest Law. Similarly, on 27 January, a variety of illegal timber, 15.8162 tonnes (estimated value of K3,871,860) were seized from the forest reserves in Bago District and Toungoo District, and action is taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, there was a total of seven cases (estimated value of K35,932,650) on January 25, 26, and 27, according to the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee. — MNA

Confiscated timbers and traditional medicines.

Police seize stimulant tablets in Patheingyi, Wundwin, Mawlamyine, Monghsat townships

THE Anti-Narcotics Task Force seized 44,800 methamphetamines in a motorcycle driven by Than Tun (aka) Ko Thu and Ma Hlaing Maw (aka) Ma Hlaing on the Mandalay-PyinOoLwin road in Patheingyi Township on 26 January.

Moreover, the police arrested Thiha Zaw (aka) Phoe Pyae together with 1,100 stimulant tablets and his motorcycle in Thedaw Myoma No (3) Ward in Wundwin Township in the same afternoon.

They then inspected the motorcycle driven by Nay Lin Oo (aka) Shwe Taung and Ko Lin (aka) Nga Kywat on Mandalay-Yangon Highway near Ywar Shay Village in Phaya Phyu Village-tract of Wundwin Township and seized 700 tablets.

Similarly, the anti-narcotic agents seized 4,000 stimulant tablets in a motorcycle driven by Ahgar and Lipa near Wungpon Village of Monghsat Township on the same day.

They then raided the house of Kyar Phu in Boyar Village of Mongtun (Taungpaw) Village-tract and found 13,600 tablets.

The Mon State police force seized 1,950 tablets in a motorcycle driven by Phyo Zaw Aung and Ma Yin Yin Htike near Muyaung village of Mawlamyine Township on 25 January.

The suspects were taken actions under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

Arrestees are seen along with seized stimulant tablets.

Choose life for youths to taste a brighter future

THE whole lifespan of a human can be categorized into four — the childhood, the young age, the mature adult and the aged — in society. Of them, everybody knows the young age as youths is set from 15 to 24 years old.

The United Nations also recognizes that this varies without prejudice to other age groups listed by member states such as 18-30. A useful distinction within the UN itself can be made between teenagers between the ages of 13 and 19 and young adults between the ages of 20 and 29.

The tenure of youths is the strongest, the most active, the most initiative and the most powerful for endurance in learning, working and seeking experiences in line with Myanmar traditions.

> The youths living in the legal fold are a reliable strength for the existing government in the nation-building endeavours. Deploying the strength of youths can secure great success in missions. But, their route to success must be controlled not to derail. The youths need to serve all the tasks for society as part of seeking invaluable experiences for their lives by setting aside exhaustion and tiredness of the workload.

While expediting the efforts to secure success for the life, the youths are capable of overcoming the challenges in all measures.

The youths are colourless, without the influence of dogmatism, forging the innocent and honest mind-set. They are keen to lend a helping hand to others without focusing on any interests for future days. To be able to emerge those youths, parents and teachers need to nurture their children under moral ethics in childhood.

Today's child is tomorrow's adult. How true it is! So also, today's youths are tomorrow's mature people. Along with the whole young age, the youths are stockpiling the accumulation of experiences in all arenas inch by inch.

At a time when the youths have accumulated experiences and knowledge based on academic degrees and social work, they are ready to encounter the challenges of society and have the capability to shoulder the deserved duties assigned by society to keep pace with the matured adult.

The youths living in the legal fold are a reliable strength for the existing government in the nation-building endeavours. Deploying the strength of youths can secure great success in missions. But, their route to success must be controlled not to derail. The youths need to serve all the tasks for society as part of seeking invaluable experiences for their lives by setting aside exhaustion and tiredness of the workload.

As a proverb of the Maru ethnic of Myanmar saying goes: "The well-trodden paddy thrives successfully", the youths should learn and study various topics of knowledge to be applied in their lifespans for their interests and the society's as well.

■ ■ ■

Dr U San Baw, Who Made Myanmar Known to the World

By Maung Hlaing

Dr U San Baw

THE year was 1969. Most of the city-dwellers of Rangoon (as it was then officially called) were captivated by the spacecraft Apollo 11 and the astronauts (now the late) Michael Collins, Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin (now the late) Neil A. Armstrong on their journey to the Moon and back. Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin became the first and second persons respectively to step foot on the Moon.

I was only twenty years old when Apollo 11 landed on the Moon on 20-21 July 1969. Almost everyone, almost everywhere in Rangoon were talking about Apollo 11 and the first men on the Moon. The six State-owned newspapers and one or two private-owned papers we had in those days displayed the news of Apollo 11 prominently and in bold on the front pages.

While the dailies and the periodicals waxed almost lyrical about the news of Apollo 11, a medical news item of significance to Myanmar and the world also emerged albeit (naturally) it was nationally and internationally by no means as well-known as the stunning achievements of Apollo 11.

The 'newsmaker' was Dr U San Baw, who for the first time in medical history pioneered the technique of ivory hip prostheses to replace ununited fractures of the neck of the femur. Dr U San Baw reported his findings and presented a paper at a conference of the British Orthopaedic Association in London which was held from 23 to 27 September 1969.

From a news item published at that time Dr U San Baw's achievements in designing ivory hip prostheses surprised, impressed and pleased the medical professionals from the four continents, the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia who attended the conference.

When Burmese Doctor U San Baw, who has performed more than 100 successful operations involving the replacement of the human hip bone with elephant ivory, stepped to the podium at the Royal College of Surgeons here in September [1969] a distinguished group of doctors and surgeons listened intently…

This is a short excerpt from the USIS News Release of 15 October 1969. The news release continued:

The paper Dr U San Baw presented to the British Orthopaedic Conference was titled 'Ivory prostheses for ununited fractures of the neck of femur'. It dealt briefly with the mechanical, physical and chemical properties of ivory and reviewed the first 20 patients with a follow-up period ranging from one to nine years. The major part of this paper was devoted to this work since 1960 on his femoral head prostheses made of ivory for the treatment of the non-union of the neck and femur.

The media superstars of those days Ludu Daw Amar, Tha Ga Doe (Deputy Chief Editor of the Burmese language လုပ်သား ဖြည်သူ နေ့စဉ် *Loke Thar Pyithu Nay-zin*) Lokethar Sayawun, Maung Maung Khin and journalist (U) Tha Ban wrote various articles about Dr San Baw's history-making discovery.

Dr U San Baw was born of parents Dr U Thaw Zan and Daw Si Si on 29 June 1922 at Tapon, Tharawady District. He attended the St. Agnes Convent at Kalaw and St. Paul's High School, Rangoon for his primary education. For his middle and high school studies, he attended St. Paul's High School from 1936 to 1942. From 1944 to 1950 he pursued his medical studies at the Medical College of the then Rangoon University. He was awarded the degree of M.B, B.S from Rangoon University in March 1950.

He served as a resident in the General Surgery and Casualty Department at Rangoon General Hospital from June 1950 to May 1951. From June 1951 to April 1954 he was undertraining and counterpart to Professor P.F. Greene. During that period, he helped establish the Department of Orthopaedics at the (then) Rangoon General Hospital. He was sent as a State's scholar for postgraduate medical studies to the United States of America arriving in the United States in April 1954. He undertook postgraduate orthopaedic work and completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery at the hospital at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He was awarded the M, S (Master of Medical Science) (Orthopaedics) degree (in absentia) by the University of Pennsylvania in February 1958.

He returned to Myanmar after the completion of his studies in 1957 and was appointed as Head of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Lecturer in Orthopaedics at Medical College, Mandalay in November 1958. He played an instrumental role in setting up the teaching curriculum in Orthopaedics at the Mandalay Medical College and later Institute of Medicine, Mandalay. His research concerning the use of ivory hip prostheses for ununited fractures of the neck of the femur started during that time in early 1959.

In January 1960 Dr U San Baw successfully used an ivory prosthesis to replace the broken neck of the femur of an 83-year-old Buddhist nun Daw Punya. From 1960 to 1969 Dr San Baw used an ivory prosthesis to replace the broken neck of femurs. The age of the patients ranged from 24 to 87 years. From 1969 to 1980, at the time of Dr U San Baw's retirement, an additional over 200 hip prostheses were used (a total of 300 to 400 ivory prostheses were used during his career.

From June 1975 to the time of his retirement in October 1980 Dr U San Baw was the Chief of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the (then) Rangoon General Hospital and Lecturer in Orthopaedics at Institute of Medicine I, Rangoon. From January to about June 1976 Dr U San Baw visited the Orthopaedic Departments and Hospitals in Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong. In Australia, he visited the Orthopaedic Centres in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. He lectured and explained about his work in ivory femoral head prostheses at the hospitals and medical schools in those countries receiving widespread acclaim. At least one newspaper (*The Straits Times*, Singapore, 13 February 1976 'Burmese doctor who mends hips with ivory') mentioned his work.

From February to March 1970 after his lecture at the British Orthopaedic Association, ten newspapers in the United States published a news item about Dr San Baw's work written by the late journalist Albert E. Kaff.

Dr U San Baw retired in October 1980 from public service. During his retirement, he actively participated in various medical activities of Burma (Myanmar) Medical Association, Mandalay serving as Vice-President as well as the Patron of it. At the time of his death, he was the Patron of Upper Burma (Myanmar) Medical Association.

Dr U San Baw, who for the first time in medical history pioneered the technique of ivory hip prostheses in replacing ununited fractures of the neck of femur, who, with his medical innovation saved the lives of his people, who was known (to some) during his lifetime and after his passing as an 'ivory prince' and made Myanmar known to the world passed away on 7 December 1984. Impermanence is the norm and death is unavoidable. His loss was and is tragic and unbearable to his family and many of his colleagues and students since he died at a relatively young age. The solace is that he had made significant contributions to the welfare of his nation.

Dr San Baw was survived by his wife Dr Daw Myint Myint Khin, (15 December 1923-19 June 2014) a retired Professor of Medicine and a son.

To honour Orthopaedic Surgeon Dr U San Baw and his noble innovations Professor Dr Daw Myint Myint Khin donated, in 1985, a sum of 30,000 (thirty thousand) Kyats (among others to award) 'Dr San Baw Research prize'. Due to additional contributions by late 2019 the sum has increased to about 13.8 million Kyats.

SEE PAGE-10

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 27 January 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 28 January, 2022 : Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Kachin State, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady, Yangon, Taninthayi Regions and Northern Shan, Chin States.Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Magway Region and (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Rakhine, Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperature in Sagaing Region and Kachin, Shan, Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 January, 2022: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 January, 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 January, 2022: Partly cloudy.

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Dr U San Baw, Who Made Myanmar Known to the World

FROM PAGE-9

This is just a brief extract from the book with the title (in Myanmar and English) *My Late Father Dr San Baw: His Ivory Prostheses and Other Orthopaedic Innovations*. The writer as well as the compiler of the book is Dr Myint Zan.

The book is divided into three parts Parts I and Part II are articles written by medical professionals and journalists and also by the compiler Dr Myint Zan. In Part I the articles are in the Myanmar language and in Part II the articles are in English. Part III is a compilation of a few photos of Dr San Baw's life and career as well as of Professor Dr Daw Myint Myint Khin and reproduction of a few newspaper articles,

It is a pleasure to notice in Part I of the book an article *Hsayun Hnint Anupyinnyar* ဆရာဝန်နှင့် အနုပညာ ('Medical doctor and Art') by a well-known artist the late Paw Oo Thet. In his article Saya Paw Oo Thet said 'While we were talking about painting and artistic works, Daw Myint Myint Khin showed me the painting drawn by her husband U San Baw. I was surprised at seeing the paintings because his workmanship was much better than I thought. Dr San Baw's brushstrokes (in the paintings of his wife and his mother Daw Si Si and others) are vivid and fine and indeed very good'. These remarks made by a veteran artist indicates that in addition to his significant contributions to orthopaedic surgery we cannot help but praise Sayagyi U San Baw's artistic talents.

This book compiled by Dr Myint Zan is beneficial not only to medical professionals but also to those who can read in Myanmar and English. The anthology will inform the readers about an ivory prince who made Myanmar known to the world since the 1960s.

Dr Myint Zan who contributes to and compiles this book is not a medical doctor. He is a Law Professor who had taught in various law schools abroad from 1989 to 2016. Obviously, the book is compiled and written by a son who wants to do his filial duty towards his father 37 years after Sayagyi Dr San Baw passed away.

May I conclude this article by reproducing a sentence from the late journalist Tha Ban's article in the *Forward* magazine of 15 November 1969:

[Dr San Baw's pioneering work] is the first significant fruit of Burmese scientific research to be presented to the world, a matter of pride and joy not only to Burma's medical professionals but also to the country and the people.

■ ■ ■

Astronomers predict SpaceX space junk will hit the Moon

A chunk of a SpaceX rocket that blasted off seven years ago and was abandoned in space after completing its mission will crash into the Moon in March, experts say.

The rocket was deployed in 2015 to put into orbit a NASA satellite called the Deep Space Climate Observatory (DSCOVR).

Since then, the second stage of the rocket, or booster, has been floating in what mathematicians call a chaotic orbit, astronomer Bill Gray told AFP Wednesday.

It was Gray who calculated the space junk's new collision course with the Moon.

The booster passed quite close to the Moon in January in a rendezvous that altered its orbit, said Gray.

He is behind Project Pluto, software that allows for calculating the trajectory of asteroids and other objects in space and is used in NASA-financed space observation programs.

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with the company's Crew Dragon spacecraft onboard is seen as it is rolled out of the horizontal integration facility at Launch Complex 39A as preparations were on for the Crew-1 mission on 9 November. **PHOTO: NASA/JOEL KOWSKY/AFP**

A week after the rocket stage whizzed close to the Moon, Gray observed it again and concluded it would crash into the Moon's dark side on 4 March at more than 5,500 miles per hour (9,000 kilometres per hour).

Gray appealed to the amateur astronomer community to join him in observing the booster, and his conclusion was confirmed.

The exact time and spot of impact may change slightly from his forecast but there is widespread agreement that there will be a collision on the Moon that day.

"I've been tracking junk of this sort for about 15 years. And this is the first unintentional lunar impact that we've had," Gray told AFP.

'Time to start regulating'

Astronomer Jonathan McDowell told AFP it's possible similar impacts have taken place unnoticed.

"There're at least 50 objects that were left in deep Earth orbit in the '60s, '70s and '80s that were just abandoned there. We didn't track them," he said.

"Now we're picking up a couple of them... but a lot of them we're not finding and so they're not there anymore," he added. "Probably at least a few of them hit the moon accidentally and we just didn't notice."

The impact of the SpaceX rocket chunk weighing four tonnes on the Moon will not be visible from Earth in real time.

But it will leave a crater that scientists will be able to observe with spacecraft and satellites like NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter or India's Chandrayaan-2, and thus learn more about the geology of the Moon.—AFP ■

Hydrogen planes not enough to green aviation: study

THE aviation industry looks at hydrogen-fuelled planes as a solution to decarbonize the sector, but a report by an environmental group released Wednesday found that they will only help limit CO2 emissions.

Using hydrogen as fuel produces no climate-warming CO2 when it burns, just water.

Automakers and planemakers alike have been looking at it as a means to reduce the climate impact of the transportation sector, although currently most production of hydrogen creates emissions.

The introduction into service of hydrogen-fuelled planes from 2035 is one way the aviation industry hopes it can reach net-zero carbon emissions in 2050.

If using hydrogen on long-haul aircraft is impossible due to the volume of gas needed, "on the short- to medium-haul flights where hydrogen aircraft are viable, these planes could virtually eliminate carbon emissions," said the report by the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT).—AFP ■

Hydrogen is critical to Airbus' aim of developing the world's first zero-emission commercial aircraft by 2035 **PHOTO: AFP**

England lifts Omicron restrictions

ENGLAND on Thursday lifted coronavirus restrictions imposed to tackle the Omicron variant, with masks no longer required in enclosed places and vaccine passports shelved.

The number of positive Covid-19 cases has fallen sharply over the past two weeks, and although still at high levels, have plateaued in recent days.

The UK government introduced the so-called "Plan B" restrictions on 8 December, after Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned of a looming "tidal wave" of Omicron.

Face masks were required in all enclosed spaces and, controversially, vaccine documentation also was to enter places such as nightclubs, football grounds and large-scale events.

On the streets of London around St Paul's Cathedral, there was general support for the lifting of restrictions, which comes after more than 37 million people had booster jabs. "I think it's a really good thing," said Elizabeth Hynes, 71, who is originally from Ireland but has lived in England for 47 years. "I was coming up the lifts here at St Paul's and I was looking at all the shows" being advertised, she said of the posters inside the underground station.

"And I thought 'how wonderful, it's like old times'.

"It's like we're getting back to how London was, and you realize how much you've missed live theatre and fantastic shows."

Hynes said she had stage-4 melanoma skin cancer, but had so far "been lucky" and not caught Covid. "We don't know about tomorrow, we have to live... for today, trying to get a bit of enjoyment out of life," she added.—AFP ■

Commuters wearing a face mask travel on TfL Victoria Line underground train carriages, heading towards central London, on 15 June 2020. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Covid-hit Australian warship delivers disaster aid to Tonga

Members of the Australian Defence Force board the HMAS Adelaide in Brisbane earlier this month, before setting sail for Tonga. **PHOTO: AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE/AFP**

A coronavirus-hit Australian warship docked in Tonga on Wednesday, delivering desperately needed aid to the volcano-and-tsunami-struck nation under strict "no-contact" protocols.

Tongan Health Minister Saia Piukala said the crew of the HMAS Adelaide would follow drastic health protocols to ensure the remote Pacific kingdom remains one of the few places in the world still free of Covid-19.

"The ship will berth and no contacts will be made. Australians from the ship will unload their cargoes and sail from port," he told reporters.

The Adelaide was deployed as part of an international aid effort after the 15 January eruption that generated massive tsunami waves and blanketed the island nation in toxic ash.

The warship is carrying about 80 tonnes of relief supplies, including water, medical kits and engineering equipment.

Despite all crew members testing negative before departing Brisbane, officials in Canberra on Tuesday said 23 coronavirus cases had been detected on the vessel.

Piukala said that number had increased to 29 by Wednesday. The ship's 600-plus crew are fully vaccinated, and the Australian Defence Force said Tuesday that the initial 23 patients were asymptomatic or only mildly affected.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Moderna begins trial of Omicron-specific vaccine booster

US biotech company Moderna announced on Wednesday that it has begun clinical trials of a booster dose of vaccine designed specifically to combat the Omicron variant of the coronavirus.

The trials will involve a total of 600 adults — half of whom have already received two doses of Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine at least six months ago, and half of whom have received two doses plus the previously authorized booster dose.

The booster specifically targeting Omicron will therefore be evaluated as both a third and a fourth dose.

The company also reported results on the efficacy against Omicron of the booster that has already been authorized.—AFP ■

Prague Covid ward staff do away with protective suits

DOCTORS treating Covid patients at a Prague hospital have shed their once mandatory protective suits, claiming that bacteria clinging to their sleeves actually increased mortality.

Medical staff at the Covid ward of Prague's General University Hospital now only wear face masks, gloves and plastic aprons as protective gear, despite the spread of the highly contagious Omicron variant.

"We dropped the suits a year ago, because they helped the spread of bacteria, viruses and mould among patients, which worsened the overall mortality data," Martin Balik, chief doctor at the intensive care unit, told AFP on Wednesday.—AFP ■

Denmark plans to lift Covid curbs on 1 February

THE Danish government plans to lift its Covid restrictions on 1 February, despite registering a record number of infections but with vaccine rates high, the health ministry said Wednesday.

The Danish government plans to lift its Covid restrictions on 1 February, despite registering a record number of infections but with vaccine rates high, the health ministry said Wednesday.

"I would like... Covid-19 to no longer be categorised as a disease dangerous to society as of 1 February", Health Minister Magnus Heunicke wrote in a letter to lawmakers, proposing the de facto lifting of all domestic restrictions, such as mask-wearing and early closings for bars and restaurants.

The country of 5.8 million people registered 46,000 new cases on Tuesday, "but our current assessment is that the epidemic will soon peak", Heunicke wrote on Twitter.

"We have good control over hospitalization rates, thanks to a combination of 3.5 million Danes revaccinated and the less severe nature of Omicron."

More than 60 per cent of Danes have received a third dose, one month ahead of the health authorities' schedule.—AFP ■

Queue outside Covid test centre in Aalborg. **PHOTO: AFP**

WTO: China can slap duties on $645 mn of US imports

A container ship berthing at the port in Qingdao, in China's eastern Shandong province. **PHOTO: STR /AFP**

THE World Trade Organization on Wednesday handed a fresh victory to China, permitting it to slap duties on $645 million worth of US imports per year, in a long-running anti-dumping dispute with Washington. The United States, which is unable to appeal against the decision, branded it "deeply disappointing" and said it reinforced the need to reform the WTO's rules, saying they were being used to "shield" China.

"In light of the parties' arguments and evidence in these proceedings, we have determined that the appropriate level... is $645.12 million per annum," a WTO arbitrator ruled.

The WTO green light does not mean China will automatically impose the tariffs, in whole or in part, on US imports.

The figure was revealed in an 87-page decision by a WTO arbitrator on the level of countermeasures Beijing could request in its dispute with Washington regarding US countervailing duties (CVD) on certain Chinese products.

The dispute stretches all the way back to 2012, when the WTO set up a panel of experts to try to settle a complaint filed by China over what it said were unfair duties imposed by the United States.

Washington had justified the additional tariffs on products ranging from paper to tyres and solar panels, arguing they were being dumped on the market to help Chinese companies grab business. The WTO Dispute Settlement Body ruled in China's favour and the ruling was upheld by its appeals judges in 2014, paving the way for China to retaliate.

Beijing initially asked to be permitted to slap tariffs on $2.4-billion-worth of US products each year, but then scaled back its demand to $788.75 million.—AFP ■

Philippine economy rebounds in 2021 as Covid-19 rules relaxed

This file photo shows a worker wearing PPE disinfecting escalators as part of measures aimed at preventing the spread of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus in a mall in Manila. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE Philippine economy rebounded stronger than expected in 2021 after a relaxation of Covid-19 rules fuelled consumer spending and got more people back to work, officials said Thursday as they forecast a return to pre-pandemic growth this year.

Gross domestic product expanded 5.6 per cent, the statistics agency said, after a 9.6 per cent slump the previous year — the worst since World War II — was fuelled by crippling lockdowns destroying millions of jobs and forcing people to stay home.

The latest reading beat the median forecast of 5.1 per cent growth expected by analysts surveyed by Bloomberg.

The surprising performance was driven by a pick-up in consumer spending and construction in the second half of the year as restrictions eased and coronavirus infections fell.

"The door to our economic recovery is now fully open," Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Karl Chua told a briefing. "We are optimistic that we will not only recover to the pre-pandemic level in 2022, but achieve the upper middle income country status." Even factoring in the impact of Super Typhoon Rai, which devastated central and southern regions of the country in December and left hundreds of thousands homeless, the Philippines was "on track to rapid recovery", Chua said. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

China shrugs off IMF warnings on zero-tolerance Covid approach

BEIJING shrugged off IMF warnings about the economic impact of its aggressive anti-Covid policy, saying on Wednesday that China has achieved "significant results" and is a key driver of global growth. The International Monetary Fund lowered its growth outlook for China and the rest of the world on Tuesday and said Beijing's zero-Covid policy — which has seen entire cities locked down over a handful of cases — has spurred a slowdown in the world's second-largest economy. It might be time for Beijing to "recalibrate" its stance in order to ease pressure on global supply chains and economic growth, the fund's newly-installed first deputy managing director Gita Gopinath told AFP.—AFP ■

Portugal: Pandemic measures worsened deficit by 2.6% until September

THE measures adopted to respond to the impact of the pandemic have worsened Portugal's budget deficit by about 2.6% of GDP, according to the Technical Unit for Budgetary Support (UTAO), released on Tuesday. The parliament experts explain that most of the policy measures that worsened spending, corresponding to 3.1% of GDP, are concentrated on subsidies (1.5% of GDP) and social benefits (0.6% of GDP), "reflecting measures to support employment and family income, respectively.—AFP

Morocco tourism workers protest against border closure

WORKERS in Morocco's vital tourism sector protested for the second time this month on Wednesday to denounce a two-month-old border closure aimed at countering the Omicron variant of coronavirus.

Nearly 200 travel industry workers gathered in front of the tourism ministry in Rabat, while local media said other demonstrations occurred in the tourist centres of Agadir and Marrakesh.

The North African country suspended all passenger flights from 29 November until at least 31 January as the highly infectious Omicron variant spread worldwide.

The restrictions have dealt a punishing blow to Morocco's tourism sector, already suffering after two lost seasons because of the pandemic.

"The closure has struck us very hard because we have had to cease operations, while our expense are still fixed," said Mimoun Azzouzi, who owns a travel agency in Temara, near the capital. Demonstrators said they are "excluded" from a two billion dirham ($214 million) government aid programme for the sector.—AFP ■

A boatman transporting tourists across the Bou Regreg river between the city of Sale and Morocco's capital Rabat, 27 September 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

Apple's iPhone retakes top spot in China smartphone market: research

APPLE reclaimed its position as the top smartphone seller in China after six years, clocking a record market share in the final quarter of 2021 as US sanctions hit rival Huawei, according to researchers.

A surge in sales saw the iPhone maker account for 23 per cent of the highly competitive market in October-December, industry analysis firm Counterpoint said in a report released Wednesday.

That put the US giant in pole position for the first time since the final three months of 2015, toppling China's Vivo.

Vivo and another local brand Oppo were not far behind, driven in part by their "strong offline penetration", Counterpoint said.

But smartphone sales in the country also dropped nine per cent on-year in the period.

"Apple's stellar performance was driven by a mix of its pricing strategy and gain from Huawei's premium base," said Counterpoint research analyst Mengmeng Zhang.

"Apple rose to first place in China right after the iPhone 13 was released in September," she added, noting it had a lower starting price than its rivals.

The shift comes as Chinese telecom giant Huawei was caught in the crosshairs of Beijing and Washington's trade and technology standoff.

The United States has barred Huawei from buying crucial components such as microchips, and forced it to create its own operating system by cutting it off from using Google's Android operating system.—AFP

Visitors try a 5G smartphone at a 5G-themed exhibition held during the World 5G Convention in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province, 26 November 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA/DENG HUA**

Samsung reports 53% jump in profit despite supply chain woes

SOUTH Korean tech giant Samsung Electronics said Thursday its operating profit rose 53.3 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2021, as record sales helped overcome pandemic-induced supply chain challenges.

The world's biggest smartphone maker said its operating profit rose to 13.87 trillion won ($11.55 billion) for the October-December period in 2021, up from nine trillion won in the same quarter the previous year.

Samsung Electronics presents SmartThings hub for Internet of Things devices at CES 2020. **PHOTO: SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS/AFP**

Thanks to high memory chip prices and strong consumer demand, Samsung had its highest annual sales of 279.6 trillion won in 2021, an 18 per cent jump from a year earlier, the company said in a regulatory filing.

Samsung achieved "record sales thanks to competitive products, despite continuing uncertainty," the tech giant said in a statement, singling out solid demand for its premium smartphone lines.

While the Covid-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on the global economy, it has helped many tech companies boom.

Pandemic-driven working from home has boosted demand for devices powered by Samsung's chips, as well as home appliances such as televisions and washing machines.

But LG Electronics, South Korea's second-largest appliance firm after Samsung, saw its operating profit shrink by 21.4 per cent in the fourth quarter on-year to 677.7 billion won.—AFP ■

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Daw La Min May, *H.G.P*
For **Ezaki Glico Kabushiki Kaisha**
(also trading as Ezaki Glico Co., Ltd.),
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,**
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated **28th January 2022** lmm@kcyangon.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MAERSK NORDDAL VOY.NO. (152S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK NORDDAL VOY.NO. (152S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-1-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. (1201S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL TRUST VOY.NO. (1201S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-1-2022** 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 LINES

Ads Call 09251022355 09974424848

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dozens of German homes raided in child pornography probes

GERMAN police have conducted raids across two states in investigations into child pornography with victims as young as infants, local authorities said Wednesday, while 100 suspects have been identified in a third case.

The raids in the southern state of Bavaria took place on Tuesday and targeted 50 properties connected to 55 suspects aged between 18 and 73, the state's interior minister Joachim Herrmann and justice minister Georg Eisenreich said.

They are accused of obtaining videos showing severe and violent abuse of children, including infants. In Saxony state, the homes of 36 suspects accused of possessing, buying or distributing child pornography were raided last week in and around the city of Chemnitz, police said.—AFP ■

Dozens of people missing after boat capsizes off Florida: US Coast Guard

THE US Coast Guard has launched a search for 39 people reported missing when a boat capsized off the coast of Florida in a "suspected human smuggling venture."

The US Coast Guard has launched a search for 39 people reported missing when a boat capsized off the coast of Florida in a "suspected human smuggling venture."The Coast Guard in Miami said Tuesday it received a report "from a good Samaritan" who rescued a man "clinging to a capsized vessel approximately 45 miles east of Fort Pierce Inlet".

The survivor said the boat left Bimini in the Bahamas on Saturday night, and had encountered rough weather before it capsized.

"According to the survivor, no one was wearing a life jacket," the statement said. "Coast Guard air and surface asset crews are actively searching for people in the water. This is a suspected human smuggling venture," said the statement posted on Twitter.—AFP ■

India showcases military might in Republic Day parade

LUMBERING tanks and the deafening roar of fighter planes echoed through New Delhi on Wednesday as India's military showcased its might on Republic Day.

The annual 26 January event marks the adoption of India's constitution with missile launchers, jet flyovers, motorcycle stunts and the brass band of the camel-mounted Border Security Force.

Military and police battalions marched down a boulevard past Prime Minister Narendra Modi but without the customary foreign dignitary guests of honour, as India battles a resurgence of Covid-19 infections.

Audience numbers along the usually crowded sidelines of the procession were capped at 4,000 people and eminent spectators sat spaced far apart, with authorities announcing overnight that India had surpassed 40 million coronavirus cases since the pandemic began.

The front part of the aircraft-shaped tableau showcased women pilots depicting women power in India's aviation. **PHOTO: ANI**

Wednesday's ceremony also featured mobile parade floats highlighting the country's history and cultural diversity alongside traditional dancers.

India is preparing to commemorate 75 years since the end of British colonial rule and several of the displays dramatised events from the nation's long independence struggle in the first half of the 20th century.

Modi's government announced it would posthumously award former defence chief General Bipin Rawat with India's second-highest civilian honour, the Padma Vibhushan.

Rawat was seen as close to the Hindu nationalist prime minister and supportive of his political agenda but died in a helicopter accident in November.

Modi also paid tribute to fallen soldiers before the parade began, just days after his government provoked a minor storm by extinguishing the nearby "eternal flame" that served to commemorate Indians who died on the battlefield. —AFP ■

Italian MPs fail in third bid to elect president

A fourth round of voting for Italian president will be held Thursday after three failed votes on a successor to Sergio Matteralla.
PHOTO: POOL/AFP

ITALIAN lawmakers failed Wednesday to elect a new president in a third round of voting, as bickering party leaders blamed each other for pushing the country towards a political crisis.

Prime Minister Mario Draghi, who was the frontrunner for the post ahead of the election, pocketed just five votes as parties panicked at the idea of pulling him from his job.

Political analysts have warned that moving the former European Central Bank head to the presidential palace could deal a fatal blow to an already weak ruling coalition, sparking snap elections.

A fourth round of voting will be held Thursday morning and could lead to a breakthrough, as the threshold for victory now falls from a two-thirds majority to an absolute majority.

Italy's president is a ceremonial figure but wields great power in crises. Doubts over candidates led some 412 of the 1,000 or so voting MPs, senators and regional representatives to cast blank ballots Wednesday.

Outgoing 80-year-old president Sergio Mattarella — who has repeatedly ruled out serving a second term — won the most votes, with 125 ballots.

Draghi, 74, who was brought in to lead a national unity government a year ago, had been hailed by some as the best candidate for the seven-year presidential post because of his perceived skill in ensuring political stability.

But most insist he stay as premier to oversee reforms demanded in exchange for funds from the EU's post-pandemic recovery scheme.— AFP ■

Poland begins work on new EU-Belarus border wall

POLISH contractors began work on Tuesday on a new 353-million euro ($407 million) wall along the Belarus border aimed at deterring migrant crossings following a crisis in the area last year.

The 5.5-metre high wall will run along 186 kilometres of the border — almost half the total length — and is to be completed in June.

The construction has raised human rights concerns over how migrants will be able to seek asylum as well as environmental worries about the effect on wildlife along the mostly forested border.

"Our intention is for the damage to be as small as possible," border guard spokeswoman Anna Michalska told Poland's PAP news agency on Tuesday.

"Tree felling will be limited to the minimum required. The wall itself will be built along the border road," she said, adding that contractors would only make use of existing roads.

Thousands of migrants — mostly from the Middle East — crossed or attempted to cross the border from Belarus into Poland last year. The West blamed the influx on the Belarusian regime, saying it had encouraged would-be migrants to fly to Belarus with the promise of an easy journey on foot into the European Union.

'Hybrid attack

Poland branded the migrant crisis a "hybrid" attack from Belarus and its main ally Russia, referring to a type of warfare using non-military tactics.

Belarus has denied this and has accused Poland of inhumane treatment of the migrants.—AFP ■

Polish soldiers carrying material for a barbed wire fence on the border with Belarus. **PHOTO: JAAP ARRIENS/AFP**

North Korea fires two missiles as testing blitz continues

NORTH Korea fired two suspected ballistic missiles Thursday, Seoul said, its sixth weapons test this month in one of the most intense spates of launches on record that has delivered an emphatic rejection of Washington's offers for talks on its nuclear programme.

Pyongyang has not fired this many missiles in a calendar month in decades, according to data compiled by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies — a Washington-based think tank.

The last time they came close was in 2019, after high-profile negotiations between leader Kim Jong Un and then-United States president Donald Trump collapsed. With US talks stalled since then, Pyongyang has doubled down on Kim's pledges of military modernisation, embarking on a string of sanctions-busting launches this month, including hypersonic missiles.

North Korea has conducted six weapons tests this year, as it flexes its military muscles and ignores Washington's offers of talks. **PHOTO: AFP/ FILE**

The sabre-rattling comes at a delicate time in the region, with Kim's sole major ally China hosting Winter Olympics next month and South Korea gearing up for a presidential election in March.

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected two suspected short-range ballistic missiles fired from the Hamhung city area towards the East Sea from around 8 am (2300 GMT).

"The projectiles flew 190 kilometres (118 miles) at an altitude of 20 km," they said.

Pyongyang fired two suspected cruise missiles on Tuesday, and tested ballistic missiles on 14 and 17 January. It also fired what it said were hypersonic missiles on 5 and 11 January.—AFP ■

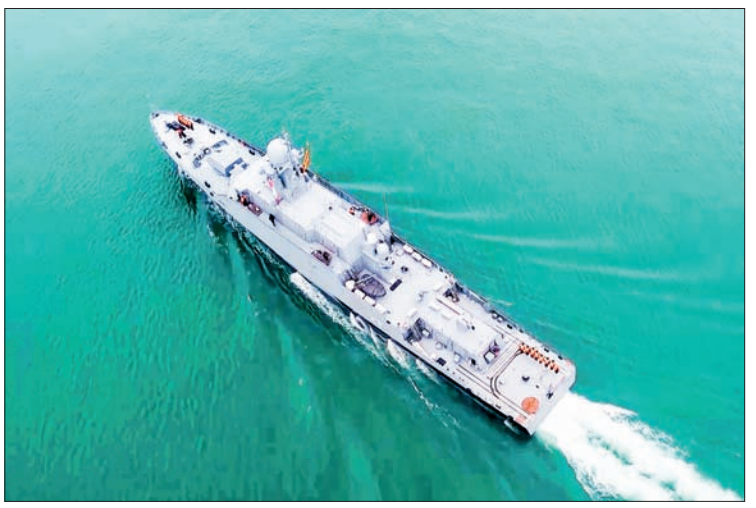
Russia conducts large-scale drills in Black Sea amid Ukraine tensions

MORE than 20 Russian warships and supporting vessels had left their bases for exercises in the Black Sea, Russia's Defence Ministry said Wednesday, reported Xinhua.

The naval group, which consists of frigates, patrol ships, missile ships, landing ships, anti-submarine ships and minesweepers, was sailing towards the designated areas, the defense ministry said in a statement.

On the way to the drills, the Russian vessels will practice communications, safe manoeuvres in areas with intensive navigation, and air defence, it added.

On Monday, another 20 Russian warships and supporting vessels started large-scale drills in the Baltic Sea to carry out anti-submarine, air defence and mine-sweeping tasks, according to another statement. These drills came as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was putting forces on standby and sending additional ships and fighter jets to Eastern Europe as tensions in and around Ukraine had escalated.—Xinhua ■



The Admiral Essen frigate leaves to join a naval exercise of the Russian Black Sea Fleet. **PHOTO: RUSSIAN DEFENCE MINISTRY/TASS/ XINHUA**

Honduras leader offers rebel deputy post to end congress crisis

Honduras president elect Xiomara Castro (right) has made an offer to rebel deputy Jorge Calix (left) in a bid to end a congressional crisis ahead of her inauguration. **PHOTO: XIOMARA CASTRO'S PRESS OFFICE/ AFP**

HONDURAS' president-elect Xiomara Castro made a last ditch attempt late Wednesday to solve a congressional crisis with hours left before her inauguration.

Last week two rival factions within her left wing Libre party elected their own duelling presidents of Congress.

Castro backs the claims of Luis Redondo of her coalition partner Savior Party of Honduras (PSH). But Jorge Calix, a deputy within her own Libre party, has led a band of close to 20 rebels, with support from the right wing National and Liberal parties, to launch a rival claim.

Late on Wednesday, Castro tried to break the impasse by offering Calix a role in her cabinet.

"I proposed to Jorge Calix that he joins my government in the position of Cabinet Coordinator for the sake of uniting in the Reformation of Honduras," Castro wrote on Twitter.

She did not, however, explain what the role entailed, although it appears to be something akin to a chief of staff.

"Thank you President @ XiomaraCastroZ, it was a great pleasure speaking with you," said Calix in a reply to her post on Twitter.

"For me and for anyone, it would be a great honour to form part of the government of resistence and national reconciliation. You will soon receive my answer," he wrote.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

US rejects Russia demand on Ukraine but talks see new life

THE United States on Wednesday rejected Russia's key demand to bar Ukraine from NATO and said it believed Moscow was ready to invade but offered what it called a new "diplomatic path" out of the crisis.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he would speak again in the coming days to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, as a separate initiative by France brought a promise by Moscow at least to keep talking to Ukraine's government.

One month after Russia put forward sweeping security proposals, having sent tens of thousands of troops to Ukraine's border, the United States delivered a reply in co-ordination with NATO allies and said it was ready for any eventuality.

"It sets out a serious diplomatic path forward should Russia choose it," Blinken told reporters of the US response, which he said would remain confidential.–AFP ■

Dozens of guns among Los Angeles train loot: police

DOZENS of guns have been stolen from freight trains that have been looted in Los Angeles, the city's police chief has said. Images of the detritus left behind by thieves who break into stationary wagons in the middle of the second biggest city in the United States swept around the world this month.

Now the city's top policeman has said that the bandits got away with more than just Amazon packages. "People were... breaking into these containers and stealing firearms, tens of firearms," Michael Moore told the Police Commission this week.

"That gave us great concern as a source again of further violence in the city." An AFP team filmed thousands of gutted boxes on the stretch of tracks near the city centre, many from major retailers like Target, and being shipped by carriers including UPS and FedEx. The thieves wait until the long freight trains stop on the tracks and break the locks with bolt cutters. –AFP ■

Myanmar Viet Nam draw 2-2 in AFC Women's Cup Group match

Myanmar women football star Win Theingi Tun (No. 7) poises to kick the ball during the AFC Women's Cup Group C match at the stadium of Navi Mumbai, India on 27 January 2022. **PHOTO: MFF**

MYANMAR played a 2-2 draw against Viet Nam in the last match of AFC Women's Cup Group C at 2:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time yesterday at Navi Mumbai, India.

The line-up of Myanmar includes Goalkeeper May Zin New, Khin Than Wai, Chit Chit, Aye Aye Moe, Phyu Phyu Win, Khin Mo Mo Tun, Khin Malar Tun, Naw Htet Htet Wai, Myat Noe Khin, San Thaw Thaw, and Win Theingi Tun.

There was a tug-of-war between the two sides at the beginning of the match.

In the 28th minute of the match, Naw Htet Htet Wai's cross was cut by the Vietnamese team.

The Myanmar team won a penalty kick due to the rough cut of the Vietnamese team, and the striker Win Theingi Tun scored an unmistakable goal to give the Myanmar team a 1-0 lead.

At the end of the first half, the Vietnamese team got the equalizer via a corner kick launched by Player No. 7 after the injury time.

In the 49th minute, team captain Khin Malar Tun finished Win Theingi Tun's pass without any mistake and the Myanmar team took the lead again.

In the 64th minute, the team Viet Nam was allowed to take a penalty kick due to the rough cut of the Myanmar team.

The goal was scored by the Vietnamese team captain to reach the score of 2-2.

Both teams did not score another goal until the end of the match, and 2-2 was enough for both teams at the final whistle.

The Asian Cup Women's Football Championship was played in three groups of 12 teams, with the top two teams in each group advancing to the next round with a total of eight teams. Four teams: Myanmar, Viet Nam, Japan and South Korea participated in Group C and Japan is leading the group with one point ahead of South Korea with one goal difference.

Viet Nam finished third with a goal difference from Myanmar. —GNLM ■

Wolves sign South Korea's Hwang Hee-chan on permanent deal

WOLVES have exercised their option to buy South Korea forward Hwang Hee-chan on a permanent deal when his loan from RB Leipzig expires at the end of this season.

Hwang has scored four goals in 14 Premier League appearances since arriving at Molineux in August.

The 26-year-old, who netted on his Wolves debut against Watford, will sign a deal keeping him at the club until 2026.

"The winger is currently five months into a season-long loan at Molineux, but having agreed personal terms before his arrival last summer, Wolves have now activated a clause to make his move from RB Leipzig permanent later this year (on 1 July), on a deal until 2026," the club said in a statement on Wednesday.

Wolves have signed South Korea international Hwang Hee-chan on a permanent deal. **PHOTO: GLYN KIRK /AFP/FILE**

Wolves' technical director Scott Sellars said: "With every new signing you have to expect a period of settling in and adapting to their new environment but straight away, Hee-chan has shown exactly what we expected of him as a player, but he's also settled in quickly and made an impact.— 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.

Olympic giants China face tough medal fight at home Games

China's Eileen Gu could be one of the faces of the Olympics. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

CHINA topped the medals table at its 2008 Summer Olympics but expectations are much lower for next month's Beijing Games as the country attempts to build a winter sports industry nearly from scratch. China did not appear at a Winter Olympics until 1980 at Lake Placid and has hardly sparkled since, winning one gold medal — in short track speed skating — at the last Games, in South Korea's Pyeongchang, in 2018. Cold weather sports have not historically been popular in the country, where the prohibitive cost and relative lack of infrastructure had kept the pool of athletes small. But a huge government-led push to promote snow and ice activities and a soaring middle class looks set to yield some results when the Games begin on 4 February, and home athletes always tend to overperform at their own Olympics. With foreign coaches drafted in to boost expertise, forecasters Gracenote expect China to win six golds at Beijing 2022 and enjoy its "best-ever Winter Olympics".—AFP ■