

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Efforts must be made for the development of individual breeders and businesses along chains of meat production, says Senior General



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends and addresses the opening event of the Livestock Show and Contest in Pobbathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw on 28 January 2022.

IF modern manufacturing technologies are applied in breeding pedigree farming cattle, it is sure to become a country with food sufficiency and socio-economic development in line with the policy of the government, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of the Livestock Show and Contest 2022 jointly organized by the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and the Myanmar Livestock Federation at Setsetyo Ground near Koeywa Thabyegon Village in Pobbathiri Township of Nay

Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday morning as a gesture of hailing the Diamond Jubilee Union Day. The Senior General, the Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council cut the ribbon to open the show and contest.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that the majority of the population is primarily engaged in agriculture but some in the livestock breeding separately. Myanmar has the necessary natural resources to operate not only the agricultural tasks but the livestock breeding tasks. If mod-

ern manufacturing technologies are applied in breeding pedigree farming cattle, it is sure to become a country with food sufficiency and socio-economic development in line with the policy of the government.

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
Myeik Archipelago sees upturn with weekly tour plans
PAGE-2

NATIONAL
Second-day meeting of 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting, related meetings held
PAGE-4

NATIONAL
Lahu holds its new year festival, handwashing ceremony in January
PAGE-7



LOCAL BUSINESS
Japanese demand pushes for sandalwood cultivation in Yesagyo Tsp
PAGE-10

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

Motto of 75th Anniversary Union Day 2022

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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Working Committee to Address the Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on the Country's Economy Press Release (1/2022) 28 January 2022

1. According to the meeting (1/2022) of the Working Committee to Address the Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) to provide financial assistance to the movie, music, theatrical industry, the press and media industry, loans are approved from the COVID-19 Fund for 116 companies/enterprises described in the attached file among companies/enterprises that applied for loans.
2. The loan application forms will be continuously scrutinized and permitted firms will also be examined in line with the banking procedures and loans will not be granted if they are prosecuted by any banks.

Working Committee to Address the Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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

Myeik Archipelago sees upturn with weekly tour plans



The travellers are mostly from Yangon, Mandalay and Taninthayi regions.

ALL the stakeholders in the tourism industry are endeavouring to revive tourism in Myeik Archipelago, Taninthayi Region and the tour agencies are now offering islands tours every week after an abrupt fall in the past two years amid travel restrictions triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Myeik Archipelago did not receive any travellers nearly past two years, facing a col-

lapse in tourism. This year, a small number of residents enter the region, tour operators said.

"The visitors usually go on islands tours. Myeik Archipelago sees the upturn at present but it is now crowded yet due to the collapse of tourism.

"We are providing quality services to our customers. We are looking forward to tourism recovery," said a tour guide.

There are islands tours during weekends and holidays.

"The travellers are mostly from Yangon, Mandalay and Taninthayi regions.

We offer tour services to Smart Island, Bailey Island, Kyalleik Island and Padan Island, including the K150,000-day trip package and K250,000-night trip package.

The transport sector is of paramount importance to restart for tourism recovery in Myeik Archipelago.

The resumption of flights and express bus services to Dawei and Myeik cities are required to attract more visitors," said U Moe Zaw from the Moe Travel & Tour. — Myint Oo (Myeik)/GNLM



There are islands tours during weekends and holidays. **PHOTOS : MYINT OO (MYEIK)**

Need to constantly study

UNIVERSITY education is not to do rote learning but studies and thinking. Interactive discussions between students and faculty members can create uplift of critical thinking of 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.)

Efforts must be made for the development of individual breeders and businesses along chains of meat production, says Senior General

FROM PAGE-1

Chicken, pork, goat, beef and fish are the main eatable meals in Myanmar. According to the animal census in 2019, there were 8.8 million domestic cows, more than 50,000 gayals(mithuns) and over 1.6 million buffalos, totalling over 10.6 million. A similar census was enumerated in 2021, showing that there were 3.7 million pigs, 30.8 million broilers, 28.5 million layers, 38.55 million domestic chickens and 2.22 million sheep and goats in the country.

The government allowed the legal export of cattle to foreign markets as of 9 October 2017. In this regard, the cattle flow out to China through the



The Senior General views the display of cows in the contest.



The Senior General looks into the display of exhibitions.

Muse route. Moreover, the cattle are sold out to Bangladesh and Thailand both legally and illegally. The government is striving for extending the agreements for trading and freedom of animal disease in order to export the cattle to regional and international

markets. Illegal exportation brings loss to the State.

In Myanmar, the Senior General noted that an individual person consumes 9.5 visses of chicken, three visses of pork, 1.7 visses of beef and 0.24 viss of goat per year. According to the studies, individuals need

to consume five to 10 ticals of meat or fish on a daily basis. Efforts must be made for the development of individual breeders and businesses along chains of meat production. The farmers engaging in both agriculture and livestock breeding need to apply modern breeding

techniques for having benefits.

Holding this show and contest in line with the health guidelines of COVID-19 for 2022 is a milestone for Myanmar in its efforts to develop the livestock breeding sector. If Myanmar and neighbouring countries have a development

of economy, breeders' income will increase as well as meat and dairy product consumption rate will be higher. Production of quality and safe meat, milk and egg, nutritious consumption at home and exportation will help the Myanmar people have a prosperous life in the future.

The Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation explained the holding of the exhibition.

The Senior General viewed the display of cows, buffalos, sheep and goats in the contest, booths of companies, feed-stuffs, medicines, machinery and value-added products related to the livestock breeding sector and asked for further information.

The show and contest comprising 145 booths for public observation will take place till 30 January. —MNA

Second-day meeting of 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting, related meetings held

THE second-day meeting of the 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting (2nd ADGMIN) and related meetings were held yesterday and co-chaired by Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San, Deputy Minister for Industry and Information Technology of China Mr Zhang Yunming and Minister for Communications of India Mr Devusinh Chauhan.

At the discussion with China, Digital Ministers from ASEAN countries and the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN exchanged views on the latest developments in the digital economy and policy in the ASEAN region, potential areas for ASEAN-China digital economic cooperation in 2022, projects successfully implemented in 2021 and projects to be implemented under the ASEAN-China Digital Work Plan in 2022 and approved



The second-day meeting of the second ADGMIN and related meetings in progress virtually.

the Action Plan for Implementing the ASEAN-China Partnership on Digital Economy (2021-2025) and ASEAN-China Digital Work Plan 2022.

At the discussion with India, ASEAN Digital Ministers and the ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General exchanged views on projects successfully implement-

ed in 2021 and further projects to be implemented under the ASEAN-India Digital Work Plan and approved the ASEAN-India Digital Work Plan 2022.

Afterwards, the ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting continued. The third ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting will be chaired by the Philippines in December 2022. The meeting concluded after Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San gave concluding remarks.

In the afternoon, a press release regarding the 2nd Digital Ministers' Meeting was held. The Union minister addressed the ceremony and the permanent secretary clarified the Joint Media Statement issued during the meeting. The team led by the Union minister afterwards responded to the questions raised by local media outlets. Then, the ASEAN ICT Awards 2021 ceremony was held virtually. A total of 95 teams competed in the contest and 18 teams who won first, second and third places were awarded online. — MNA

MNHRC Vice-Chairman inspects Kintha Labour Camps, Nay Pyi Taw Prison

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Dr Nanda Hmun and members Daw Nu Nu Yin and U Kyaw Myint inspected Kintha Labour Camps I, II and Nay Pyi Taw Prison on 26 and 28 January.

Under provisions of the Commission Law, the MNHRC Vice-Chairman met prisoners in groups to ensure that a prisoner has a minimum opportunity to live, eat and drink and whether

health care is provided and prison supplies are complete.

He also asked if they have access to the equipment they deserve and if they have been abused. The MNHRC Vice-Chairman also monitored the implementation of previous review recommendations.

During the visit, they also checked the conditions of the cells for prisoners, the prisoners' hospital, concrete cells, library, kitchen, foodstuffs warehouse,

water purifier, drinking water access and ponds, and quarantine wards.

The MNHRC Vice-Chairman and members also inspected the cleanliness of the inside and outside toilets and ongoing prevention processes of the COVID-19 disease.

The inspection and recommendations will be sent to relevant authorities for necessary action during the inspection team's visit. — MNA



The MNHRC inspection tour in Nay Pyi Taw Prison.

Motto of 75th Anniversary Union Day 2022

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

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CBM launches Learning and Training Centre

THE Central Bank of Myanmar inaugurated its Learning and Training Centre in Yangon yesterday.

The opening ceremony was attended by CBM Governor U Than Nyein, Deputy Governor Daw Than Than Swe, Yangon Region Economic Affairs Minister U Aung Than Oo and other relevant officials of the banking sector and the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

First, CBM Deputy Governor Daw Than Than Swe cut the ribbon to open the building together with other officials and the CBM Governor pressed the button to launch the centre.

Then, the attendees to the event viewed round the Learning and Training Centre.



The launching ceremony of the CBM Learning and Training Centre is underway.

Afterwards, the CBM Governor delivered an opening speech and the CBM Deputy Governor explained the establishment of the centre.

The centre was developed under the Myanmar Financial Sector Development Project of the World Bank implemented between 27 June 2017 and 31 De-

cember 2022. It aims to conduct local/foreign courses to improve the capacity of CBM staff officers, seminars and workshops and other kinds of training to be conduct-

ed by the banking experts with international-standard learning equipment for staff officers/employees to be more skilful in their works and subjects. — MNA

Public urged to complain if diesel not distributed with fixed prices

A joint venture between the Ministry of Commerce and the Myanmar Petroleum Importers and Distributors Association will sell 12.54 million gallons of diesel at a special price of US\$34 million directly from the central bank at a reference exchange rate of US\$34 million.

Starting from 11 January, 11 companies have been distributing the gas at a total of 115 petrol stations in various regions and states.

The public will be able to buy diesel at filling stations at special prices at the reference prices issued by the Petroleum Products Supervision and Inspection Department.

The daily price of diesel is available at the Myanmar Petroleum Importers

and Distributors Association website www.mpta.org.mm.

If the public is not able to buy diesel at the specified prices at the designated filling stations in each region and state, people can contact 09-664075683, 09-664596327, 09-687635943 and 09-676320826 as the Work Committee on Ensuring the Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods will be responsible for speeding up the flow of trade and goods.

People can also contact 01-250270 to reach the Customer Affairs Department and the public are urged to contact the Myanmar Petroleum Importers and Distributors Association at 09-421006794. —MNA

237 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 28 January, total figure rises to 534,908

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 534,908 after 237 new cases were reported on 28 January 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 512,900 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,310 without casualties for five consecutive days. — MNA

Notification of COVID Vaccination Fund Management Subcommittee

FROM 17-1-2022 to 28-1-2022, local/foreign donors contributed K0.330 million to the COVID-19 Vaccination Fund Myanmar currency account OA 013733 and foreign currency account EDC 600012 opened at the Myanma Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw). The status of the fund account as of 28-1-2022 is as follows: -

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund OA-013733 List

	Kyat
Account opening balance on 14-1-2022	162,555,880,142.53
Received amount of money from (+) 17-1-2022 to 28-1-2022	330,000.00
Closed balance on 28-1-2022	162,556,210,142.53

COVID-19 Vaccination Fund EDC 600012 List

	USD
Account opening balance on 14-1-2022	26,137,349.53
Received amount of money from (+) 17-1-2022 to 28-1-2022	-
(-) The last payment to buy one million doses of Sputnik Light vaccine from Russia	3,870,000.00
Closed balance on 28-1-2022	22,267,349.53

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

1. The Ministry of Health is continuously conducting "COVID-19 Molecular Disease Surveillance", and releasing information on the detection of SARS CoV-2 Omicron variant from those who return by relief flights in a timely manner.
2. The laboratory samples of COVID-19 virus of the returnees,

- other samples of local clusters and suspected patients were sent to the National Health Laboratory on 28-1-2022 and the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant was found in 72 laboratory samples out of 86.
3. Among 72 cases were 48 residents from Tamu and 20 from Kalay, while three were sec-

- ondary contacts of the people from these regions and one suspected COVID-19 patient. The patients are isolated and provided with medical treatment and those who have close contact with them now undergo strict quarantine and lab tests.
4. Myanmar has so far reported a total of 283 SARS-CoV-2 Omi-

- cron variant cases.
5. Therefore, it is announced that the ministry is stepping up the COVID-19 disease monitoring and control measures plus disease prevention, control and treatment activities.

Ministry of Health

Authorities seize illegal food, cosmetics, vehicles, timber worth K 1.348 billion

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, authorities seized illegal foodstuffs, timber, consumer goods, a variety of vehicles and minerals worth K1,348,123,169 in Rakhine State, Taninthayi Region, Shan State and Sagaing Region on 26 and 27 January.

At MIP Container Inspection Station on 26 January, 7,200 ceramic cups (estimated value of K7,410,420) were found to be inconsistent with the import declaration, and 1,500 cartons of stick welding (estimated value of K60,000,000) which were not mentioned in the import declaration, and a total value (estimated value of K67,410,420) were seized and action is taken under the Customs Law.

Combined inspection teams led by the Forest Department in Rakhine State conducted inspections in Kyaukpyu and An townships and confiscated about 71.3707 tonnes of Thinbone timber (estimated value of K4,995,949) and action is taken under the Forest Law.

According to the report, the investigation was carried out by a combined team led by the Criminal Investigation



Department in Taninthayi Region and 325 bags of lead were seized in Sinmin Freight Forwarding Garage on Ayeyekhaung Road (estimated value of K341,250,000), and action is being taken in line with Myan-

mar Mining Law. On the same day, the Taninthayi Region Illegal Trade Eradication Special Force inspected warehouses along the bank of Pachan River and areas where illegal goods can be stored in Shwehinta

confiscated from eight vehicles transferred from the a team from Kyone police outpost in Pindaya Township under the management of the Illegal Trade Eradication Special Force, and action is being taken under the Customs Law.

Similarly, 120 bags of flour (estimated value of K3,600,000) and 480 bags of soil believed to have consisted of gold were seized in Sagaing Township and action is being taken in line with the Export/Import



ward in Kawthoung and arrested illegal food (estimated value of K83,266,300) under the Customs Law.

On 27 January, illegal goods and food (estimated value of K 847,600,500) were

Law.

Therefore, there was a total of 35 cases (estimated value of K1,348,123,169) on 26 and 27 January, the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee stated.—MNA

Police seize ICE (crystal methamphetamine) worth K560 mln in Tachilek

A combined team consisting of the Anti-Drug Police seized ICE (crystal methamphetamine) worth over K560 million along with arms and ammunition on 25 January in Tachilek, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

A Toyota Crown carrying illegal drugs was asked to stop for inspection by the police on its way from the Haunglek Industrial Zone to the detour in Tachilek Township at around 2 pm on 25 January. The driver, however, parked the car on the side of the road and fled the scene. The police searched the vehicle and seized 90

kilogrammes of ICE worth K560 million from the vehicle.

After conducting the investigation, the police searched the house of Maw Shay, the owner of illegal drugs, and arrested him and Ma Nar Law Kham who is the partner in trading ICE, along with a Toyota Crown car.

According to the statement of Ma Nar Law Kham, the police searched the rubber plantation owned by Maw Shay at around 5:30 pm in Mabo (1) village in Tachilek, found and seized 1,800 stimulant tablets, parts of .22 gun, three 44mm grenades, eight grenades, 652 rounds of ammunition and five rifle strings.

It is reported that action is taken against them under the law and the investigation is underway to identify and arrest other related suspects.—MNA



Two arrestees are seen along with seized ICE, firearms, saloons and related items.

Police seize heroin in Mohnyin, Phaungbyin townships



An arrestee is seen along with seized heroin motorbike.

THE combined team consisting of Kachin State police seized 0.88 kilo of heroin in a motorcycle driven by Aung Soe Naing (aka) Athay Lay near Kyakyikwin Village of Mohnyin Township on 27 January.

Similarly, the Sagaing Region police force confiscated 0.396 kilogramme of heroin in a motorcycle driven by Myint Lwin (aka) Myint Ko on the Pinlebu-Phaungbyin road of Phaungbyin Township on the same morning.

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

Lahu holds its new year festival, handwashing ceremony in January

MYANMAR is a home to various ethnic nationalities, and each has its own culture, religion and customs.

Lahu Ethnic Nationality

Originated from the Tibetan plateau of China, Lahu people are currently residing in China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam, with most of the population, nearly 200,000 people, living in eastern and northern Shan State.

The Lahu live mostly in the highlands and are engaged in slash-and-burn agriculture and farming, hunting and blacksmithing.

Christianity is the most widely practised religion, followed by Buddhism and traditional religions.

Gourd and New Year Festival

The gourd is the symbol of the Lahu people. There are three main ethnic groups in the



The Lahu New Year Festival in action.

Lahu: Red Lahu, Black Lahu and Yellow Lahu, and other Lahu sub-tribes. Black Lahu language is the most spoken language among the Lahu ethnics.

Traditional festivals

Among the prominent traditional festivals, the New Year festival and New Year Feast are the most well-known ones. De-

Monghe village-tract, in Tachilek Township in early January.

New Year Feast (traditional ceremony of eating the first crop)

New Year Feast Day is annually celebrated in November and December. The first crops grown are shared and donated, and it is a time of thanksgiving for God and the elderly.

Handwashing ceremony

Although handwashing ceremonies are not usually considered a festival, it is always performed at every traditional celebration. The handwashing ceremony is a symbol of cleansing and purification, and the young and old children perform a noble and loving tradition of apol-



One of the Lahu traditional festivals.



The Lahu Handwashing Ceremony.

spite the divided ethnic groups, all tribes have the same festivals. The New Year is celebrated at the beginning of the New Year in early January, and the Lahu people celebrate the New Year when the cherry blossoms and peach flowers are found, as instructed by the forefathers. The 2022 Lahu New Year Festival was held in Panku village, Lower

ogizing to the elders and parents in the village, respecting and preserving the traditions. The young people wash the hands of the elderly and ask for forgiveness for the sin they have committed. It is basically a ceremony performed by young people as a testament to the preservation of traditions and customs. — Yar Sae (IPRD)/GNLM

Explosive remnant of war found in Mohnyin Township

AN explosive remnant of war was found in a bridge construction site of Belu Town in Mohnyin Township of Mohnyin District in Kachin State on 27 January.

The construction site in charge U Ye Win Aung reported to officials that they found a bomb when they dug the ground at the place of the old bridge at the exit of Pinhe village from Belu town.

The bridge construction team found the bomb – 3.5 feet in length and 3 feet in girth – at the bridge construction site on the road linking Belu town and Pinhe village.

Belu town's village administrator and Mohnyin police officers inspected the munition and arranged to transfer it to another place. — Zwe Thura Aung (IPRD)/GNLM



The bridge construction team found the bomb – 3.5 feet in length and 3 feet in girth – at the bridge construction site on the road linking Belu town and Pinhe village.

Broaden the horizon of youths through Youth and Literature Festival

THE Youth and Literature Festival will be launched at the Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw from 29 to 31 January 2022, aimed at developing the human resources of youths.

Indeed, the development of human resources for the youths cannot be endowed with learning the school education alone. Youths must have a wider scope of knowledge. Hence, they have to read various genres of literature. Only when they have to read will their critical thinking be higher to bring honour to the State and the nationality.

The Youth and Literature Festival also aims to initiate the reading habit of the youths for building the nation through good ideology and attitude and for forging the nationalistic spirit.

Due to immaturity and lesser experiences, youths may be weakly incapable of criticizing and analyzing the natural and universal truths like cause and effect, right and wrong, and good and bad. They should have extremely critical thinking in a correct manner. They have to make decisions based on farsightedness. Only when they read good literature will they be mature based on the developed ideologies.

Nowadays, the global countries are facing the consequences of booming the advanced technologies in a short time. The quick improvement of technologies shapes the world as a village in a globalization process. The advancement of technologies is based on the development of human resources. The country where there are a large number of readers will have development.

The government is striving for the development of the youth sector with initiative for having physical and mental qualifications. Those youths are a reserve force for the State to serve the responsibilities of the nation so as to serve the interests of the country and the nationals. If they have a wider scope of knowledge through reading, they will have the capability to shape themselves to become good and able citizens as well as to build the nation better through their experiences.

Reading can change the mindsets of readers. If so, the youths who read a lot can improve their mindsets leading to the best path to their visions. All the ages of youths have to choose fiction and non-fiction literature to improve their mental power. Hence, they should march to the Youth and Literature Festival not to miss the chance to choose the best genres of literature.



The land that fertilizes to bloom the racial flowers

By Sweetie Rosy



University for the Development of National Races, Sagaing (UDNR)

who pass the matriculation examination from these Youth Training Schools are sent to the two Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree colleges to continue their studies of higher education and engineering subjects. At the University for Development of National Races, teacher training courses are provided fee-free. These two Degree Colleges have produced many B.A, B.Sc degree holders and AGTI certificate holders. Those who are qualified to attend Master Degree courses and B.E courses are sent to respective universities of the Ministry of Education as well as to the Ministry of Science and Technology in order to carry on their further studies. The graduated nationalities youth are assigned as service personnel at the different ministries and they

are serving for the good of their respective regions and the national people to the best of their abilities with the knowledge they have learned.

Likewise, the University for Development of National Races has produced many B.Ed. degree holders and many educational certificate holders. The graduates are assigned as the senior assistant teachers at the Basic Education Schools in every part of the country. Those teachers are now carrying out the duties of educating nationalities youth and they are serving as useful tools in building the nation.

With the intention of producing good civil service personnel for the Ministry, the Central Training School was set up at the Dagon Myothit (North) township in Yan-

gon Region. There, the staff of the two departments of the Ministry of Border Affairs receive the upskilling training courses so that they can become reliable skilful staff in their respective workplaces. The training courses conducted at the Central Training School include the courses concerning the executive officers, administrative staff, clerks, store-keepers, finance regulation, leadership skills, advanced engineering, urban planning, other vocational domestic skills and technical skills. The trainees who have completed these courses are performing more effective jobs in the implementation tasks of the Ministry.

Moreover, the Department of Education and Training has established 9 Technical Schools for Development of Nationalities

- (d) Oyster Shell and Gem Painting Course
- (e) Basic Hand-loom Course
- (f) Traditional Hand Weaving Course
- (g) Domestic Handiwork Course (bamboo & cane)

Besides, the motorized sewing machine courses are conducted for those racial women who have completed basic vocational training courses and advanced domestic science courses. The courses are conducted at the Central Training School in Yangon and the experienced trainers take charge of the training courses. The trainees who completed the motorized sewing machine courses are assigned as skilful employees at the garment factories. Another training courses that are conducted at the Central Training School are Hotel Management Training Courses. The outstanding trainees from those courses are being arranged to get jobs not only in locals but also in the foreign countries.

In conclusion, the Department of Education and Training has been carrying out the tasks of human resource development of the national races with might and main and at the same time, the visions and missions of the Ministry are being fulfilled successfully. Thus, it is inferred that our Department of Education and Training is “the land that fertilizes to bloom the racial flowers”.

Reference

The handbook of the Department of Education and Training



Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon)



Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Sagaing)



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 28 January 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 29 January, 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kachin State and isolated in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Mandalay Region and Shan, Chin 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: Slight decrease of night temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Shan, Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 January, 2022: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 January, 2022: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 January, 2022: Generally fair weather.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon Region and partly cloudy in Mandalay Region.

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09 454 237 515

Japanese demand pushes for sandalwood cultivation in Yesagyo Tsp



Sandalwood is planted nine feet apart. Ten-year sandalwood plants can be sold. The prices of quality sandalwood reached up to K200,000-K300,000 per viss.

NUMBER of sandalwood farms in Yesagyo Township, Pakokku District grew on the back of strong demand by Japan, said U Mya Thin, a sandalwood farm owner executing 25 acres.

The villages on the bank of Ayeyawady River and Chindwin River in Yesagyo Township are relying on agriculture. The unfavourable weather condition forces the farmers to turn to perennial crops such as sandalwood and Thanaka trees so the number of sesame, peanut and pigeon pea acreage has decreased, he was quoted as saying.

In addition to Thanaka trees, drumstick trees and san-

dalwood are primarily cultivated on account of steady demand by Japan. A seedling of sandalwood is worth K500-K3,500 depending on age. Sandalwood withstands heat in summer by intercropping with pigeon pea, U Mya Thin elaborated.

Sandalwood is planted nine feet apart. Ten year sandalwood plants can be sold. The prices of quality sandalwood reached up to K200,000-K300,000 per viss. Some brokers make an outright purchase of the trees, he added.

The residents in Yesagyo Township are earning a great income from sandalwood manageable and commercial cultivation. — KPD/GNLM

CBM sells US\$150 million to fuel oil sector

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$150 million to the fuel oil sector, according to the Consumer Affairs Department.

The CBM sold \$140.90 million countless times to the fuel oil imported companies at the references rate of a minimum of K1,753 and a maximum of K1,820 between 15 September 2021 to 19 January 2022.

Of them, more than 151 million litres of fuel oil worth \$103.90 million are being distributed to the market.

Of over 151 litres of fuel oil, more than 144 million litres have been distributed so far and the remaining only over 71 litres are left to sell to the market, said an official from the

Consumer Affairs Department.

Besides, the CBM sold \$37 million to the fuel oil imported companies at the reference rate of K1,781 from 12 January to 19 January. But all the fuel oil isn't distributed yet. The volumes of fuel oil, equivalent to \$37 million have remained for sale. If the consumers find the shops that are not being sold at the fixed price, they are urged to report to the Working Committee on Ensuring the Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, Consumer Affairs Department and Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association.

At present, the domestic oil price is positively related to the global market and the dollar exchange rate. The soaring

demand drives up the oil prices rally higher. A dollar is worth around K2,000 in the domestic foreign exchange market.

On 28 January, the fuel prices were K1,610 per litre of diesel, K1,620 per litre of premium diesel, K1,590 per litre of petrol (RON 92) and K1,650 per litre of petrol (RON 95), according to figures released by the Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association (MPTA).

The price hike is attributed to the devaluation of Kyat in the foreign market. Currently, the US dollar exchange rate still reached a record high in Myanmar of around K2,000 per dollar.

In early February 2021, the exchange rate on the US



One of the petrol stations in Yangon.

dollar hit around K1,330 per dollar. The fuel oil was pegged at around K590 per litre for Octane 92, K610 for Octane 95, K590 for diesel and K605 for premium diesel in early Feb-

ruary 2021 in the domestic retail market. Myanmar imports around six million tonnes of fuel oil per year, according to the Ministry of Commerce. — NN/GNLM

Beans and pulses flooding Monywa market

THE high inflow of beans and pulses into Monywa Commodity Warehouse are seen in Monywa city, Sagaing Region, said U Tin Ko Ko, public relations officer of Monywa Commodity Warehouse.

"Approximately 2,000 bags of green gram and 7,000 bags of pigeon pea are daily supplied to the Monywa market. Green gram from Pale, Yaw, Kalay and Budalin areas are entering the market. The prices stand at K37,000-K44,500 per basket for green gram and K42,300-K44,500 for pigeon pea," he was quoted as saying.

Those pigeon pea is again delivered to the Yangon market, while Mandalay traders



Approximately 2,000 bags of green gram and 7,000 bags of pigeon pea are daily supplied to the Monywa market. Green gram from Pale, Yaw, Kalay and Budalin areas are entering the market.

demand green gram for export to China.

At present, the green gram price slides and the price of

pigeon pea is relatively low as well.

Over 2,000 bags of sesame seeds supplied to the Monywa market are conveyed to China. The prices of sesame seeds moved in the range of K42,000 and K70,000 per basket depending on different varieties, U Tin Ko Ko continued.

The corn price is up by K2,000 per basket compared to the previous weeks. They are sent to the Mandalay market and the feed processing plants. The traders are engaged in the electronic trading platform at the moment, he stated.

In early February, the fresh supply of pulses and beans to the Monywa market will increase, he added. — Lu Lay/GNLM

Indian capital ends weekend curfew as COVID-19 cases drop

INDIA'S Delhi government decided on Thursday to end the weekend curfew and odd-even curbs for markets in the national capital region, local media reported.

The authorities have also decided to open restaurants, bars and cinema halls with 50 per cent capacity.

The night curfew, however, will remain in force.

The decision was made dur-

ing a meeting between the Delhi government and Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal.

"The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) also decided to cap the number of people who can attend wedding festivals in the national capital to 200," the report said.

The decision has been taken in view of the decline in COVID-19 cases in the capital.

Schools will, however, remain shut for now, the report said.

The federal health ministry said on Thursday morning that Delhi had recorded 7,498 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours. Meanwhile, Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain said the COVID-19 situation in Delhi is under control and the city is expected to report less than 5,000 cases in the next 24 hours.—Xinhua ■



India's Delhi government decided on Thursday to end the weekend curfew and odd-even curbs for markets in the national capital region, local media reported. PHOTO: AFP

Youth more likely to feel depressed amid pandemic: poll



People stand in line for a Covid-19 test at a mobile testing site in Times Square in New York. PHOTO: AFP

US Surgeon-General Vivek Murthy called for swift action to respond to a growing mental health crisis among youth that has worsened due to stressors related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Mental health challenges in children, adolescents, and young adults are real, and they are widespread. But most importantly, they are treatable, and often preventable," said Murthy.

Young people around the

world are more likely than older people to feel depressed and anxious, said a recent global survey jointly conducted by The United Nations Children's Fund and the polling firm Gallup.

About 36 per cent of young people said they "often" felt nervous, worried or anxious, compared to 30 per cent of older people; youth were also more likely to feel depressed or have little interest in doing things, said the survey over 22,000 people from

21 countries between January and June 2021.

US Surgeon-General Vivek Murthy has already noticed the worrisome trend. In an advisory last month, Murthy called for swift action to respond to a growing mental health crisis among youth that has worsened due to stressors related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It would be a tragedy if we beat back one public health crisis only to allow another to grow in its place," said Murthy. "Mental health challenges in children, adolescents, and young adults are real, and they are widespread. But most importantly, they are treatable, and often preventable."

Concerns about youth mental health have only increased during the pandemic, as months of social isolation, school closures and other pandemic-related difficulties are believed to have fuelled increased levels of anxiety and depression, added the surgeon in his advisory. —Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Beijing upgrades measures to stem latest COVID-19 resurgence

To curb the spread of COVID-19, Beijing announced at a Thursday press conference that it would upgrade the prevention and control measures in its Fengtai District.

Li Ang, deputy director of the Beijing Municipal Health Commission, said that Beijing had classified one new area in the district as medium-risk for COVID-19, which brought the number of medium-risk areas in the city to seven. Beijing also has one high-risk area.

On the basis of existing prevention and control measures in affected areas of Fengtai, the district government has rolled out a series of new measures including restrictions on leaving affected areas, daily nucleic acid testing, and encouraging telecommuting.

The Chinese capital reported four new locally transmitted confirmed COVID-19 cases and one asymptomatic case from 4 pm Wednesday to 4 pm Thursday.—Xinhua ■

New Mexico governor signs up as substitute teacher amid Covid shortage

THE governor of New Mexico started work Wednesday as a substitute teacher, replacing one of the thousands of educators across the United States who have been forced off work by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Michelle Lujan Grisham — a lawyer by training — swapped the governor's mansion for the classroom as part of the "Supporting Teachers and Families" initiative designed to plug holes in staffing in schools and child care across the state.

"Our schools are a critical source of stability for our children, we know they learn best in the classroom and thrive by being among their peers," the governor said in a statement announcing the program.—AFP ■

Hong Kong shortens on-arrival quarantine from three weeks to two

HONG Kong on Thursday shortened the mandatory quarantine for international travellers from three weeks to two, even as the city struggles to contain virus outbreaks involving Omicron and Delta variants.

Like mainland China, Hong Kong is one of the few places left in the world still pursuing a "zero-Covid" strategy that has largely kept the virus at bay but left the finance hub internation-

ally isolated.

The emergence of the highly transmissible Omicron variant saw the city increase its travel restrictions in December — slamming borders shut to arrivals from eight countries and banning transit passengers from more than 150 destinations.

But Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam on Thursday said beginning 5 February, the three-week mandatory quarantine period for

all arrivals — some of the longest isolation measures in the world — will be reduced to two weeks.

"All arrivals to Hong Kong will undergo 14 days mandatory quarantine in designated hotels and seven days of self-monitoring at home," she said.

Arrivals will be able to leave their homes during the final days but are required to take a Covid test at least twice, she added.—AFP ■



Children are escorted from school in Hong Kong on 11 January 2022, as the city announced the suspension of face-to-face learning at all kindergarten and primary schools until after the Lunar New Year. PHOTO: PETER PARKS /AFP

NEWS
IN BRIEF

US economy grew 5.7% in 2021, but Omicron hit looms

THE world's largest economy staged a solid recovery last year as it grew at the fastest pace since 1984, but damage from the Omicron variant of Covid-19 is imminent.

Surging prices continue to pose a challenge, as inflation picked up speed in the final three months of the pandemic's second year, according to official data released Thursday.

That threatens to dampen the consumer demand that has underpinned the recovery, while shortages and supply chain snarls continue to create headaches for businesses, and for President Joe Biden's efforts to return the country to normal.

After the downturn in 2020, US GDP expanded by 5.7 per cent last year, the Commerce Department said in its latest quarterly report. In the October-November period when Omicron was spreading, GDP grew 6.9 per cent, the data showed. While that topped expectations, economists warn the figure was inflated by businesses' attempts to rebuild depleted inventories.—AFP ■

French unemployment hits near-decade low in 2021

THE number of unemployed people in France fell to its lowest in almost ten years in late 2021, official data showed Wednesday, adding to a picture of a strong coronavirus rebound for the eurozone's second-largest economy.

At 3.3 million on average in October-December, unemployment was at its lowest level since the summer of 2012, according to labour ministry figures. A 12.6 per cent fall compared with the same period in 2020 more than made up for the joblessness surge during the first year of the global Covid-19 pandemic. "It seems like business chiefs are happy to hire whatever happens, and don't give the impression of unease you'd usually have on the way out of a recession or a crisis," commented Philippe Waechter, chief economist at Ostrum Asset Management.—AFP ■

Pandemic unlikely to have "scarring" effects on Japan economy: IMF

THE International Monetary Fund said Thursday the coronavirus pandemic is unlikely to have "significant scarring effects" on Japan due to substantial fiscal and monetary support, but the world's third-largest economy needs to come up with post-pandemic policies to ensure sustainable growth as its population shrinks.

The IMF also said in an assessment of Japan's economic developments and policies that there is still "room" to raise revenues such as through consumption tax rate hikes, with the country's tax revenues as a percentage of gross domestic product relatively low among the Group of Seven industrialized nations.

The Washington-based institution holds regular consultations with member countries, usually annually. The pandemic, however, has disrupted the schedule, making the latest report on Japan the first since February 2020.



People wearing face masks walk in Osaka's Shinsekai area on 21 January 2022, amid the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: KYODO

In its preliminary findings following the consultations, the IMF estimated that Japan's growth will accelerate to 3.3 per

cent in 2022 following a 1.6 per cent rise in 2021, on the back of continued strong fiscal support, a high COVID-19 vaccination rate

and the easing of pandemic-related global supply constraints. The economy suffered a 4.5 percent contraction in 2020. — Kyodo ■

Philippines to re-open to vaccinated foreign tourists



Fully vaccinated tourists from countries on the list will need to test negative for Covid-19 shortly before flying to the Philippines. Tourists are seen at a resort in Batangas Province, the Philippines on 18 November 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA/ROUELLE UMALI

THE Philippines will re-open to fully vaccinated tourists from most countries on 10 February and lift quarantine requirements, officials said Friday, nearly two years after closing its borders to contain the coronavirus.

Tourism operators across the archipelago nation famed for its beaches and dive spots have been devastated by a plunge in international visitors and restrictions on domestic travel.

Their misery was worsened by a super typhoon that smashed into the country in December,

wiping out resorts, restaurants and bars in popular tourist destinations.

"The tourism industry can now recover and it can contribute big to jobs, livelihoods and the country's economic growth," presidential spokesman Karlo Nograles told a briefing.

A previous plan to welcome back tourists from 1 December was suspended after the emergence of the hyper-contagious Omicron variant that has since ripped through the Philippines.—AFP ■

German industry seeks ladder out of supply chain woes

A new warehouse with a freshly unboxed smell is the consequence of the coronavirus pandemic for the German ladder, stool and scaffold-maker Munk.

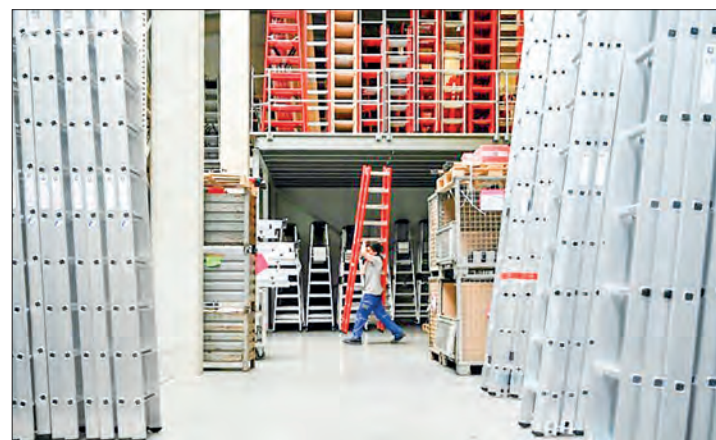
In the southern town of Guenzburg on the banks of the Danube, the group has invested 10 million euros (\$11.3 million) into the complex to stockpile enough raw materials and components to keep production running amid serious disruption to supply.

"I have not experienced anything like it in my 40 years," CEO Ferdinand Munk said of the shortages that hampered

the country's comeback from the economic impact of the pandemic over the past year.

On Friday, the federal statistics agency Destatis will publish German growth figures for the fourth quarter, with early signs indicating Europe's largest economy shrank by "between 0.5 and one per cent," curtailed by supply chain woes.

The last three months of the year were marked by the same bottlenecks and coronavirus restrictions which saw Germany limp to 2.7 per cent growth in 2021, according to Destatis.—AFP ■



Munk sees "much shorter supply chains" are the way ahead for firms in Europe's largest economy. PHOTO: AFP

Ministry of Transport and Communications
Myanma Port Authority

Invitation to Open Tender for Dredging and Waterway Improvement of Dawei River

1. The Myanma Port Authority (MPA) is planning to award the contract for **dredging** across the waterway of the Dawei River(Tavoy River) in Tanintharyi and for **sand export**, in order to improve the waterway and navigation channel as the sedimentation causes shallow water-depth and disrupts port operation. MPA, in this regard, would like to invite both local and international companies to participate in an Open Tender.

2. Unlike a commercial dredging, such dredging needs to ensure a) not to incur any damage to the environment and ecosystem, by dredging at the specific shallow-water areas designated by the MPA to reach the targeted water-depth, b) not to disrupt the socio-economic conditions of the local people, and c) to assist and support to local development works and local needs if necessary. And thus, the potential bidders must present qualification in terms of work- and technical experience, and the strength of expert team and equipment as well as strong financial capability. (International companies may need to form a JV with a local company or have a branch office in Myanmar.)

3. Therefore, any interested companies (both local and international) that meet the above mentioned technical and financial requirements are invited to enter the tender. Tender Application and forms can be purchased from the following address and the dates and times of the tender process are as follow:

(a) Address to purchase Tender Forms

- Myanma Port Authority (Marine Department), No. 10, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

(b) Date & Time to purchase

- 1-2-2022 to 21-2-2022, Office Hour (10:00-15:00)

(c) Address for Tender submission and Date & Time

- Myanma Port Authority Head Office
1-3-2022, 13:00

(d) Tender Opening Date & Time

- 1-3-2022, 14:00

4. For further details, please contact the following numbers:

(a) 01-246380

(b) 01-8387117, Ex-211

Myanmar Port Authority
Tender Accepting and Documents Evaluation Committee

Ministry of Transport and Communications
Myanma Port Authority

Invitation to Open Tender for Dredging and Waterway Improvement of Thanlwin River (Darebauk)

1. The Myanma Port Authority (MPA) is planning to award the contract for **dredging** across the waterway of Bilu Island North Channel, Thanlwin River (Darebauk) in the Mon State, and for **sand export**, in order to improve the waterway and navigation channel as the sedimentation causes shallow water-depth and disrupts port operation. MPA, in this regard, would like to invite both local and international companies to participate in an Open Tender.

2. Unlike a commercial dredging, such dredging needs to ensure a) not to incur any damage to the environment and ecosystem, by dredging at the specific shallow-water areas designated by the MPA to reach the targeted water-depth, b) not to disrupt the socio-economic conditions of the local people, and c) to assist and support to local development works and local needs if necessary. And thus, the potential bidders must present qualification in terms of work- and technical experience, and the strength of expert team and equipment as well as strong financial capability. (International companies may need to form a JV with a local company or have a branch office in Myanmar.)

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(c) Address for Tender submission and Date & Time

- Myanma Port Authority Head Office
1-3-2022, 14:30

(d) Tender Opening Date & Time

- 1-3-2022, 15:30

4. For further details, please contact the following numbers:

(a) 01-246380

(b) 01-8387117, Ex-211

Myanmar Port Authority
Tender Accepting and Documents Evaluation Committee

TRADEMARK CAUTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our client, **Sociedad Anónima Damm** a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of Spain, having its registered office at Rosello 515, 09025 Barcelona, Spain, **is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademarks:**

TRADEMARKS	SPECIFICATION OF GOODS
1. INEDIT (Reg. No. IV/12533/2012)	Class 32: Beers; non-alcoholic beers; mineral and aerated waters and other non-alcoholic beverages; fruit beverages and fruit juices; syrups and other preparations for making beverages.
2. ESTRELLA DAMM (Reg. No. IV/12534/2012)	

Our client have secured registration/ filed applications for the above marks worldwide including but not limited to Israel, New Zealand, France, Spain, Canada, Australia, Bahrain, Switzerland, Cuba, Egypt, Croatia, Japan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Turkey, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Belarus, Georgia, Ghana, Iran, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Liberia, Morocco, Monaco, Republic of Moldova, Mozambique, Namibia, Oman, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Sao Tome and Principe, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

Our client has instructed us and wishes to bring to the notice of the trade and public that by virtue of extensive use as well as registrations/ applications, our client’s aforementioned trademarks have acquired international fame, reputation, goodwill and are exclusively associated with our client. By virtue thereof **our client have the exclusive rights to use the said trademarks and reserves its rights to initiate appropriate legal action against any party found using the said trademarks and/or any other deceptively or confusingly similar trademarks or name which is in violation of the rights of our client.**

Any inquiry relative thereto may be referred to the following:

S.S. RANA & CO. Advocates
317, Lawyers Chambers, High Court of Delhi, New Delhi- 110003, India.
Phone: 91-11-40123000, Fax: 91-11-40123010.
Email: trademarks@ssrana.com, foreign@ssrana.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 21

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 21 VOY. NO. (02/2022)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-1-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT-2** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S’PORE) PTE LTD

Ads

TradeMark

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09251022355

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Swiss watch exports tick up to record level in 2021

Swiss watch exports rebounded sharply in 2021, breaking the record set in 2014 by rising to nearly 22.3 billion Swiss francs (\$24.1 billion, 21.5 billion euros), the industry federation announced Thursday.

Amid a strong recovery in the luxury sector, watch exports were up 2.7 per cent compared to their pre-pandemic level in 2019, the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry said in a statement – and were also up 0.2 per cent compared to the 2014 peak.

Compared to 2020, exports were up 31.2 per cent, the Federal Office for Customs and Border Security said, in a separate statement.—AFP ■

Nissan alliance to invest US\$25 bn in electric vehicles over 5 years

THE Nissan auto alliance said Thursday it will invest 23 billion euros (US\$25.7 billion) in electric vehicles over the next five years, marking the latest massive cash injection into the fast-growing sector by the auto industry.

Nissan, Renault and Mitsubishi Motors said the latest outlay followed more than 10 billion euros already spent on its “offensive strategy in electrification”, promising 35 new electric models by 2030.

Major global carmakers are increasingly prioritizing electric and hybrid vehicles as concern about climate change grows. At present, around 10 per cent of European car sales are EVs, but the US figure is just two per cent.

“The three member companies have defined a common roadmap towards 2030, sharing investments in future electrification and connectivity projects,” alliance chair Jean-Dominique Senard said in a statement.

“Together, we are making the difference for a new and global sustainable future.”—AFP ■

China warns US over 'interfering' in Winter Olympics

CHINA warned the United States to "stop interfering" in the Winter Olympics on Thursday, a week before the controversy-hit Games are due to start in Beijing. As the first city to host both a Winter and Summer Games, Beijing has been hoping to turn next week's sports extravaganza into a soft power triumph. But the lead-up has been clouded by a US-led diplomatic boycott over China's human rights record, particularly its policy towards its Uyghur Muslim minority in the Xinjiang region that Washington has labelled a "genocide".

China's top diplomat Wang Yi spoke with his US counterpart Secretary of State Antony Blinken, according to a foreign

ministry statement Thursday.

"The most urgent priority right now is that the US should stop interfering in the Beijing Winter Olympics," Wang said during the call. The US government and lawmakers in five Western countries have declared China's treatment of the Uyghurs in its Xinjiang region a "genocide", with France's National Assembly the latest to do so this month.

Rights campaigners have accused the International Olympic Committee of turning a blind eye to what they say is a litany of abuses in China, including in Tibet and its ongoing clamp-down on free expression in Hong Kong.—AFP ■



Foreign volunteers pose for a group photo at Wukesong Sports Centre in Beijing, capital of China, 30 December 2021. The first batch of volunteers entered Wukesong Sports Centre to participate in a training programme ahead of Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games. **PHOTO: XINHUA/JU HUANZONG**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Holocaust survivor urges Germany to fight 'cancer' of hatred

In what was expected to be one of the last addresses by a Holocaust survivor to the German parliament, Inge Auerbacher appealed Thursday to keep alive the victims' memory.

Fighting back tears as she recalled the suffering and loss she endured at the hands of the Nazis, Auerbacher told the Bundestag as it marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day that it was essential to fight the spreading "cancer" of hatred.

"I have lived in New York for 75 years and can still remember well this terrible time of terror and hate," said Auerbacher, 87, who flew to Berlin in the face of the pandemic to take part in the ceremonies.

"Unfortunately this cancer has resurfaced and hatred of Jews is common in many countries of the world including Germany," she said on the 77th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp.

"This sickness must be healed as soon as possible," she said to applause from MPs, Chancellor Olaf Scholz and his cabinet.

Auerbacher said she had been the last Jewish child born in her hometown of Kippenheim in 1934 before the Nazis' genocidal campaign.

While her grandmother was deported to Riga and murdered, Auerbacher and her parents were sent to the Theresienstadt concentration camp when she was just seven years old.—AFP ■

Japan to help with Bill Gates' next-gen nuclear power project

MITSUBISHI Heavy Industries said Thursday it will work with Japan's atomic energy agency to provide technical assistance to a US start-up run by Bill Gates that is building a next-generation nuclear reactor in Wyoming.

American billionaire Gates is the founder and chair of TerraPower, which plans to build its plant in the US state by 2028 using a new technology called Natrium, touted as a "carbon-free, reliable energy solution".

The Japanese industrial conglomerate said it had agreed to cooperate with TerraPower on the sodium-cooled fast reactor project along with the government agency.

"As part of this cutting-edge nuclear project, MHI will join discussions to explore the opportunities to provide technical support and participate in the development of the next-generation sodium fast reactor in the US," it said.

"MHI will also bring back expertise and knowledge obtained through this partnership to contribute to the advancement of nuclear innovation in Japan," the company added, calling nuclear power "an essential part of the energy mix



A panoramic view of TerraPower's laboratory shows a full-scale fuel assembly test stand at the centre of the frame.

PHOTO: TERRAPOWER/AFP

for reaching net-zero carbon emission".

US President Joe Biden aims to halve the United States' 2005 greenhouse gas emission levels by the end of this decade, and Japan is targeting carbon neutrality by 2050.

But nuclear power remains controversial in Japan after the devastating meltdown of the Fukushima nuclear plant, which was triggered by a huge earthquake and tsunami in March 2011.

All of the country's nucle-

ar power stations were taken offline after the disaster, with only a handful restarted since.

TerraPower's Natrium project in Wyoming has an estimated cost of \$4 billion and is half-financed by the US Department of Energy.

The World Nuclear Association says fast neutron reactors like TerraPower's "offer the prospect of vastly more efficient use of uranium resources" and can help reduce the production of long-lived nuclear waste.—

AFP ■

165 illegal migrants voluntarily deported from Libya to Niger

A group of 165 illegal migrants were voluntarily deported from Libya to Niger, their home country, said a local official on Thursday, reported Xinhua.

"After approval of the head of the Illegal Migration Control Department, a flight took off from Misurata City to Niger for a voluntary return of 165 illegal migrants, including women and children," Hussain al-Turki, head of the Illegal Migrants' Deportation Department of the Misurata International Airport, told Xinhua.

The deportation was carried out in coordination with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), al-Turki said.

The Voluntary Humanitarian Return programme, run by the IOM, arranges the return of illegal immigrants stranded in



Illegal immigrants are seen boarding an airplane at the Misurata International Airport in Misurata, Libya, 27 January 2022. **PHOTO: HAMZA TURKIA/XINHUA**

Libya to their homeland.

Libya has become a preferred point of departure for illegal immigrants who attempt to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach European shores.

In 2021, a total of 32,425

illegal migrants were rescued and returned to Libya, while 662 died and 891 others went missing off the Libyan coast on the Central Mediterranean route, according to the IOM.—Xinhua ■

Rattled by Russia, Finland and Sweden revisit NATO debate

THE threat of a Russian invasion of Ukraine has reignited debate in Finland and Sweden over whether they should join NATO to fend off any possible eastern aggression.

Fighter jets could be heard carrying out drills above the Finnish capital this week, while Sweden recently deployed troops to a Baltic outpost in response to rising tensions.

President Vladimir Putin's demands that NATO not expand eastwards have also led Finnish and Swedish leaders to loudly reassert their right to apply for membership should they wish.

"It's for Finland and 30 NATO allies to decide, finally,

on the issue of membership, and that's exactly the same for Sweden," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Monday after meeting the countries' foreign ministers.

Neither Finland nor Sweden have expressed an official desire to become full members, preferring instead information sharing and some joint training.

But Charly Saloniuss-Pasternak, from the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, said Finland and Sweden had made "a conscious effort... to get explicit statements that NATO's open-door policy is still open".

Elina Valtonen, vice-chair of Finland's opposition National



This month Sweden deployed armed patrols to the island of Gotland after three Russian landing ships entered the Baltic Sea. Swedish troops arrive in Gotland, file photo from 2015. **PHOTO: AKIHHEIKKINEN / TWITTER/AFP / FILE**

Coalition Party, said joining was "a natural step".

"We have been forming ever-closer cooperation agree-

ments not only with NATO, but also the United Kingdom and the United States," Valtonen said.

She added that Finland had long abandoned its Cold War stance of seeking to appease the Kremlin by remaining neutral.

Without membership, Finland is ineligible for protections under NATO's Article 5, which commits other members to come to its aid should Russia send troops across the 1,340-kilometre-long (830-mile-long) border.

But support for NATO membership has traditionally been low among Finns and Swedes, though a January survey in Finland suggested opposition to joining had fallen to a two-decade low of 42 per cent.—AFP ■

Xiomara Castro becomes first woman president of Honduras



Honduran President Xiomara Castro's supporters wait for her inauguration ceremony to begin in Tegucigalpa on 27 January 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

LEFTIST Xiomara Castro was sworn in Thursday as the first woman president of Honduras, vowing to reform the crime- and poverty-stricken nation into a "socialist and democratic state."

Castro, 62, took the oath at a massive ceremony attended by international dignitaries after an embarrassing week of infighting in her Libre party that challenged her authority.

In her first official address at the Tegucigalpa National Stadium, Castro denounced "the social and economic tragedy confronting Honduras" and promised to make work of improving education, healthcare, security and employment.

She said she was inheriting a "bankrupt" country which she intended to reshape into a "socialist and democratic state."

Honduras's public debt is about \$17 billion.—AFP ■

Japan backs launch in April of police bureau to counter cybercrime

JAPAN'S Cabinet endorsed a bill Friday to enable the National Police Agency to set up a new bureau and team in April dedicated to responding to serious cybercrimes.

The bill is part of Japan's efforts to centralize police activities related to cybercrimes that are currently handled by multiple bureaus, with concern increasing about alleged state-sponsored attacks from China, North Korea and Russia.

After the revised police bill is passed by the Diet, the bureau and team will be launched on 1 April. The Cabinet endorsement came as reliance on online communication has grown due

to the coronavirus pandemic, increasing opportunities for cybercrime. With the reorganization, the police plan to beef up

cybercrime investigations using advanced technology as well as cooperation with overseas counterparts.—Kyodo ■

Police officers participate in a cybersecurity workshop in Yokohama on 7 September 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO**



NEWS IN BRIEF

Tajikistan says two dead after clashes with Kyrgyzstan

TAJIKISTAN said Friday that two of its citizens were killed and 10 injured during overnight clashes at its contested border with Kyrgyzstan, where a ceasefire is now in place.

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan said they had reached a ceasefire early Friday following the latest lethal flare up at the pair's contested border.

The violence that broke out Thursday evening was the bloodiest escalation between the countries since clashes that killed dozens last year. The Kyrgyz and Tajik frontier communities regularly clash over land and water supplies, with border guards often involved.

As a result of the latest conflict, "10 people were injured on the Tajik side, of which six were servicemen and four were civilians," Tajikistan's national security committee said in a statement.

Tajikistan added that the two dead were a man born in 1986 "killed by a mortar shell fired by Kyrgyz soldiers into his yard" and an ambulance driver born in 1964.

Following the overnight clashes, Kyrgyzstan's national security committee said Friday that it had reached an agreement for "a complete ceasefire" with Tajikistan during a meeting at the border between provincial governors and border service representatives.—AFP ■

Pentagon chief orders reforms to reduce civilian deaths

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered Pentagon officials Thursday to undertake reforms to reduce the number of civilian deaths from military strikes after multiple unjustified fatal incidents.

"The protection of civilians is fundamentally consistent with the effective, efficient and decisive use of force in pursuit of US national interests," Austin said in a directive issued to Department of Defence leadership.

"It is a strategic and moral imperative," he said.

Austin gave Pentagon officials 90 days to produce a plan for how civilian casualties can be reduced and avoided in combat operations, saying the experiences in Afghanistan and Iraq provide an opportunity to learn lessons and mitigate civilian harm in an institutional way.

The move came after several incidents placed a dark cloud over the Pentagon, most recently the erroneous killing of 10 people, including seven children, in a Kabul drone strike in August 2021 during the last days of the US presence in Afghanistan.

Likewise, the US military has been embarrassed by reporting by The New York Times that showed a poorly managed March 2019 bombing that killed some 70 civilians in the final days of the war against the Islamic State group.—AFP ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Myanmar U-23 team placed in Group B for 2022 ASEAN U-23 tourney

MYANMAR men's U-23 national football is falling in Group B of the 2022 ASEAN U-23 Championship together with Indonesia, Malaysia and Laos.

The competition will be divided into three groups and the Philippines, Timor-Leste and Brunei Darussalam are included in Group A and Thailand, Viet Nam and Singapore are participating in Group C.

The tournament will be

held from 14 to 26 February in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, with all 11 Southeast Asian teams competing.

According to the schedule, group matches will be held from 14 to 22 February. The semi-finals will be played on 24 February. The third and final round will be held on 26 February.

The Myanmar team will play against Malaysia on 15 February, the Indonesian team on 18 Feb-

ruary and Laos on 21 February in group matches.

According to the format of the competition, the top three teams from the three groups and the best of the two runners-up will advance to the semi-finals.

The Myanmar team has been taking training with 30 preliminary players for the tournament since 10 January and is headed by Bulgarian Popov. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM ■

UK football police chief calls for talks about thugs



More security cameras at Premier League grounds have not deterred the troublemakers. **PHOTO: AFP**

BRITAIN'S head of football policing has called for an urgent meeting with Premier League chiefs over rising incidents of crowd disorder.

Figures recently released by the UK Football Policing Unit showed a 36 per cent rise in fan-related trouble in the first half of this season compared with the same period in the 2019/20 campaign.

There were further incidents last weekend, with Chel-

sea defender Antonio Rudiger facing a barrage of missiles from Tottenham fans at Stamford Bridge, while Aston Villa pair Lucas Digne and Matty Cash were struck by bottles thrown by Everton supporters.

Chief Constable Mark Roberts, football policing lead for the National Police Chiefs Council, wants a unified response to the growing problems and is keen to speak to the Premier League immediately.—AFP ■

Nadal on brink of history after beating Berrettini to reach Open final

RAFAEL Nadal marched into the final of the Australian Open to be just one match away from becoming the all-time men's Grand Slam leader after overcoming Matteo Berrettini in their semi-final on Friday.

The 35-year-old Spanish great, seeded sixth, was too solid for the Italian seventh seed, winning 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 in 2hr 55min, and will face either Daniil Medvedev or Stefanos Tsitsipas in Sunday's final.

Nadal is level on 20 majors with his golden era rivals Novak Djokovic, who was deported on the eve of the tournament, and Roger Federer, who is absent with injury. It gives the Spaniard an opportunity to go clear at the top and add to his lone 2009 Melbourne Park crown in his sixth Australian Open final.

"For me at the end it's about more than all these statistics, it's about being in the final of the Australian Open one more time. That means a lot to me," Nadal said.—AFP ■

Brazil's Alisson sees two red cards overturned in WC draw with Ecuador



Ecuador's Felix Torres (2nd right) celebrates after scoring the equalizer against Brazil in their World Cup qualifier in Quito. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

BRAZIL goalkeeper Alisson Becker had two red cards overturned by VAR reviews as Brazil hung on for a controversial 1-1 World Cup qualifier draw with Ecuador on Thursday, with both teams having a player dismissed.

Alisson could count himself lucky after a straight red card in the first half, for a high boot on Enner Valencia, was downgraded to a yellow and then a second yellow card in injury-time was also overturned on review.

Ecuador could be forgiven for feeling aggrieved as four VAR reviews, two to check possible dismissals and two for penalties originally awarded by Colombian referee Wilmar Roldan, all went against the hosts in Quito.

Even so, the point inches them closer to World Cup qualification with three games left.

Brazil and Argentina have already booked their tickets for Qatar.

Casemiro gave the visitors, who were missing the injured Neymar, an early lead but Ecuador centre-back Felix Torres equalized 15 minutes from time.

Ecuador should have been in front within two minutes but alone and unmarked at the back post four yards out, Valencia somehow missed the target from Pervis Estupinan's free-kick.

It took just four minutes for Brazil to make Ecuador pay. The hosts made a hash of clearing a corner as Brazil pinged the ball from one side of the box to the other before Philippe Coutinho's cross was headed goalwards by Matheus Cunha.—AFP ■