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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.

SAC members, Rakhine State chief minister, commander of Western Command attends launching of electrification through national grid in Wabo Village, Sittway Tsp

MEMBERS of the State Administration Council Mahn Nyein Maung, Daw Aye Nu Sein, and U Moung Har, Rakhine State Chief Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min, Commander of the Western Command Maj-Gen Htin Latt Oo and officials arrived at the Wabo Village in Sittway Township by the speedboat and attended the opening ceremony of power distribution from the National Grid in Wabo Village, together with local people.

The ceremony was addressed by Daw Aye Nu Sein and the chief minister, and Rakhine State Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer of Electricity Supply Enterprise U Zaw Moe explained the business operation.

Afterwards, the SAC members and party cut the ribbon to open the transformer, which will supply electricity to Wabo Village. Then, they toured the home weaving business in the village.

Dignitaries cut the ceremonial ribbon to initiate power distribution from the National Grid in Wabo Village of Sittway Township, Rakhine State.

Of 3,742 villages in the Rakhine State, 2,246 villages, about 60 per cent of the village, have access to electricity through power, solar and diesel systems, including Wabo Village to date.

The SAC members and party also visited the 480-foot-long Sittway-Wabo Creek Bridge construction project, and officials from the Department of Bridges briefed the bridge construction work.—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

Motto of 75th Anniversary Union Day 2022

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

Set-Set-Yo Village preserving traditional Myanmar hairstyle

Myanmar traditional hairstyle called Youngpaysu for boys and Sanyitwine for girls (top-knot with a circular fringe) and palm tree climbing occupation and the lifestyle of the villagers are surprisingly attracting the visitors to Bagan cultural zone.

SET-SET-YO Village in NyaungU Township which is situated five miles from the south of Ngathayauk town and linked with transportation hub, Bagan, is famous for its traditional hairstyles, said U Khin Maung Win, the Ngathayauk town administrator.

The living condition in the ancient village is enchanting with a myth history. Myanmar traditional hairstyle called Youngpaysu for boys and Sanyitwine for girls (top-knot with a circular fringe) and palm tree climbing occupation and the lifestyle of the villagers are surprisingly attracting the visitors to Bagan cultural zone. They usually drop in the village to observe the unique traditional hairstyles.

The villagers have been preserving the traditional hairstyles for generations to generations. The elderly men are also seen with Yaunggyibwe hairstyle (traditional top-knot hairstyle for men), explained U Aung Naing, the Set-Set-Yo Village administrator.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the tourists and local travellers used to visit the village. Furthermore, filmmakers also come to the village as a film location. It is also a common site for photographers. Some villagers are well educated and they can communicate with the tourists as well. Earlier, there was water scarcity in the village. Thanks to the good pumps, people living in Set-Set-Yo Village have adequate water supply, and the village has established a village clinic and public library in the present. Although the pace of cultural change influences the young people in the world, the young people in Set- Set-Yo Village are preserving traditional hairstyles.

Some residents in Khatlankan, Taungtaw and Phalankan villages in Ngathayauk are keeping the traditional top-knot hairstyles as well. — KPD/GNLM

Public Notification

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

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

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

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

Public Notification

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

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

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

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

319 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 4 February, total figure rises to 537,223

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 537,223 after 319 new cases were reported on 4 February 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 513,779 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,310 without casualties for twelve consecutive days.—MNA

Further State Responsibilities to be discharged (Priority 2)

- When the government declared State of Emergency and took State responsibilities under Section 417 of the Constitution, we put all our hearts and souls into the State responsibilities but we encountered domestic/foreign interferences.
- Individual human rights include respect for each other; Appreciation is the most important thing. Citizens can also claim their rights if they have a country.
- Despite the destruction of the country, there is no example in the world that protects the rights of individual citizens. The right of citizens can only be claimed unless there are destructive elements.
- The idea that one must prioritize the interests of other people over their own sake is such hypocrisy for democracy.
- The actions against the government seem to be an opinion that is also against the citizens who are working for the country conscientiously.
- The defence services of the country mean to protect the public at the lowest level and our three main national causes at the highest level. We, the military members, discharge defence duties for the sakes of people with our own wishes but not for private intentions.

(Excerpt from the speech made by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on one-year State responsibilities discharged by the State Administration Council on 1-2-2022)

MoTC Union Minister inspects works of affiliated departments in Sittway Township

STATE Administration Council Member Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San conducted an inspection tour in Sittway Township of Rakhine State together with other SAC members Mahn Nyein Maung, Daw Aye Nu Sein, U Moung Har and Union Minister for Construction U Shwe Lay yesterday.

SAC Member Admiral Tin Aung San arrived at the Myanma Port Authority Office at Phaungtawgyi Jetty in Sittway with state Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Kyaw Thura, Economic Affairs Minister U San Shwe Maung and other officials.

MoTC Union Minister Admiral Tin Aung San and the SAC members pay inspection tours around Sittway Township on 4 February 2022.

During the meeting with the staff, the Union minister explained the political, security, economic and social progress, stressed necessary things regarding the cooperation work among departments, COVID-19 preventive measures, saving the consumption of fuel and electricity and clean and tidy processes.

He then inspected the Phaungtawgyi Jetty of the Myanma Port Authority.

He also went to the Shwemingan Jetty and discussed matters related to the arrival and departure of cargo vessels, upgrade work of small jetties and substitution of large jetties. — MNA

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various regions, states

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

The COVID-19 vaccine is inoculated daily to target groups regardless of race or religion, including Buddhist monks and nuns, local people over the age of 40, students, religious leaders, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed organizations, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively.

On 3 February and yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers injected COVID-19 vaccines to 2,672 people from 11 townships in northern Shan State, 1,834 people from ten townships in Kayin and Mon States, 2,208 people from Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region, 237 from Tamway Township, Yangon Region and 17,320 people from 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region, respectively.

Similarly, healthcare personnel gave the vaccines to 750 students from Namkham and Muse townships in northern Shan State, and 935 students from 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region, at the same time.

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

Locals get inoculated against Covid-19 in Mon State.

Nay Pyi Taw welcomes ethnic cultural delegates to Diamond Jubilee Union Day celebration

CHAIRMAN Dr Maung Maung Naing of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, as the capacity of chairman of the Diamond Jubilee Union Day Organizing Management Committee, warmly welcomed distinguished delegates of ethnic culture groups from respective regions and states on 4 February at Sports Training Camp in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was inaugurated by the chair of subcommittees, committee members, secretaries, officials concerned and region/state ethnic cultural delegates.

Dr Maung Maung Naing highlighted the objectives of Diamond Jubilee Union Day; non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. He added that national brethren residing in the country must exert continuous, constructive and concerted efforts to preserve the union. Accordingly, it will bring about equal developments in regions and states.

Ethnic cultural delegates are cordially welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw on 4 February. **PHOTO : KO KO AYE**

State Administration Council is making a genuine effort to have equal development across the regions and states, promote the rights of the ethnic brethren, and enhance and preserve the language, literature, culture and customs. Later, the chairman and members greeted the delegates warmly. They observed the accommodation of the delegates, medical service, library and subcommittee offices.

The Diamond Jubilee Union Day event will include a cultural exchange programme and those who will participate in it are 39 from Yangon Region, 33 from Kachin State, 27 from Kayah State, 39 from Kayin State, 37 from Chin State, 34 from Mon State, 35 from Rakhine State and 38 from Shan State, totalling 282 delegates.

The delegates will visit famous spots in Nay Pyi Taw, including the prominent landmark Uppatasanti Pagoda, the replica of Buddha Gaya in Nay Pyi Taw, Defence Services Museum, National Museum, Hluttaw, Planetarium, Gems Museum, National Landmark Garden, Myoma Market, Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Park and Junction Centre. — Myo Set Thit/GNLM

Motto of 75th Anniversary Union Day 2022

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

Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace packed with visitors

MYA Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace in Mandalay Region is crowded with visitors as per the COVID-19 health rules.

The Golden Palace is open daily from 7:30 am to 5 pm under the supervision of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Mandalay) and security forces.

The people can study stone inscription chamber, cannon museum displaying various ancient cannons, King Mindon tomb and scale model, including Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace. — MNA

Myanmar traditional ordination and novitiation ceremony proceeding at Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace.

Mann Shwesettaw pagoda festival holds today

THE Mann Shwesettaw pagoda Buddha Pujaniya festival is one of the most unique pagoda festivals in Upper Myanmar. It is planning to celebrate starting from 5 February for a short period of time due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The pagoda is located in Minbu (Sagu) township, Magway region. The Mann Shwesettaw pagoda festival is one of the well-known festivals that usually kicks off from the fifth day of the waxing of Tabodwe and runs until Myanmar's celebration of the new year.

This year's festival will reach on 5 February. On the first day of the opening festival, the lower and upper shrines will be opened and offered.

"This festival is being planned to celebrate for a short period. Some small tents have been built for the convenience of pilgrims.

But the shops will not be built as the festival won't be held in a normal fashion this year, said an official from the administrative office in Sagu.

Earlier, the Mann Shwesettaw pagoda festival yearly included over 500 tents and 1,000 shops.

The celebrating festival was closed due to the spreading of COVID-19. In 2021, the festival could not be held as usual and was held as a brief pagoda festival due to the pandemic.

It is also learnt that an elevator tower is being constructed and it is linked from the Hnakyeik Shithsu pagodas to Koekhangyi pagoda. —Aye Maung/ GNLM

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We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm** with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

COVID-19 vaccines delivered to different states, regions

IN collaboration with civil society associations, COVID-19 vaccines are transported to different states and regions in line with the Cold Trail Standards, which are provided by the Air Force.

Sputnik Light COVID-19 vaccines, which can be given to five people at a time are transported by Cold Chain Delivery Logistics truck by military plane to various regions and states following the quality control standards, officials said.

On 4 February, 3,000 vaccines to Mandalay Region, 1,600 vaccines each to Bago, Thegon, Shwedaung, Thayawady, Minhla, Nyaunglebin, DaikU, Waw, Thanatpin, Kawa and Mingaladon townships respectively were transported by Cold Chain Delivery Logistics vehicle.

Authorities from each township have received all the vaccines and the vaccines will be distributed to the public as soon as possible as per the target population groups, officials added. — MNA

Covid-19 vaccines are loaded onto the Cold Chain Delivery Logistics vehicle.

More than 24,000 Myanmar migrant workers returned from Thailand in 6 months

MORE than 24,000 Myanmar migrant-workers returned home from Thailand between 1 August 2021 and 2 February 2022.

Earlier, Myanmar welcomed back 500 people per day. To prevent the spread of Omicron, Myanmar has accepted only 200 people per week.

Those returning to Myanmar through the Mae Sot-Myawady route will have to undergo a nasal swab test at Myawady quarantine centres and they have to undergo the 10-day quarantine. After 10 days, they can return home.

Among the returnees, some of them are unemployed. Some returned from Thailand as their parents are sick. Some were freed from Mae Sot police stations for illegal entry.

In the COVID-19 third wave, the welcoming of Myanmar migrant workers had stopped. But it reopened again on 1 August 2021.

Besides, more than hundreds of people are arrested every day for returning to Myanmar and the illegal border crossing into Thailand. — ACM/GNLM

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

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

A total of 10 tonnes of masks were imported by two vehicles of two companies via the Lweje trading zone yesterday.

Officials from the relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the standard operating procedures 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

Public Notice

1. The Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to effectively curb corruption.
2. The ACC used SMS on the mobile phone to ask the public who seek services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via Short Code No "1111" for feedbacks, including the Public Feedback Programme-PFP.
3. According to the PFP, the right replies of the citizens via Short Code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.
4. Therefore, the public should make a reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at Short Code No "1111" and such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

Answer "1111" to fight against corruption
Answer "1111" to improve services
Let's work together to eliminate corruption towards prosperity

Prices list of medicines commonly used against COVID–19 till 4–2–2022

No	Product Name	Pack Size	Price in Kyats (Retail)	Company Name
Antibiotics				
1	Injection - Cefoperazone and Sulbactam 2G	Vial	9,300	Ready Medicine
2	Injection - Meropenam	1g/Vial	10,000	AA Medical
Anti-inflammatory				
3	P.O Dexamethasone	Box of 10x10's	1,450	JDS
4	P.O Prednisolone	Box of 10x10	2,000	Aorta
5	Injection- Dexamethasone	Vial	160	Aorta
Antiviral				
6	P.O Favipiravir 400 mg	2x10 Tablet	50,000	AA Medical
7	Injection – Remdesivir	Vial	70,000	GHI
Anti thrombosis				
8	Injection Enoxaprim 40 mg	1 Pre-Filled Syringe	7,000	Nyi Lay Naing
9	Injection Enoxaprim 60 mg	1 Pre-Filled Syringe	9,000	Nyi Lay Naing
Symptomatic				
10	P.O Paracetamol 500 mg	10x10's tablets/ Box	1,500	AA Medical

Please visit the Website (www.mccpmd.org) and Facebook Page https://www.facebook.com/ 32330252139 2189/posts/ 1720802588308835/ ?d=n to know the prices of other medicines.

Plans are underway to produce consumer goods with banana fibre

The trunk of banana, which is a waste product after consuming the fruit from the tree, will be used in producing high-value commodities, and the fibre from the trunk will be used to make consumer goods such as clothes, handbags, shoes and paper. In addition to that, plans are underway to produce COVID-19 protective masks.

AS Ayeyawady Region is a region with many banana plantations, the Region Department of Small Scale Industries, under the guidance of the Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister, is planning to produce and sell consumer goods with raw materials from the banana trunk, said U Soe Naing Htoo, Region Director of the Department of Small Scale Industries.

The trunk of banana, which is a waste product after consuming the fruit from the tree, will be used in producing high-value commodities, and the fibre from the trunk will be used to make consumer goods such as clothes, handbags, shoes and paper. In addition to that, plans are underway to produce COVID-19 protective masks.

It is also learnt that efforts are being made to set and implement a project to produce handicrafts using banana fibre for consumer goods in 2022, and training is being conducted for those who are interested in the office of the Department. – District IPRD (Pathein)/GNLM

Diesel sold at special prices

UNDER the arrangements of the Ministry of Commerce and Myanmar Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association, 26 companies imported diesel at the CBM reference rate. Of them, 11 companies distributed 12.54 milllion gallons of diesel at 99 fuel stations in regions/states starting 11 January.

The people can buy the diesel at special prices in accordance with the reference prices of the Myanmar Oil and Petroleum Product Regulatory Department and the prices are updated daily at www.mpta.org.mm of Myanmar Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association

If the people cannot buy the diesel at fixed prices in regions and states, they can contact the Committee on Ensuring the Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods at 09-664075683, 09-664596327, 09-687635943 and 09-676320826, the Department of Consumer Affairs of Yangon Region at 01-250270 and the Myanmar Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association at 09-421006794. —MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timber, unregistered vehicles, foodstuffs, tyres seized

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, effective action is being taken to prevent illegal trade under the law.

On 3 February, Mon State Customs inspectors and Mayanchaung inspection post officials conducted a surprise check and seized K25,000,000 worth of a 12-wheel vehicle carrying K18,600,000 worth of tyres heading from Myawady to Yangon. They also confiscated undocumented foodstuffs worth K1,400,000 from a passenger bus heading to Yangon from Hpa-an township. They took action against K45,000,000 worth of seizures under the Customs Law.

On 4 February, the inspection team led by Myanmar Police Force seized 34 cows worth K34,000,000 in Taze township and took action under the Animal Health and Breeding Development Law. They also seized one unregistered Honda Fit worth K3,500,000 in Sagaing township and took action under the Export and Import Law. Moreover, Sagaing Region Forest Department confiscated K85,000 worth of teak logs (3.166 tonnes) and took action under the Forest Law.

Similarly, Bago Region Forest Department seized 1.2040 tonnes of illegal teak worth of K180,600 in the forest reserve of Thayawady district and took action under the Forest Law. Thus, a total of seven arrests (estimated value of K82,765,600) were made on 3 and 4 February, stated the committee. — MNA

Seized cattle, tyres and consumer goods.

Illegal drugs seized in Ottwin, Mayangon, Tachilek, Monghsat townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Bago Region Police Force conducted an inspection on the Ottwin-Paukkaung road near Latpangon village, Pauttaw village-tract, Ottwin Township on the afternoon of 2 February and seized 1,760 stimulant tablets with K23,000 from the motorcycle driven by Kaung Pyae Htoo.

According to the investigation, the police searched the house of Yan Naung Tun (a) Akyi Kaung in Kyatthonkhin ward (2), Ottwin Township, and confiscated 170 stimulant tablets worth K0.34965 million and a Honda Stream motorcar. On the same day at around 11:30 pm, a combined team consisting of members of the Yangon Region Police Force arrested Swan Ye Htet (a) Ko Shee together with 3,800 stimulant tablets and 0.0011 kilogramme of ICE in Mayangon Township.

On 3 February, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Task Force conducted a search operation in the house of Aik Non, who lived in Sannar village in Tachilek Township, and found and confiscated 1,400 stimulant tablets, 0.03 kilogramme of ICE, 2 ecstasy tablets, a gun with a brand logo (Armelegant Ang-5), one magazine of the gun, three rounds of ammunition, one .22 shotgun, one magazine of it and three rounds of ammunition. On the same day, Sai Naw and Aik Kwam (a) Sai Kaung arrested with 200,000 stimulant tablets from the engine room of his vehicle Vigo, on the Monghsat-Tachilek road near Loipayin village.

It is reported that the arrested suspects are being charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to the Myanmar Police Force. — MNA

New export item heirloom beans open at higher price

THE prices of heirloom beans listed as a new export item are rising in the brisk market, Mandalay bean traders said.

The bean has started flowing into the market since January. It fetched only K60,000 per three-basket bag in the corresponding period last year. At present, the foreign demand drives up the price to double (K120,000 per bag), according to the Mandalay Soe Win Myint depot.

"The prices of beans remain bullish during the harvest season. The heirloom beans started penetrating the Chinese market four years ago. It has grasped a firm market share in the present. It can be easily cultivated and they yield splendid in alluvial soil. As the bean is a lucrative crop, the locals considered it and called it luck. I am happy with the foreign demand on new export items beyond black gram, pigeon pea and sesame seeds," an owner of Soe Win Myint warehouse said.

The prevailing prices of beans stand at K126,000 per three-basket bag of pigeon pea, K120,000 per bag of black gram, K115,000 per bag of chickpea and K300 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) of peanut.

The rice beans are primarily cultivated in the alluvial soil of Ayeyawady River, Dokhtawady River and Chindwin River valley. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

The bean has started flowing into the market since January. It fetched only K60,000 per three-basket bag in the corresponding period last year. At present, the foreign demand drives up the price to double (K120,000 per bag).

YSX records K282 mln worth of share trading in January

Myanmar stock market index at the Yangon Bourse.

A total of 61,435 shares by seven listed companies were traded on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in January 2022, with an estimated value of K282 million, according to the monthly report of the YSX.

At present, shares of seven listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co., Ltd (EFR) and Amata Holding Public Co., Ltd. (AMATA) were traded in the equity market. The share prices per unit slightly fell to K8,000 for FMI, K2,950 for MTSH, K8,000 for MCB, K19,500 for FPB, K2,650 for TMH, K2,850 for EFR and K5,400 for AMATA, respectively, in January.

People like to keep emergency savings and purchase the safe-haven asset gold and hard currency, rather than make investments amid the COVID-19 crisis and political changes.

Regardless of the collapse of the stock markets worldwide, the local equities market has been able to continue operating without stopping trading.

Additionally, YSX launched a pre-listing board (PLB) on 28 September 2020 to provide unlisted public companies with fund-raising opportunities and build a bridge toward listing on YSX. With a view to achieving a better understanding of legal aspects and registration criteria of Myanmar public companies, a free webinar for PLB is scheduled to be held in February 2022, according to the YSX Quarterly E-Newsletter.

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

Only K4.63 billion valued 887,969 shares by seven listed companies were traded on the exchange in 2021, showing a significant drop of 63 per cent as against 2020, according to the annual report released by the exchange.

In 2020, K12.6 billion worth of 1.87 million shares by six listed companies were traded on YSX, whereas over 2.4 million shares from five listed companies, valued at K13.39 billion, were traded on the exchange in 2019.

The YSX was launched four years ago to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading through stock investment webinars and training courses. — KK/GNLM

Myawady border trade up by US$447 mln as of 28 Jan

THE border trade through the major crossing Myawady between Myanmar and Thailand soared to US$814.5 million as of 28 January in the current mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022), reflecting a significant increase of $447.46 million as against the year-ago period.

The trade through the Myawady border stood at over $367 million in the corresponding period of the last FY2020-2021.

Myawady-Mae Sot border trade remains normal amid the COVID-19 negative impacts, according to the Myawady Chamber of Commerce.

Myanmar ships tonnes of corn to Thailand through the Myawady border. Thailand gives the green light to corn imports through Mae Sot under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. Myanmar exported approximately 1.6 million tonnes of corn that were delivered to Thailand in the FY2020-2021.

Next, Thailand is suppressing Intellectual Property infringements at cross-border points to strengthen the trust with the trading partners and create a better investment climate. There are seven border posts between Myanmar and Thailand, Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Hteekhee, Myeik, Mawtaung and Meisei. The majority of the border trade with Thailand is conducted via Myawady.

Myanmar primarily exports corn, natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dry), beans, and bamboo shoots to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, consumer goods such as cosmetics and food products from the neighbouring country. — KK/GNLM

Myawady trade zone.

5 FEBRUARY 2022
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Don't miss an opportunity of learning KG+9 education

EVERY country accepts that human resource plays a crucial role in the sustainable development of the nations. As such, everybody needs to understand the important role of knowledge accumulation through learning education.

Such human resources depend on knowledge including school education. So, countries place emphasis on investment in the education sector to turn out educated youths.

Myanmar is implementing the free compulsory primary education system for the people to have a wider scale of knowledge in accord with Section 28 of the Constitution.

> As education is of great importance for implementing the issue of Myanmar's democracy and the future of the nation, all citizens should take care of grasping their learning opportunities. If so, they will be able to join the nation-building activities.

Section 366 of the Constitution stipulates that every citizen, in accord with the educational policy laid down by the Union: (a) has the right to education; and (b) shall be given basic education which the Union prescribes by law as compulsory.

In fact, learning education is not for the government but it is for the improvement of individual life. Hence, it is noticeable that incitements not to attend schools may cause offspring of the people to be uneducated ones, as an act of shaping the nation and the people to be enslaved.

Regrettably, some 18.2 million of the population missed the chance to learn middle school education and below the level at their adult age, according to the interim census of Myanmar in 2019. Such an amount hit one-third of the total population. As such, the government is striving for the implementation of the education promotion programme.

Nowadays, a total of 39,242 of 47,760 basic education schools are open for students to learn education under the restriction of the COVID-19, accounting for 80 per cent of the enrolled ones.

The government arranges the plans for school-age children to have a learning opportunity for attending the KG+9 of middle school education. Only when they complete the KG+9 education can they change the learning of knowledge for the vocational training.

As education is of great importance for implementing the issue of Myanmar's democracy and the future of the nation, all citizens should take care of grasping their learning opportunities. If so, they will be able to join the nation-building activities.

Searching the knowledge as well as learning the education is not late for all. All citizens need to fill all sorts of knowledge to their souls in order to apply them at an opportune time for serving the interests of the State and the people.

■ ■ ■

COVID's pushed us 'further off course' from Global Goals: the deputy UN chief

The triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution is worsening, the deputy UN chief told a new coordination meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on Thursday, reminding that the world has less than nine years left to reach the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"WE are far from where we should be – and the pandemic has pushed us even further off course", said Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, noting that "indicators on poverty, hunger, education and jobs are all moving in the wrong direction".

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. **PHOTO: UNDP**

Charting a forward path

Although it has taken a great toll on people across the world, particularly those most vulnerable and marginalized, Ms Mohammed echoed the Secretary-General in saying: "We are neither hopeless nor helpless".

People can resolve these challenges by using the Our Common Agenda blueprint, to chart the path forward and reach the SDGs.

"It provides an opportunity to set the tone for the sessions of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies and shape the UN system's policy and normative work in the run up to the High-Level Political Forum, in July", said the deputy chief.

Maximizing efforts

Inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic requires scale and ambition along with the careful calibration of policies and partnerships.

Moreover, institutions must be strengthened and global financial systems rejigged to ensure that all countries have the fiscal space needed to invest in their people.

And a more effective financing architecture would bolster debt relief, re-direct Special Drawing Rights (a type of extra foreign exchange asset) and boost the resources of multilateral development banks, according to senior UN official.

Opening a new chapterfor

While expressing confidence in ECOSOC's commissions, forums and subsidiary bodies, she conceded that it would "take an effort from all" to accelerate the SDGs.

Ms Mohammed maintained that it would be "crucial" to identify areas where the Council's commissions can "constructively ignite and support" an equitable recovery guided by the 2030 Development Agenda.

By bringing together specialized agency heads in this meeting, she stated that it can "mark a new chapter in ECOSOC's journey", giving more impetus to ensuring "an integrated and impactful UN response" to benefit countries and regions.

'One and only' ECOSOC

ECOSOC President Collen Vixen Kelapile said that while the task of building back better from COVID-19 is "daunting", it must be embraced by Member States to accelerate SDG progress.

And as it provides policy guidance, strengthens multilateral cooperation and mobilizes international solidarity — ECOSOC is an important component in achieving the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for SDG financing, and the Paris Agreement.

ECOSOC is "the one and only platform" that overviews the work of the entire UN system on sustainable development, reminded Mr. Kelapile."It is the place where UN system entities, chairs of functional commissions and expert bodies…meet with Member States to discuss the major policy issues…[and] instil direction, create synergies, and increase cooperation and coordination within the UN system at large".

'Rekindle a spirit of solidarity'

The ECOSOC President reminded that the new so-called Coordination Segment is designed to enhance the body's leadership, oversight and coordination role to maximize the impact of the entire UN system.

"We need to ensure that the Council's deliberations during the coming two days offer clear guidance and inspire fruitful policy discussions leading up to the High-level Political Forum (HLPF)", he said.

He urged the meeting to identify aspects of the 2030 Agenda that are not receiving adequate attention, such as orphan SDGs and targets, and "find them a home in the ECOSOC system".

"Above all, we need to rekindle a spirit of solidarity between peoples and countries", underscored Mr Kelapile.

"Let us utilize ECOSOC to…develop policy guidance…leverage action by the UN system…overcome the pandemic and achieve the SDGs through strengthened international cooperation and solidarity", he concluded.

Cross-cutting catalysts

Chairing the meeting, ECOSOC Vice-Presidnet Suriya Chindawongse urged the participants to identify both overlap and synergies and encouraged greater coordination in women's empowerment.

"Only through coordination can we be greater than the sum of our parts and thus more effectively sustain sustainability", he said.

SOURCE: UN

Study finds minimizing long-term lung damage in COVID-19 patients

A NEW research has found that a combined treatment strategy targeting SARS-CoV-2 symptoms and severe lung tissue injury is essential to minimize lung sequelae -- chronic complications resulting from COVID-19 infection.

The study has been published in the 'Clinical Microbiology Reviews Journal'.

Therapy using lung epithelial stem and progenitor cells showed promise for mitigating the potentially lethal and highly damaging virus-induced inflammatory storm that can occur in severe cases of COVID-19, said Huaiyong Chen, PhD, principal investigator at Tianjin Institute of Respiratory Diseases, and Director of Tianjin Key Laboratory of Lung Regenerative Medicine, Haihe Hospital, Tianjin University, China.

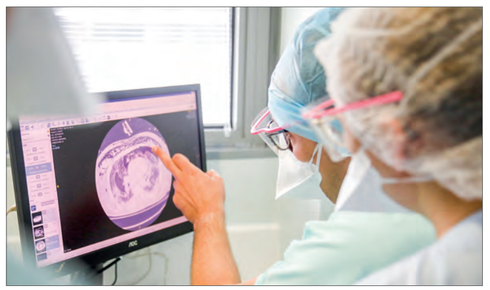
"To minimize the damage to the lung, we should promote tissue regeneration efficiently by activating surviving lung stem and progenitor cells, or else by directly transplanting healthy lung stem and progenitor cells into damaged lungs," said Chen.

Both cell types can differentiate into lung epithelial cells, which cover the inner surfaces of the lungs where air exchange occurs. In so doing, they can repair lung damage caused by SARS-CoV-2, including fibrosis.

The first step towards activating these regenerative cells is to prime the tissue environment with mesenchymal stem cells. These cells do not normally reside in the lung, but when transplanted there, they secrete growth factors that support the growth and differentiation of the lung epithelial stem and progenitor cells. That, in turn, can repair the damage. The investigators are currently using animal models to figure out how best to accomplish this.

But in severe cases, these regenerative cells may be damaged by cytokines, which are produced by immune cells in excessive numbers during lung inflammation, preventing full restoration of lung structure and function.

In such cases, healthy stem and progenitor cells might have to be transplanted into a person's lungs. However, as with any transplant, immune rejection is likely to be a problem. It may be possible to use gene-editing technology, known as CRISPR, to modify these cells to reduce immunogenicity prior to transplantation, a possibility Chen is investigating. For less severe cases, researchers will need to screen for compounds that boost the capacity of progenitor and stem cells to trigger the repair and regeneration of lungs following these injuries.



A combined treatment strategy targeting SARS-CoV-2 symptoms and severe lung tissue injury is essential to minimize lung sequelae--chronic complications resulting from COVID-19 infection. **PHOTO: CGTN/ XINHUA**

SOURCE: ANI

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of U Zaw Min as Director-General of the Prisons Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 4 February 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 5 February, 2022: Rain or thunder showers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, scattered in upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State and isolated in Chin, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered rain or thunder showers in upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, (South and East) Shan, Chin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Northern Shan, Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 February, 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 February, 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 February, 2022: Partly cloudy.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, Mandalay Regions.

The Global New Light of Myanmar
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New 'highly virulent' HIV strain discovered in the Netherlands

A hospital worker holds up a blood sample that will be screened for the HIV virus which causes AIDS. **PHOTO: NOEL CELIS/ AFP/FILE**

OXFORD researchers have found in the Netherlands a highly virulent strain of HIV, the disease which infects white blood cells, like the one seen in the National Institute of Health handout—National Institutes of Health.

Oxford researchers announced Thursday the discovery of a highly virulent strain of HIV that has been lurking in the Netherlands for decades, but because of the effectiveness of modern treatments, is "no cause for alarm". Their analysis, published Thursday in the journal "Science", showed that patients infected with what they call the "VB variant" had 3.5 to 5.5 times higher levels of the virus in their blood than those infected with other variants, as well as a more rapidly fading immune system.

However, the study also found that after starting treatment, individuals with the VB variant had similar immune system recovery and survival to individuals with other HIV variants.

"There's no cause for alarm with this new viral variant," said Oxford epidemiologist Chris Wymant, the lead author on the paper, in an interview with AFP.

The variant likely arose in the late 1980s and early 1990s in the Netherlands, according to the researchers, but began to decline around 2010.

Since modern interventions still seem to work on the variant, the research team believes that widespread HIV treatment in the Netherlands did not contribute to the virus's evolution, and that early detection and treatment are paramount.—AFP ■

Year of the Tiger comes with China's triumph in wild tiger protection

IT has been 12 years since China celebrated the Year of the Tiger—a time when the wild Siberian tiger was forecast to vanish from the country. But now, 12 years later, the nation has triumphed in rescuing the endangered feline. In the Chinese culture, the tiger is a symbol of courage and strength, and thus many Chinese couples wish to have babies in the tiger year falling on Tuesday this year. In 2010, 13 tiger-range countries committed to doubling the global population of wild tigers by 2022. Nowadays, China has run ahead of schedule when it comes to protecting Siberian tigers, also known as Amur or Manchurian tigers.

SETTING UP A NATIONAL PARK

Feng Limin, a member of a Beijing Normal University research team that monitored these tigers for a decade, noted that with a high demand for territory, the felid will still be disturbed in traditional nature reserves, where land is always scattered and certain human activities still exist. In October 2021, China officially designated the Northeast China Tiger and Leopard National Park, which spans an area of over 1.4 million hectares in the northeastern provinces of Jilin and Heilongjiang.—Xinhua ■

Siberian tigers frolic at the Siberian Tiger Park in Changchun City, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province, 13 January 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/YAN LINYUN**

Extreme weather 'kills 140,000 Europeans in 40 years'

Dozens died amid devastating floods triggered by heavy rainfall across parts of western Germany and Belgium, as the search continued for hundreds of people still unaccounted for. Cars piled up by the floods at a roundabout in Verviers, Belgium, 15 July 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

EXTREME weather events such as heatwaves and floods have cost Europe almost 510 billion euros and around 142,000 lives over the past 40 years, according to a new report published Thursday (3 February).

In its study, the European Environment Agency (EEA) called for continued adaptation measures at both individual and state levels.

A small number of extreme events, about three per cent of the total, were alone responsible for about 60 per cent of the financial damages incurred from 1980-to 2020, the report showed.

When it came to the loss of human lives, heatwaves accounted for 91 per cent, with the heatwave experienced in the summer of 2003 killing around 80,000 people.

Similar heatwaves after 2003 caused significantly lower fatalities "as adaptation measures were taken in different countries and by different actors", such as installing air conditioners, the EEA noted in a statement. Globally, the World Meteorological Organization estimates that the number of weather-related disasters has increased over the past 50 years, causing more damage but fewer deaths. In Europe, the EEA said the data from the past 40 years does not allow for a definite conclusion about whether the increase is due to climate change because of the very irregular damage recorded in different years.—AFP ■

South Chile blaze razes over 1,200 hectares of forest

A fire in southern Chile's Tierra del Fuego province ravaged some 1,235 hectares of forest in the commune of Timaukel, the National Forest Corporation (Conaf) said Thursday.

Conaf's acting regional director John Revello said the fire started 25 January on land owned by a forestry company, and 600 hectares were razed as of Monday. The challenging terrain, vegetation, accumulation of fallen trees and timber, and weather conditions have made it difficult to control the fire in the Magallanes region, Revello explained.—Xinhua ■

Spring Festival celebrated amid targeted COVID-19 control measures

BEFORE the Spring Festival, people across China were in an upbeat mood preparing for the arrival of the Lunar New Year, as targeted COVID-19 control measures were in place to prevent the spread of the virus.

The Spring Festival is celebrated on the first day of the first month of the Chinese lunar calendar. It falls on 1 February this year. Regarded as the most important holiday for Chinese people, it is all about family reunions and relaxation.

This year's Spring Festival was celebrated as sporadic COVID-19 cases have been occurring in multiple places across China.

To clear the way back home for hundreds of millions of holiday travellers, China's National Health Commission (NHC) has urged targeted COVID-19 response measures for people travelling home ahead of the holiday.

Local authorities should not take a simplistic approach to COVID-19 containment by applying a one-size-fits-all policy, nor should they add excessive restrictions, according to the NHC. This year's Spring Festival travel rush began on 17 January and will last until 25 February. To avoid the spread of COVID-19, free testing locations have been set up in hospitals and railway stations across the country to facilitate nucleic acid testing for travellers. The Third Hospital of Changsha in central China's Hunan Province began providing a 24-hour nucleic acid testing service on 19 January.—Xinhua ■

People perform dragon dance to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year in Macao, south China, 1 February 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/CHEONG KAM KA**

India's coronavirus death toll crosses 500,000

Indian police participate in awareness campaign by drawing large graffiti of coronavirus at all traffic junctions urging people to cooperate with the Indian government-imposed nationwide lockdown as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 coronavirus in Bangalore, India, 3 April 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA/STRINGER**

INDIA'S official death toll from Covid-19 crossed 500,000 on Friday, even as many experts flag underreporting of cases across the country.

The daily update from the country's federal health ministry showed the number of fatalities reaching 500,055, up 1,072 in the previous 24 hours.

Total infections stood at 41.9 million, according to the statistics, second only to the United States.

Case numbers have jumped in recent weeks due to the highly infectious Omicron strain but rates have slowed in recent days and the health ministry last week said there were indications of a plateau in virus cases in several parts of the country.

Experts said the Omicron wave would not cause many deaths or hospitalizations, but several states imposed restrictions on movement and have only now started easing them.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Putin says Russia plans no lockdown in Omicron wave

President Vladimir Putin said Thursday there will be "no lockdown" in Russia to curb the spread of Covid, despite the country facing a steep surge in infections driven by the highly contagious Omicron variant.

"No lockdown is planned," Putin said at a meeting with Russian businessmen aired on state television, adding that Russia will even ease some restrictions. "In the near future, restrictions on contact persons can be lifted, so that people can work peacefully," Putin said. —AFP ■

New Zealand to start easing tough Covid border controls

NEW ZEALAND will start easing some of the world's toughest pandemic border restrictions this month but will not fully reopen until October, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said Thursday.

Ardern announced a five-step plan to reconnect New Zealand to the rest of the world, beginning with waiving hotel quarantine requirements for its nationals stranded overseas by the pandemic.

"It's time to move again," said Ardern, who has been under pressure recently to relax border policies that have been largely unchanged since the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis almost two years ago.—AFP ■

WHO sees "ceasefire" opportunity in fighting COVID-19 in Europe

THE European region is approaching "a plausible endgame" in its fight against the COVID-19 pandemic while the cases were still surging, a senior official of the World Health Organization (WHO) said Thursday.

"For now, the number of deaths across the Region is starting to plateau," said Hans Kluge, WHO's European Regional Director, at a press conference. The region has seen 12 million new cases of COVID-19 in the last week, the highest weekly total since the pandemic began.

The success of current protection measures is evident despite a rise in hospitalizations, according to Kluge, who noted that it has not been "as rapid as the case incidence rate, and overall, admissions to intensive care have not increased significantly." "It is possible to respond to new variants that will inevitably emerge — without re-installing the kind of disruptive measures we needed before," said the WHO official.—AFP ■

People queue at a coronavirus test centre in Aalborg, Denmark. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan mulls sending natural gas to Europe in contingency over Ukraine

Japan is weighing an option to divert part of its natural gas reserves to Europe in case Russia restricts gas supplies to the region in response to projected sanctions following a Russian invasion of Ukraine. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN is weighing an option to divert part of its natural gas reserves to Europe in case Russia restricts gas supplies to the region in response to projected sanctions following a Russian invasion of Ukraine, government sources said Thursday.

Japan is likely to seek coordination with other countries in supporting Europe, which heavily relies on natural gas supplies from Russia through pipelines.

The United States has warned Moscow of sanctions if Russian forces invade the neighbouring Ukraine as Russian troops have been positioned near the border.

Some US media have reported that the administration of President Joe Biden has spoken with officials of major natural gas importers in Asia including Japan and South Korea about diverting gas supplies to Europe.

"We would like to think how we can contribute to the international community," Japan's Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Koichi Hagiuda told reporters.

The top government spokesman, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno, said at a press conference that Japan has been closely communicating with the United States and European countries, indicating coordinated efforts would proceed smoothly.

At the same time, there are concerns in the government that natural gas reserves in Japan are not in great abundance either.—Kyodo ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Over 7 million visited Dubai in 2021 tourism turnaround

MORE than seven million foreign tourists visited Dubai last year, marking a "remarkable turnaround", the government of the Gulf city state hosting the Expo world fair announced Thursday.

The figure was up 32 per cent on 2020, the first full year of the coronavirus pandemic, Dubai's economy and tourism department said in a statement.

It hailed the recovery as "a remarkable turnaround amid continuing global challenges".

This year, however, missile attacks since last month by Yemeni rebels on the United Arab Emirates of which Dubai is a member have prompted US and UK travel warnings.

Missile and drone attacks by Huthi rebels in Yemen, in whose war the UAE is a military supporter of the government, have rattled the Gulf state's image as a haven of stability in the turbulent Middle East.

Dubai, home of the world's tallest tower, super-luxury hotels and swanky nightclubs, has since 1 October hosted Expo 2020 which runs until 31 March.

The glitzy emirate, a trading and leisure hub for which tourism is a pillar of the economy, attracted a massive 16.7 million tourists from the East and West in 2019, before Covid-19 restrictions.—AFP ■

UK to support consumers as energy price cap rises 54%

THE UK government on Thursday stepped in to help the hardest-hit households struggling with the rising cost of living, announcing a £9 billion package to offset soaring energy bills.

It followed an announcement by that energy regulator that the price cap on how much suppliers can charge consumers will jump by 54 per cent due to soaring wholesale gas prices.

The annual price cap for consumers not on a fixed deal with their supplier will rise by £693 to £1,971 in England, Wales and Scotland from April, Ofgem said. Northern Ireland has a separate regulator and has also announced sharp hikes in average household gas bills.

A BP gas station. **PHOTO: AFP/GREGORY SHAMUS**

UK inflation rose to a near 30-year high in December and more costly household bills are further stoking fears about a cost-of-living squeeze, with government tax rises looming.

The government, under pressure due to lockdown-breaching parties but also struggling to claw back eye-watering pandemic spending, is being urged to get tackle the issue. Finance minister Rishi Sunak said electricity customers will get a £200 discount on their bill in October, to be repaid over five years, while lower and middle-income households will see a £150 rebate on local taxes in April.—AFP ■

Brazil hikes key interest rate to double digits

BRAZIL'S central bank hiked its benchmark interest rate by 1.5 points Wednesday to 10.75 per cent, bringing it into double digits for the first time in nearly five years to fight rampant inflation.

The eighth straight increase to the Selic rate, which was in line with forecasts, comes as Latin America's biggest economy struggles through a recession and stubbornly high inflation that the bank's monetary policy committee said "continued to be a negative surprise". The nine-member committee, which made the decision unanimously, hinted it would soon slow the tightening cycle, saying it "currently foresees a slowdown in the pace (of rate cuts) as the most adequate policy". Brazil has responded to pandemic-driven inflation with one of the most aggressive tightening cycles in the world, rapidly raising the key interest rate from an all-time low of two per cent in March 2021.

The last time the Selic rate was in the double digits was in May 2017. Brazil's inflation rate came in at 10.06 per cent for 2021, crashing through policymakers' target range — currently 3.5 per cent, plus or minus 1.5 percentage points. —AFP ■

Brazil has hiked its benchmark interest rate to 10.75 per cent, bringing it into double digits for the first time in nearly five years to fight rampant inflation. **PHOTO: CHRIS DELMAS /AFP/FILE**

Singapore's retail sales grow 6.7 pct on year in December 2021

THE Department of Statistics (DOS) of Singapore announced on Friday that Singapore's retail sales grew by 6.7 per cent year on year in December 2021, compared to the 2.2 per cent year-on-year increase recorded in the previous month.

Excluding motor vehicles, retail sales rose 8.6 per cent last December, compared to the 4.5 percent growth last November. The estimated total value of retail sales last December was about 4.4 billion Singapore dollars (about 3.28 billion US dollars). Of these, online retail sales made up an estimated 14.6 per cent, lower than the revised 17.1 per cent recorded in November 2021 when there were major online shopping events. The DOS also reported that the sales of food and beverage services increased by 7.4 per cent year on year in December 2021, compared to the one per cent increase in the previous month. —Xinhua ■

NW China province sees new energy development boom

NORTHWEST China's Gansu Province is seeing a new energy development boom as the country seeks to reduce carbon emissions and improve the energy mix.

By 2021, the installed power generation capacity of new energy projects in Gansu had reached 27.63 GW, accounting for 48 percent of the total installed power generation capacity in the province, according to the State Grid Gansu Electric Power Company.

Aerial photo taken on 8 December 2021 shows a molten-salt solar thermal power plant in Yumen City, northwest China's Gansu Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FAN PEISHEN**

Last year, the electricity generated by new energy projects exceeded the 40 billion kWh mark for the first time to reach 44.6 billion kWh, the company said.

By 2021, the utilization rate of new energy power generating capacity in Gansu had reached a record high of 96.83 per cent after local authorities further encouraged local consumption and transmitted more energy to the country's eastern and central regions. The province, rich in wind and solar energy, will step up new energy development in the coming years. The installed power generation capacity of new energy projects in the province is expected to exceed 80 GW in 2025, with non-fossil energy accounting for nearly 30 per cent of primary energy consumption, the company said.—Xinhua ■

PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGE ADVERTISING

The following three pesticides distributed by AGRO POWER CO.,LTD and here we would like to pesticide trade name change advertising. Anyone who would like to object or inquiry about new trade name contact within 14 days to Joint-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon.
AGRO POWER CO.,LTD 09-5012662

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	AP-Penzi	Royal-Penzi	Oxyfluorfen 9%+ Pendimethalin 25% EC	P2021-4312

Transfer of Distributorship of Registered Pesticides

Distributor of the following pesticides, registered by Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd will be transferred from Myanmar Arysta LifeSciences Co., Ltd. located at Suite#09-02, Crystal Tower, Junction Square Compound, Kyun Taw Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon 11041, Myanmar to Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd. Located at Junction City Tower,#03-13, No.3/A, Corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and 27th Street, Pabedan Township, Yangon. Any objection regarding to this transfer can be filed with the Co-Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayintnaung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within 14 days.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of Permit	Registration Number
1	DuPont™ Pexalon® 10 SC	Triflumezopyrim 10% w/w SC	Provisional	P2020-3338

Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd
Ph: 01-9253390

NOTICE OF EXPIRY

WHEREAS,

1. Daw Cho Cho holding Myanmar NRC No.7/PAKHANA(N)224258 with residential address at No. Da 89, Myat Lay Street, Quarter-10, Padaythar Myothit, Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay Region, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar holds sixty-five (65) ordinary shares of Noble Planet Company Limited (Company Registration No. 122600858, the "**Company**");
2. pursuant to the Company's Directors' resolution dated 7 January 2022 of making the final call on Daw Cho Cho's shares and investment, on the same day, the Company made the final call of Myanmar Kyats 6,500,000 on Daw Cho Cho's sixty-five (65) ordinary shares held in the Company and the balance of Myanmar Kyats 18,500,000 on her committed investment to the Company (the "**Final Call**");
3. on 11 January 2022, the Company delivered a written Notice of Final Call on Shares and Investment to Daw Cho Cho by posting it on the page thirteen (13) of the Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper. In the notice, Daw Cho Cho was requested to pay the called monies of total Myanmar Kyats 25,000,000 in full not later than 1 February 2022 to the Company's designated bank account;
4. however, Daw Cho Cho failed once again to make any payment as indicated in the Final Call to the Company's designated bank account,

pursuant to the Company's Directors' resolution dated 3 February 2022 on sending this Notice of Expiry, Daw Cho Cho is hereby notified that the period indicated in the Final Call for her to pay the call on the sixty-five (65) ordinary shares and the balance amount of her committed total investment to the Company has expired.

Mr. Li Decong
Shareholder and Director
Noble Planet Company Limited
Date: 5 February 2022

Daw Maw Maw Myint
Advocate (No. 13433)
No. 46(B), Myaung Mya Street, 18 Ward,
Shwepyitar Township, Yangon

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (238N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (238N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-2-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCL 20

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 20 VOY. NO. (02/2022)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-2-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CUI HUA

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CUI HUA VOY. NO. (CH2104)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-2-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** 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 ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ten children rescued in Panama sex trafficking operation

PANAMANIAN authorities announced Thursday that as part of an operation to disrupt a sex trafficking ring, 10 children were rescued and three people in Panama and Costa Rica were arrested.

"The victims in this case range between the ages of four and 16 and the people involved are close relatives" of the minors, said Emeldo Marquez, a senior Panamanian prosecutor.

He explained that the relatives "facilitated" the shipment of the children from the town of Baru, 525 kilometre s (326 miles) southwest of Panama City, to the Costa Rican border, to be sexually exploited.

In a statement, the Panamanian prosecutor's office confirmed that the number of children rescued was ten.

Panamanian police in Baru as well as Costa Rican authorities in the border towns of Barrio San Jorge and Laurel worked together to dismantle the sex trafficking ring and make the arrests.—AFP ■

20 dead in Argentina after taking toxic-laced cocaine

AT least 20 people died and 74 more were hospitalized in a Buenos Aires suburb after consuming cocaine cut with a toxic substance, possibly opioids, Argentine authorities said Wednesday.

Officials said they were working quickly to determine what the cocaine was mixed with, but warned those who bought the drug over the last 24 hours to dispose of it.

Sergio Berni, the security chief for Buenos Aires province, told the television channel Telefe that authorities were trying to locate the toxic substance "to remove it from circulation." "There is a key ingredient that is attacking the central nervous system," Berni said.—AFP ■

'Where is Scholz?': Germany's new chancellor under fire

TWO months into the job, the honeymoon is already over for German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, with critics accusing him of being "invisible" on the Ukraine crisis and the coronavirus pandemic.

The hashtag #woistscholz ("Where is Scholz?") is doing the rounds on Twitter, and some say the famously taciturn politician needs to start speaking up.

Scholz was sworn in as chancellor on 8 December after leading his Social Democrats (SPD) to a sensational election win, ending 16 years in power for Angela Merkel's conservatives.

But a Forsa survey this week showed the SPD behind Merkel's CDU-CSU in the polls for the first time since the election — on 23 per cent compared with 27 per cent for the conservative bloc, which is now the main opposition party.

Scholz himself, feted for winning the September 26 election with a campaign that played on his calm demeanour and meticulous approach, is also seeing his popularity wane.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz during the Epiphany celebration in front of the Chancellery in Berlin on 5 January 2022. **PHOTO: JOHN MACDOUGALL / AFP**

In a recent survey by public broadcaster ZDF on Germany's most popular politicians, Scholz found himself lagging behind Merkel — who has retired from politics — and Health Minister Karl Lauterbach.

Scholz, who will fly to Washington to meet US President Joe Biden on Monday, has long been known for his understated style.

He was once dubbed "Scholzomat" for his dry, robotic speeches.

Merkel was hardly known for her media presence or rousing speeches, but Scholz "seems to want to surpass her in the art of disappearance", according to Der Spiegel weekly, which accused him of being "almost invisible, inaudible".

"The way the chancellor speaks and communicates seems inappropriate," political scientist Ursula Muench told AFP.— AFP ■

13 killed in rare raid on jihadists by US special forces

A Syrian civil defence team surveys the damage to a two-storey house on the outskirts of the rebel-held town of Atme that appears to have been one of the main targets of the US raid. **PHOTO: AFP**

US special forces hunted down high-ranking jihadists in a rare airborne raid in northwestern Syria on Thursday, killing 13 people in an operation the Pentagon described as "successful".

The operation was thought to be the biggest of its kind by US forces in the jihadist-controlled Idlib region since the 2019 raid that killed Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

The targets of the latest operation around the town of Atme, which residents and other sources said lasted around two hours, were not immediately clear. Names circulating on social media and among local residents suggested the US raid was not aimed at IS operatives but at members of rival jihadist group Al-Qaeda.

The Pentagon stopped short of revealing its target in the nighttime raid but said more information would be provided later. "US Special Operations forces under the control of US Central Command conducted a counterterrorism mission this evening in northwest Syria," spokesman John Kirby said in a statement.—AFP ■

Rotterdam says no decision on dismantling bridge for Bezos superyacht

THE Dutch port city of Rotterdam has not received a request for a permit to temporarily dismantle an historic bridge to allow a superyacht built for Amazon founder Jeff Bezos to pass, local media reported Thursday.

The city's mayor denied any decision had been made, a day after a municipality spokeswoman told AFP that officials had green-lighted the shipbuilder's request to remove the central section of the iconic Koningshaven Bridge, sparking widespread criticism on social media.

Bezos's gigantic, 430-million-euro ($485 million) three-masted yacht — built in Alblasserdam near Rotterdam — is too big to pass under the bridge, which dates from 1878 and was rebuilt after being bombed by the Nazis in 1940 during World War II.

"I find the turmoil quite peculiar. No decision has yet been taken, not even an application for a permit," Dutch newspaper Algemeen Dagblad quoted Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb saying on Thursday.

The municipality will make its decision after a permit application is filed and the impact has been assessed, including if it can be done without damaging the bridge and whether Bezos will foot the bill, the mayor said.

"It's about the facts. I want to know them first," he told the daily.

His remarks in Colombia, where he is on a visit, were confirmed by his spokesperson to Dutch news agency ANP.—AFP ■

Bezos's gigantic, 430-million-euro ($485 million) three-masted yacht – built in Alblasserdam near Rotterdam – is too big to pass under the bridge, which dates from 1878 and was rebuilt after being bombed by the Nazis in 1940 during World War II. **PHOTO: WONDERFULENGINEERING/AFP**

Xi to meet Putin as tensions rise with West

CHINA'S President Xi Jinping is poised for his first face-to-face meeting with a world leader in nearly two years on Friday when he hosts Russia's Vladimir Putin, with the pair drawing closer as tensions grow with the West.

Xi has not left China since January 2020, when the country was grappling with its initial Covid-19 outbreak and locked down the central city of Wuhan where the virus was first detected.

He is now readying to meet more than 20 leaders as Beijing kicks off a Winter Olympics it hopes will be a soft-power triumph and shift focus away from a build-up blighted by a diplomatic boycott and Covid fears.

Xi and Putin will meet in the Chinese capital before their nations release a joint statement reflecting their "common views" on security and other issues, a top Kremlin adviser said at a Wednesday press briefing.

Russian President Vladimir Putin holds a meeting via video conference with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Kremlin in Moscow on June 28 2021. **PHOTO: ALEXEY NIKOLSKY/SPUTNIK/AFP/FILE**

The two strongmen will then attend the Olympic opening ceremony on Friday evening.

Spiralling tensions with the West have bolstered ties between the world's largest nation and its most populous, and Putin was the first foreign leader to confirm his presence at Friday's opening ceremony.

He hailed Russia's "model" relations with Beijing in a December phone call with Xi, calling his Chinese counterpart a "dear friend".

For its part, China has called on the United States to respect Russia's "reasonable security concerns" over Ukraine.

Moscow is looking for support after its deployment of 100,000 troops near its border with Ukraine prompted Western nations to warn of an invasion and threaten "severe consequences" in response to any Russian attack.

China enjoyed plentiful support from the Soviet Union — the precursor to the modern Russian state — after the establishment of Communist rule in 1949, but the two socialist powers later fell out over ideological differences.— AFP ■

North Korean Olympics message may signal halt to missile tests: analysts

A barrage of January missile tests by North Korea forced Beijing to block a US push for new sanctions on Pyongyang. **PHOTO: KCNA VIA KNS/ AFP**

NORTH Korea sent "warm congratulations" Friday to ally China ahead of the opening of the Beijing Winter Olympics, a message analysts said likely signals it will stop test-firing missiles during the event.

Pyongyang conducted an unprecedented seven weapons tests in January, including launching its most powerful missile since 2017 as it hinted it could restart long-range and nuclear testing.

The sabre-rattling raised tensions on the Korean peninsula and forced Beijing -- Pyongyang's main diplomatic ally and economic benefactor -- to block a US push for new UN sanctions over the barrage.

North Korea is barred from competing at the Beijing Games, which have been clouded by human rights and coronavirus concerns and subject to a diplomatic boycott by Washington and its allies.

On Friday, state media in North Korea reported leader Kim Jong Un "warmly congratulated" China's President Xi Jinping on successfully opening the Beijing Winter Olympics "despite the worldwide health crisis and unprecedented severe circumstances".

"The Olympic torch flaring up in Beijing clearly proves that no difficulty and challenge can ever prevent the Chinese people from vigorously advancing," Kim's message said, according to state-run KCNA.—AFP ■

Costa Rica: Central America's green pin-up

COSTA Rica, which elects a new president Sunday, is a small country thriving on ecotourism. Its neutrality, strong democracy and political stability have earned it the nickname of Central America's Switzerland. Here are four facts about the country of more than five million people:

Beacon of peace

Independent since 1821, Costa Rica is considered a model of democracy in Central America. A short civil war in 1948 led to the abolition of the army and helped put in place the country's political stability. In the 1980s, when several other Central American countries were mired in civil wars, neutral Costa Rica acted as peace broker, earning then-president Oscar Arias Sanchez the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987.

It saw a political shift in 2014, when the two rightwing parties that had shared power since the 1960s — the PLN and PUSC — suffered an historic defeat as centrist Luis Guillermo Solis was elected president.—AFP ■

Costa Rica is a rugged, rainforested Central American country with coastlines on the Caribbean and Pacific. Though its capital, San Jose, is home to cultural institutions. **PHOTO: ESTRATEGIAYNEGOCIOS/ AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Four top aides desert UK's embattled Johnson

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson suffered four staff defections on Thursday as pressure intensified on the embattled leader over lockdown parties and his loose-lipped style of politics.

One of the departures was linked to an inflammatory remark made by Johnson, attacking opposition Labour leader Keir Starmer over a notorious paedophile.

"Being honest, I wouldn't have said it and I'm glad the prime minister clarified it," finance minister Rishi Sunak said in an extraordinary rebuke of his boss during a televised news conference.

Sunak is tipped as a leading contender to replace Johnson, if a brewing Conservative revolt against the prime minister develops further.

Downing Street confirmed that chief of staff Dan Rosenfield was leaving, just over a year after he took on the role with a brief to professionalize Johnson's chaotic operation.—AFP ■

Cargo ships waiting off Southern California pushed farther due to US Navy exercises: report

CARGO ships waiting to unload in ports of Southern California had been pushed farther away from the shore as the US Navy launched training exercises along the coast, the Washington Examiner reported Thursday.

Kipling Louttit, Executive Director of the Marine Exchange of Southern California, which coordinates shipping traffic and piloting vessels into the ports, was quoted as saying that only cargo ships cleared to dock within 72 hours were permitted within 50 miles since "the military is shooting missiles and guns six days a week".

"We needed to spread the ships out, so we had to skip over the area. We now have them 150 miles offshore of Southern California. They are waiting along the Mexican coast and as far away as the Panama Canal," Louttit said.—Xinhua ■

Aung La N Sang to fight against Bigdash on 25 February

Aung La N Sang (right) lands a low kick on Vitaly Bigdash in the Middleweight title fight of "ONE Light of a Nation" event at the Indoor Stadium in Yangon on 30 June 2019. **PHOTO:ONE CHAMPIONSHIP**

FORMER ONE Championship two-division World Champion Aung La N Sang (Burmese Python) will take on Vitally Bigdash of Russia in the Middleweight event of the ONE: Full Circle to be held on 25 February in Singapore.

Their fight will be the third time. When the two first met in January 2017, the Russian beat the Burmese Python via unanimous decision to retain his ONE Middleweight World Title. But in the rematch five months later, "The Burmese Python" defeated Bigdash to crown the championship title and become Myanmar's first-ever MMA World Champion.

There will be 14 bouts including 11 challenges and three World Championships.

Reinier de Ridder will defend his ONE World Middleweight Title against Kiamrian Abbasov in the ONE Middleweight World Title bout.

In another mixed martial arts – middleweight event, Leandro Ataides will take David Branch.

Next, Roman Kryklia will also fight against Murat Aygun in the ONE Light Heavyweight Kickboxing World Title bout.

Petchmorakot Petchyindee will face Jamal Yusupov in the ONE Featherweight Muay Thai World Title fight.—Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

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.

Real Madrid's double bid ends in shock loss to Athletic Bilbao

REAL Madrid's hopes of clinching a Spanish domestic double were dashed on Thursday as Athletic Bilbao scored a dramatic 89th-minute winner to knock them out of the Copa del Rey.

Alex Berenguer's scintillating strike after a Casemiro mistake was enough to seal a shock 1-0 victory at San Mames and send Athletic through to the semi-finals.

With Barcelona, Atletico Madrid and Sevilla already out, Madrid were firm favourites to win the Copa del Rey while in La Liga, they are in the driving seat too, sitting four points ahead of Sevilla at the top of the table.

But it will be Athletic that join Real Betis, Valencia and Rayo Vallecano in the last four and while Betis are flying high in the league, all four teams will have genuine hopes now of lifting the trophy.

Alex Berenguer (left) celebrates scoring Athletic Bilbao's late winner against Real Madrid on Thursday. **PHOTO: AFP**

For Athletic, it would be particularly special, coming after they were beaten in two finals in two weeks last year, the first a postponed game from 2020 against Basque rivals Real Sociedad, and the second at the hands of Barcelona.—AFP ■

US leads in figure skating team event, China in top 3 before last short programme

THE United States took the lead and host China saw its chance of qualifying for the free skate, as the figure skating team event got underway here in the Capital Indoor Stadium on Friday at the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games. Three-time world champion Nathan Chen and veteran ice dancing couple Madison Hubbell/ Zachary Donohue both finished on top in their respective short programmes. Their fellow Americans Alexa Knierim/Brandon Frazier finished third in the pairs to secure the US a leading position with the score of 28 points. Olympic athletes from Russia were ranked second with 26 points, with reigning pairs world champions Anastasia Mishina/Aleksandr Galliamov and ice dancers Victoria Sinitsina/Nikita Katsalapov both on the second and Mark Kondratiuk third in the men's singles. Thanks to medal hopeful Sui Wenjing/Han Cong's top-class performance, China edged onto the third place with 21 points, beating Japan into fourth by one point, though Olympic silver medalist Shoma Uno landed a nearly perfect short programme to finish second.—Xinhua ■

Nathan Chen gave the US an early lead in the team figure skating competition at the 2022 Winter Olympics with a cool, clean short programme. **PHOTO: AFP**