THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 296, 9th Waxing of Tabodwe 1383 ME | www.gnlm.com.mm | Wednesday, 9 February 2022

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.

Union Flag carried from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw for Diamond Jubilee Union Day Ceremony

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe, Yangon City Development Committee Chairman U Bo Htay and ethnic nationals salute the Union Flag along with the Guard of Honour at the Yangon City Hall on 8 February 2022.

THE Union Flag relay from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw, to be saluted at the Diamond Jubilee Union Day Ceremony, was organized in line with the COVID-19 health rules yesterday.

First, Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay carried the Union Flag erected in the silver bowl at the sitting room of the Yangon City Hall with the flag safeguarding team that includes Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and Myanmar Police Force and ethnic people and planted the flag in the silver bowl on the dais at the city hall.

Then, the Yangon Region Chief Minister, cabinet members, the YCDC chairman and members, safeguarding team that includes Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and Myanmar Police Force, departmental officials and ethnic people saluted the Union Flag together with the Guard of Honour.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, region Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Win Tint, Economic Affairs Minister U Aung Than Oo, Natural Resources Minister U Zaw Win, Social Affairs Minister U Aung Win Thein and Ethnic Affairs Minister Saw Jet Kaw Htoo respectively handed over the flag to one another.

Then, Ethnic Affairs Minister Saw Jet Kaw Htoo erected the Union Flag in the silver bowl on the decorated Union Boat and carried it to Yangon International Airport flanked by the flag safeguarding team and ethnic people. When the flag arrived at the airport, it was handed over to the Region Advocate-General U Htay Aung,

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
MOFA holds diplomatic briefing on Myanmar development
PAGE-5

NATIONAL
MIFER Union Minister meets investment committee members in Taninthayi Region
PAGE-6

NATIONAL
MoHT Union Minister meets hoteliers in Inlay, Kalaw
PAGE-11

NATIONAL
Students for Diamond Jubilee Union Day Ceremony pay study tour in Nay Pyi Taw
PAGE-11

LOCAL NEWS
MoC oversees daily imports of essential anti-COVID-19 equipment
PAGE-12

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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Announcement 1/2022

6th Waxing of Tabodwe 1383 ME
6 February 2022

Invitation to Perpetual Peace and Diamond Jubilee Union Day Ceremony

1. The State Administration Council is implementing the five-point Road Map for ensuring stability and development and flourishing the genuine, disciplined multiparty democracy. The government adopted the policy that "emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)" as the fourth point of the Road Map. To do so, the State Administration Council is continuously implementing the peace process as part of emphasizing peace in line with the NCA.
2. The Tatmadaw issued 20 statements related to a ceasefire from 21 December 2018 to 28 February 2022 to conduct ceasefire. After meeting with the Cambodian Prime Minister taking ASEAN alternate chair on his working visit to Myanmar on 7 and 8 January 2022, a joint declaration was issued to continue the ceasefire till the end of this year.
3. The message of greetings 2022 made by the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister stated, "The year 2022 is of importance. Coming 12 February is the Diamond Jubilee Union Day and the 4 January 2023 will be the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day. Hence, it is important to further strengthen the sovereignty of the State and progress of the nation with development fruits. So, we have to start the new paces for restoration of the peace this year. As it is mentioned in the fourth point of the five-point road map, all stakeholders and organizations are invited to join the peace talks." Although Myanmar has regained 75 years, the strengthening of sovereignty and development of the nation do not have the improvement as expected due to occurrences of internal armed conflicts and the country loses the strengths and capabilities. It is necessary to restore the perpetual peace to apply these strength and capabilities for the State development at full capacity.
4. Restoration of perpetual peace is very important for building the Union based on democracy and federalism. In this regard, the majority of political parties focused their discussions on the construction of the Union based on democracy and federalism within five years. The National Unity and Peace Restoration Central Committee, the work committee and the coordination committee were formed for working the national unity and perpetual peace. The peace co-ordination committee has so far held meetings with NCA signatories 16 times, non-NCA signatories nine times, political parties seven times and religious leaders and peace negotiators two times, totalling 34.
5. The State Administration Council is arranging the management for holding meetings with ethnic armed organizations for restoring the perpetual peace. Except for the groups declared as terrorist groups, the government invited not only NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations but also non-NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations to talks about the perpetual peace. The schedule was especially expressed that the meetings would not be pre-restricted for topics of the talks with the aim of freely exchanging views among them.
6. Among three future tasks of the State, **two national tasks** are "to ensure the prosperity of the State and the food sufficiency" and **the two political tasks** are "to strengthen the genuine, disciplined multiparty democracy and build the Union based on democracy and federalism." As such, the new steps will be made for the peace as of this year as part of implementing the process for ensuring **the integration of peace and sovereignty**.
7. It is necessary to focus on talking about the perpetual peace through seeking the way to solve the answer in negotiation in accord with the democratic practices in order to politically solve the political problems in successive eras as internal affairs of our country. On the occasion coincided with the Diamond Jubilee Union Day, all ethnic armed organizations are especially invited to the Diamond Jubilee Union Day grand ceremony as well as the pre-coordination meeting on perpetual peace talks to build the Union based on democracy and federalism during the ceremony of the Diamond Jubilee Union Day. The entire ethnic national people are requested to negotiate with all stakeholders to attend the free and unrestricted peace talks and the Diamond Jubilee Union Day for restoration of the perpetual peace of the government.

State Administration Council

Motto of 75th Anniversary Union Day 2022

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

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

1,145 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 8 February, total figure rises to 539,554

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 539,554 after 1,145 new cases were reported on 8 February 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 514,434 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,310 without casualties for 16 days consecutively.—MNA

Union Flag carried from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw ...

FROM PAGE-1

Secretary of region government U Soe Soe Zaw, Transport Minister Police Brig-Gen Myo Min Htike, Ethnic Affairs Minister Saw Jet Kaw Htoo, Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and Chairman of the Organizing Committee on the Diamond Jubilee Union Day Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, respectively.

Along the flag's journey, the ethnic people, Tatmadaw members and families, Myanmar Fire Brigade, Myanmar Red Cross Society, departmental personnel and students welcomed the flag by waving miniature flags.

Then, Chairman of the Organizing Committee on Diamond Jubilee Union Day Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn conveyed the Union Flag by Tatmadaw special aircraft to Nay Pyi Taw. When the flag arrived at the Nay Pyi Taw airport, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn handed it over to Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Dr Maung Maung Naing.

SEE PAGE-4

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein carries the Union Flag.

Mayor U Bo Htay starts relaying the Union Flag from the city hall.

Departmental personnel are seen waving miniature flags to welcome the Union Flag.

Schoolchildren, departmental staff and general public are seen welcoming along the road while the Union Flag is being carried on the Union Boat.

Officials and ethnic nationals are waving hands while the Union Flag is being carried onboard the aircraft.

The Union Flag is handed over to the MoI Union Minister at Yangon International Airport.

Union Flag carried from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw ...

FROM PAGE-3

Afterwards, Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Dr Maung Maung Naing handed over the flag to the deputy ministers of relevant ministries and Nay Pyi Taw Council members and the flag was planted in the silver bowl on the Union Boat parked at the airport compound.

The Union Flag was conveyed by the Union Boat flanked by the flag safeguarding team that includes Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and Myanmar Police Force and ethnic people to Nay Pyi Taw City Hall and welcomed by the students, military families, departmental staff and ethnic people along the road.

When the flag arrived in front of the Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Park, Deputy Minister U Zaw Aye Maung handed it over to MoC Deputy Minister U Nyunt Aung.

Along the way to Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, the flag was relayed by respective officials.

When it arrived in front of the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, Vice Mayor of Nay Pyi Taw U Maung Maung handed it over to Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Dr Maung Maung Naing.

Then, he planted the Union Flag in the silver bowl at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall flanked by the flag safeguarding team that includes Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and Myanmar Police Force and ethnic people

Afterwards, Union Ministers U Maung Maung Ohn and U Min Thein Zan, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Maung Maung Naing, the Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander, deputy ministers and officials saluted the Union Flag together with the Guard of Honour.—MNA

MoI Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn relays the Union Flag at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

The Union Flag is handed over to Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Dr Maung Maung Naing.

The Union Flag is being relayed at Nay Pyi Taw.

Dignitaries are seen paying the salute to the Union Flag along with the Guard of Honour.

Further ongoing work process

Further priorities of our government are: –
Priority will be given to ensure the prosperity of the nation and food sufficiency as **two national tasks.**
As **two political processes**, we will strengthen the genuine, disciplined multiparty democracy and build the Union based on democracy and federalism.

Measures on the sustainability of peace and sovereignty

Concerning **measures on the sustainability of peace and sovereignty**, the year 2022 is of great importance. Coming 12th February will be Diamond Jubilee Union Day and the 4th January 2023 will be Diamond Jubilee Independence Day. As such, it is important to ensure the strengthening of the sovereignty of the State and the fruitful development of the nation. So, we would like to start new steps for the restoration of peace this year. As it has been mentioned in the Five-point Road Map, I have expressed my wish to invite all relevant organizations to talk about peace in my New Year message of greetings in 2022. So, I'd like to add one more that we are always ready for peace.

(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)

Motto of 75th Anniversary Union Day 2022

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

MOFA holds diplomatic briefing on Myanmar development

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs, U Wunna Maung Lwin held a diplomatic briefing on the recent development in Myanmar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon on 8 February 2022.

U Khin Maung Oo, Member of the Union Election Commission, Dr Yin Yin Nwe, Daw Yin Yin Oo and Dr Salai Ngun Cung Lian, members of Advisory Board of the Chairman of the State Administration Council, and senior officials from respective ministries of Myanmar, Ambassadors of foreign embassies, diplomats and representatives from the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office joined the briefing.

Firstly, the Union Minister briefed the attendees on the matters related to the emergence of the State Administration Council and scrutinizing of 2020 electoral process in addressing the issues of electoral fraud following the declaring of state of emergency and transferring of three branches of State power by the Pro Tem President to the Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services, Tatmadaw; and the State Administration Council's endeavours to implement five-point roadmap to ensure the holding of multiparty democratic elections in accordance with the State Constitution. The Union Minister highlighted that the State Administration Council from central level to state/region levels are comprised of members of ethnic nationalities, political parties and members of the Tatmadaw that clearly shows SAC is not a military administration.

Next, the Union Minister briefed in detail regarding the establishment of friendly relations with foreign nations in accordance with the foreign policy enshrined in the State Constitution, which is an independent, active and non-aligned policy; outgoing visits and incoming visits of foreign delegations; Myanmar's cooperation under the ASEAN frameworks as member of ASEAN; the significant development with regard to the implementation of the five-point consensus of ASEAN; and Myanmar's cooperation with the United Nations.

The Union Minister then outlined the Government's effective measures to control and contain the COVID-19 pandemic with the belief that nothing is more valuable than people's lives and endeavours to acquire the COVID-19 vaccines from friendly countries including China, India and Russia as well as arrangements being made for the return of 97,000 Myanmar nationals stranded abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

Moreover, the Union Minister also highlighted the incidents of killings of innocent civilians and government employees, casualties of monks, damages of public buildings and infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, roads and bridges by PDF, NUG, CRPH terrorist groups and their affiliates; investigation and legal actions taken against those have links to terrorist organizations; seizures of arms and ammunition and notifying of those terrorist groups and their terrorist acts to UNCTED, ACCT, ASEANAPOL and INTERPOL to denounce them and calls for their positive cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

The Union Minister also reaffirmed Myanmar's commitment to implement the National Tasks of the State Administration Council (SAC), namely, prosperity and development of the State and food security and sufficiency through effective utilization of the national and human resources of the country; to reinvigorate the economy; to strictly control, contain and combat the COVID-19 pandemic; to build a multiparty democratic Union based on democracy and federalism and to maintain existing friendly relations and expand mutually beneficial cooperation on the basis of equality, mutual respect and understanding with countries around the world, neighbouring countries in particular.

U Khin Maung Oo, Member of the Union Election Commission (UEC) briefed the attendees about the measures taken by the UEC including findings of the investigations on 2020 Multiparty General Election and preparation for upcoming elections in accord with the Five-point Roadmap of the State Administration Council.

Dr Yin Yin Nwe, Member of Advisory Board of the Chairman of the State Administration Council, briefed and explained election fraud and irregularities in the 2020 General Election, and the root cause of the violence and the real situation in Myanmar.

Dr Salai Ngun Cung Lian joined the briefing by explaining the SAC's assumption of the State responsibilities is in accord with the provisions of the State Constitution 2008. Police Brig-Gen. Aung Htay Myint of Myanmar Police Force, Ministry of Home Affairs informed the attendees about the acts of terrors committed by those terrorist groups such as CRPH, NUG and PDF to destabilize the country. He also emphasized that accepting and supporting terrorist groups or a terrorist of a country is a crime as described in the United Nations Security Council Resolutions such as 2176, 2368 and 2050. Dr Tun Tin, Deputy Director-General from the Ministry of Health also updated the preventive measures to contain and control the Covid-19 pandemic in light of the risks posed by the new variant — Omicron. It was followed by the questions and answers session.

After the briefing, the attendees observed the documents, photographs, and charts displayed at the lobby of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. —MNA

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 12/2022

8th Waxing of Tabodwe 1383 ME
8 February 2022

Appointment and Duty-Assignment of Member of the State Administration Council

THE State Administration Council has assigned Lieutenant-General Yar Pyae, Union Minister at the Office of the Union Government (1), to the duties of the Member of the State Administration Council under Section 419 of the State Constitution.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 13/2022

8th Waxing of Tabodwe 1383 ME
8 February 2022

Appointment of Deputy Minister

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Yin Maung Nyunt as Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Industry under Section 419 of the State Constitution.

By Order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

UEC informs to inspect political parties

THE Union Election Commission (UEC) is committed to the development of a genuine and disciplined multiparty democracy.

The UEC is inspecting the formation of the political parties under the Law on Registration of the Parties and systematically implementing the provisions of that law. Party membership of political parties, collecting party funds and resources, maintenance, use, auditing and liquidation and whether the party activities are carried out under the law are being inspected.

The inspection was carried out by inspection teams and members of the Union Election Commission led by the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union consisting of departmental representatives from the Internal Revenue Department and the Bureau of Special Investigation.

A total of 67 political parties including five parties based in Kachin State, two Kayin State-based parties, two parties based in Sagaing Region, one party based in Taninthayi Region, three parties based in Bago Region, two parties based in Mandalay Region, three parties based in Mon State, seven parties based in Rakhine State, 24 parties based in Yangon Region, 13 parties based in Shan State, one party based in Ayeyawady Region and four parties based in Union Territory have been inspected.

Yangon Region-based parties such as the National Unity Party, 88 Generation Students (Union of Myanmar), the National League for Democracy and the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy have been informed by the UEC from 14 to 18 February 2022. From 21 to 25 February, Yangon Region-based parties such as the Modern People's Party, Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics, Kaman National Development Party and the Yeomanry Development Party have been informed to be examined, according to the UEC. —MNA

MIFER Union Minister meets investment committee members in Taninthayi Region

UNION Minister U Aung Naing Oo for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations discussed investment matters with the region Chief Minister and Taninthayi Region Investment Committee members at the region government office on 7 February.

The Union minister highlighted investment facilitation, compliance with investment norms issued by the Myanmar Investment Commission, matters related to Myanmar Investment Law, rules, regulations and investment policy, investment promotion for the regional development and scrutinizing those endorsed investment projects under the existing law at the meeting held on 7 February 2022.

Afterwards, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko, in his capacity as the chairman of the region investment committee, addressed investment promotion and future prospects. The Union minister answered the questions raised by committee members.

Officials of Myeik Public Corporation Limited elaborated matters regarding the fish auction market, the establishment of an industrial park for fish processing and water supply projects in Myeik District. The Union minister gave instructions to fulfil the needs under the law.

In the afternoon, the Union minister inspected the highway bus terminal and construction and lease of the shops in the terminal operated by Khant Shwe Pyi Company Limited in Thabyaychaung village-tract, Dawei city. Company Director U Zaw Bo Khant described performance activities and future plans. The Union Minister coordinated the reported investment matters as well.

The Union Minister inspected working procedures at the regional office under the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration and directed the work activities to the staff.

On the morning of 8 February, U Aung Naing Oo visited Dawei Shwe Phyi Company Limited, the wholly domestic investment made by Myanmar Citizens and endorsed by Taninthayi Region Investment Committee in Thabya village-tract in Dawei Town. He inspected the production and distribution activities of ribbed smoked sheet rubber (RSS-1,2 and 3) and Company Director Dr Yu Sein reported on the challenges in the business and future process. The Union minister instructed the officials to discuss investment matters and fulfil the needs. — MNA

U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for International Cooperation receives Mr David Carden, Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator of the United Nations in Myanmar

U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for International Cooperation received Mr David Carden, Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator of the United Nations in Myanmar on 8 February 2022 at 11:00 am at the meeting room of the Union Minister at the Ministry of International Cooperation.

At the meeting, matters related to humanitarian assistance and areas of cooperation were discussed. —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

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Press release on complaints submitted to the Commission and inspection of prisons and detention centres

Press Release No 1/2022

1. The Commission received 277 complaint letters alleging human rights violations in 2021. With 31 remaining complaint letters from 2020, the Commission's inspection team meeting examined 308 complaint letters as follows: -

(a) Notification to relevant government departments and organizations to scrutinize	72 cases
(b) Inform the complainants of requirements and suggestions	56 cases
(c) Field inspection	1 case
(d) Compilation of records	179 cases
Total	308 cases

2. The Commission also sent replies to the complainants regarding the complaints received by the commission.
3. A total of 179 cases was recorded as it was not necessary to scrutinize under Section 32, sub-sections (b) and (c) of the Commission Law and Section 37, sub-sections (a) and (b) of the Commission Law.
4. The most common types of complaints received by the Commission were land disputes (24.18%), police-related cases (5.41%), judicial cases (4.69%) and prison cases (4.33%), and Yangon Region accounted for the largest number of complaints at 30.68%, 14.44% from Bago Region, 10.83% from Mandalay Region and 10.1% from Sagaing Region.
5. The coordination notice was sent to the relevant Union ministries, Union-level organizations, Nay Pyi Taw Council, Region/State governments for scrutiny. The status of receiving 227 scrutiny letters in 2021 is as follows and relevant complainants were informed: -

(a) Response to 2018 complaints	2
(b) Response to 2019 complaints	14
(c) Response to 2020 complaints	152
(d) Response to 2021 complaints	59
Total	227

6. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission inspected 10 prison cells, one detention centre, nine labour camps, 12 police custodies and three remand cells and checked on whether they were in line with the UN minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners and whether the prisoners and detainees had humanitarian protection under the international and domestic human rights law.
7. The Commission submitted recommendations to the Ministry of Home Affairs for prison cells, provision of clean water, prison clinics and sanitation matters, access to family, access to health care, prison library, food, and the right to vocational education. During the inspection, the Commission also inspected the status of implementation of the recommendations during the previous inspection and met 90 prisoners and detainees who wanted to meet the inspection team, and their reports were recorded, and the findings and recommendations were coordinated with relevant departments.
8. In 2021, the Commission inspected the Kyaikwaing Youth Training School and Girls' Training School (Malikha) in Mayangon, and Girl's Training School in Htaukkyant in Mingaladon Township in accord with the provisions, rules and regulations of the Commission. It was inspected to ensure that the children in Youth Training Schools were under care in line with basic human rights such as access to health care, family reunification, and purified drinking water, and recommendations on the findings were sent to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.
9. During the inspection tour to prisons, work camps and youth training schools and schools for the disabled in 2021, the Commission donated 3,560 books and notebooks containing Myanmar translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
10. Ways to file a complaint are occasionally published in newspapers and announcements are also made at www.mnhrc.org.mm. As human rights abuses include violations of child rights, women rights, and the rights of persons with disabilities, if you experienced any of such violations, please file a complaint.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
Dated 8 February 2022

9 FEBRUARY 2022
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Take good examples and discard misdeeds with forgiveness for all

ARTISTES from the performing arts arena, especially those from literary, film, theatrical performance and musical fields are idols of the people because of their masterpieces and excellent works.

Naturally, everybody cannot obey the instructions of somebody or restrictions and discipline adopted by authorities but they willingly follow the exhortation of artistes. They take emulation made by any artistes in some plots of drama, stories and songs as quickly as possible.

As such, they may unexpectedly commit some faults but these cannot harm society. At that time, people need to take action against these faults with forgiveness and open-mindedness. If so, the relations between the artistes and the audiences will be pleasurable. Consequently, they all can avoid the act of dissatisfaction with each other and can build amicable relations.

However, as the people may derail from their emulation to their idols who committed inappropriate acts and talks, it is necessary to take care of them not to copy these inappropriate moves. That is why both the artistes and the people need to hold up the critical thinking on how to take the best from their daily experiences.

Artistes, as well as prominent persons, are very influential over others, especially those who emulate them. That is why the artistes need to give good guidelines to the people so as to overcome the challenges and analyze the good and the bad things for their lives, the weak and strong points of the vicious circle, and the true and false respectively.

To do so, those artistes need to exercise the best lifestyle without any sins based on religious and secular crimes. It is because those artistes are taking positions in the hearts of the audiences. They have to know the effectiveness of place, manner, time and reason whenever they do something. All their moves must be free from blames to be put by the analysts and audiences.

On the other hand, the people, as well as the audiences, need to consider that those artistes are actually ordinary people. As such, they may unexpectedly commit some faults but these cannot harm society. At that time, people need to take action against these faults with forgiveness and open-mindedness. If so, the relations between the artistes and the audiences will be pleasurable. Consequently, they all can avoid the act of dissatisfaction with each other and can build amicable relations.

Everybody needs to review their daily acts whether these are correct or wrong. If they commit some disorders over others, they need to consider how to remedy them. Actually, they all need to culture the sympathy. They all should forgive and forget the sins of others and they themselves try to be free from committing wrongdoings.

■ ■ ■

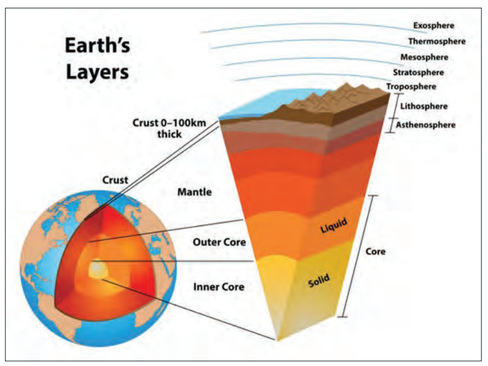
Volcanic Eruption

By Mg Han Tin

A **VOLCANO** is a rupture in the crust of a planetary-mass object, such as Earth, that allows hot lava, volcanic ash, and gases to escape from a magma chamber below the surface. On Earth, volcanoes are most often found where tectonic plates are diverging or converging and most are found underwater. When a volcano erupts, huge amounts of very hot gas, boulders, ash and molten rock can burst out. This is thrown into the air, often pouring down the side of the mountain. When the molten rock pours down the mountain it creates **lava** or **pyroclastic** flows. They can produce rivers of molten lava, crushing mudflows, suffocating ash and toxic gases that wreak havoc across the globe for years after. Similar to the **Richter scale** for earthquakes, the size of a **volcanic eruption** is measured using **the Volcanic Explosivity Index (VEI).** The VEI ranks volcanic explosions from 1 to 8, with 1 being a gentle outpouring of lava and 8 being a mega-colossal explosion.

Magma @ Lava

Earth is a layered structure that consists of the **inner-core**, **outer-core**, **mantle** (the earth that lies beneath the crust and above the central core), and **crust** (the outer part of a planet, composed essentially of crystalline rocks.) Much of the planet's mantle consists of magma. Magma forms from the partial melting of mantle rocks which is extremely hot liquid and semi-liquid rock. It was created deep beneath Earth's surface (often 100 miles or more underground), where temperatures get hot enough to melt rock. This magma can push through holes or cracks in the crust, causing a volcanic eruption. Eventually, some magma makes its way to Earth's surface and escapes via a volcanic eruption. When magma erupts onto Earth's surface and begins to flow, scientists then call it lava. Therefore, scientists use the term magma for molten rock that is underground and lava for molten rock that breaks through the Earth's surface. Lava is the silicate rock that is hot enough to be in liquid form, and which is expelled from a volcano during an eruption. The temperature of lava can vary from 700 to 1,200 °C. Along with lava, volcanoes also release gases, ash, and solid rock.

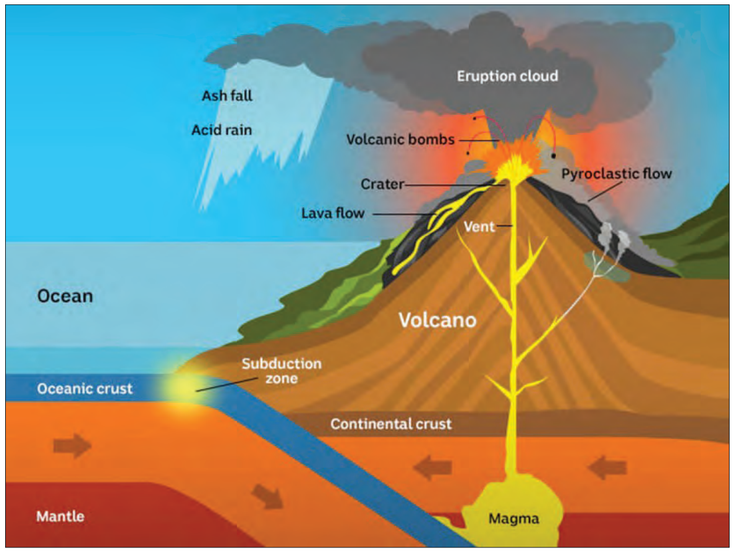


Magma chamber

The magma chamber is an underground reservoir, containing a large pool of **molten rock (magma)**, beneath the Earth's crust under a volcano. It is an extremely hot liquid and semi-liquid rock. This **magma reservoir** is also known as a **magma storage zone**. This is where magma comes together and creates extreme pressure. The magma in such a chamber is less dense than the surrounding mantle which produces buoyant forces that tend to drive it upwards and can lead to the surface through the surrounding fractured crack rocks. Once there's enough molten rock (magma) and have enough pressure, it finds a path to the surface, then the result will be a volcanic eruption. Hence, this is why many volcanoes are located above a magma chamber. Most known magma chambers are located close to the Earth's surface, usually between 1 km and 10 km deep.

The magma collected in the magma chamber's pocket moves up through a pipe (conduit) (a long tube in the ground that connects the magma chamber) to the earth's surface. Craters are where the lava comes out when the volcano erupts. Molten rock (magma) and gases leave the volcano through an opening called a **vent**.

Geologists generally group volcanoes into four main kinds--**cinder cones, composite volcanoes, shield volcanoes, and lava domes.**



Types of Volcanoes

Volcanoes come in many different shapes and sizes but are most commonly cone-shaped hills or mountains. They are found throughout the world, forming **ridges** deep below the sea surface and mountains that are thousands of meters high. On land, volcanoes form when one tectonic plate moves under another. In the ocean, volcanoes erupt along cracks that are opened in the ocean floor by the spreading of two plates called a **mid-ocean ridge** (A mid-ocean ridge is a seafloor mountain system formed where two plate tectonics diverge from one another. It is also called seafloor spreading.) Magma from Earth's upper mantle rises up to fill these cracks.

Volcanoes are classified as **active, dormant, or extinct**. **Active volcanoes** have a recent history of eruptions and there is a possibility that they may likely erupt again. **Dormant volcanoes** have not erupted for a very long time but there is a possibility they can erupt in the future time. **Extinct volcanoes** have erupted thousands of years ago and there's no possibility of an eruption in the future.

Cinder Cones

Cinder cones are circular or oval cones made up of small fragments of lava from a single vent that has been blown up. Cinder cones result from eruptions of mostly small pieces of scoria and pyroclastic that builds up around the vent. Most cinder cones erupt only once.

Composite Volcano

Composite volcanoes are steep-sided volcanoes composed of many layers of volcanic rocks, usually made from high-viscosity lava, ash and rock debris. These types of volcanoes are tall conical mountains that produce explosive eruptions.

Shield Volcano

Shield volcanoes are volcanoes that form very large, gently sloped mounds (hills); generally shaped like a bowl or shield in the middle with long gentle slopes made by basaltic lava flows. These are formed by the eruption of low-viscosity lava that can flow a great distance from a vent. They generally do not explode catastrophically.

Lava Domes

Lava domes are formed when erupting lava is too thick to flow and makes a steep-sided mound as the lava piles up near the volcanic vent. They are built by slow eruptions of highly viscous (thick) lava. They are sometimes formed within the crater of a previous volcanic eruption. Like a composite volcano, they can produce violent, explosive eruptions, but their lava generally does not flow far from the originating vent.

Cumbre Vieja volcano erupted in the **Spanish island of La Palma in the Canary Islands** on 19 September 2021, which measured **VEI-4**. It is a very steep-sided oceanic island volcano. Cumbre Vieja volcano is one of the two volcanoes on La Palma volcanic island (one of the youngest of the Canary archipelago), is a **composite volcano** formed by three overlapping volcanic centres, and is one of the most active volcanic ridges in the Canaries. The volcano went quiet on 13 December 2021. It lasts 85 days (about three months), which is the longest known eruption of a volcano on La Palma. The eruption has caused the evacuation of around 7,000 people, and the lava flow has covered over 1000 hectares. Cumbre Vieja erupted twice in the 20th century, in 1949 and 1971.

Types of Volcanic Eruptions

Types of volcanic eruptions depend on various factors such as the chemistry of magma, temperature, viscosity, volume, presence of groundwater, and water and gas content. Following are the different types of volcanic eruptions:

Hydrothermal eruption: These eruptions include ash and not magma. They are driven by the heat caused by hydrothermal systems.

Phreatic eruption: This is driven when the heat of the magma interacts with the water. These eruptions do not include magma and only ash.

Phreatomagmatic eruption: This eruption takes place when there is an interaction between the newly formed magma and water.

Strombolian and **Hawaiian eruption**: Hawaiian eruption has fire fountains while the Strombolian eruption has explosions due to lava fragments.

Vulcanian eruption: These eruptions last for a short period of time and can reach up to a height of 20 km.

Subplinian and **Phinian eruptions**: Subplinian eruptions reach up to 20 km height, while Plinian eruptions reach up to 20-35 km.

Undersea or Submarine Volcano

An undersea or submarine volcano is located below the ocean surface and mostly erupts underwater. Most of the active volcanoes on Earth are located underwater. There are an estimated one million undersea volcanoes around the world and most are extinct. Like continental volcanoes, many of them are located near the areas of Earth's tectonic plate's formation where tectonic plates move towards or away from each other. Around three-quarters of all volcanic activity occur underwater. During an eruption, hot magma forces the oceanic crust open. This can lead to **tsunamis** (a series of ocean waves caused by the displacement of water.)

The Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai undersea (submarine) volcano, located about 40 miles north of Tongatapu, Tonga's main island, lies along the Pacific 'Ring of fire'. It erupted on 14 January 2022.

SEE PAGE-10

Motto of 75th Anniversary Union Day 2022

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

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 8 February 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 9 February 2022: Light rain are likely to be isolated in upper Sagaing, Taninthayi regions and Kachin state. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Kayin and Mon states and generally fair 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: Slight decrease of night temperatures in upper Sagaing region and Kachin, Shan,Chin states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 February 2022: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 February, 2022: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 February, 2022: Generally fair weather.

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.7) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Andaman Islands, India Region), latitude 11.81°N, longitude 93.55°E, depth (143) kilometers, about (388) miles south-southwest of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (14) hr (19) min (59) sec M.S.T on 8 February, 2022.

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Volcanic Eruption

FROM PAGE-9

The eruption is likely the largest of the 21st century to date, with a possible **VEI** as high as 5. A preliminary estimate suggests it had an explosive force equivalent to about 10 megatons of TNT. The Pacific Plate was pushed down below the Indo-Australian Plate and Tonga plate, causing the molten rock to rise above and form the chain of volcanoes. On Jan.15, this underwater Pacific volcano sends tsunami waves to Tonga, cutting off contact with outer islands.

Seamounts

Submarine volcanoes which are underwater mountains formed by volcanic activity that do not reach sea level (surface of the ocean) are called **seamounts. Volcanic seamounts** (submarine volcanoes) are the most common forms in the deep oceans, although seamounts can also be created by faults. Many submarine volcanoes are seamounts, **typically extinct volcanoes** that rise abruptly from a seafloor of 1,000 - 4,000 meters depth. The **Mariana volcanic arc** is a chain of **underwater volcanoes (seamounts).**

There are three main types of submarine volcanoes, including those at **spreading centres**, **subduction zones**, and **hotspot** volcanoes.

Spreading centre volcanic activity occurs **at the site of mid-oceanic ridges**. As the plates are pulled apart, the hot **asthenosphere** rises upward to fill the voids of the extended **lithosphere**. (**Spreading centres** are found at the crests of oceanic ridges. It is the linear boundary between two diverging **lithospheric plates** on the ocean floor.)

Subduction zones volcanic activity occurs where the two tectonic plates move towards each other. **Subduction** is a geophysical process in two or more of Earth's tectonic plates, where the edge of one crustal plate descending below the edge of another converge. The heavier or denser plate is being pushed down beneath the other lighter plate and deep into the mantle, causing the seafloor and outermost crust (**the lithosphere**) to bend and form a steep, V-shaped depression. This is a very slow process. The movement is just one or two inches per year. When this happens, rocks melt (melting of the plates) which produces magma that rises up through the overlying plate and moves to Earth's surface and causes volcanic activity as a volcano.

Hot Spot volcanic activity is unique because it does not occur at the boundaries of Earth's tectonic plates, where all other volcanic actions occur. Instead, it occurs at abnormally hot centres known as mantle plumes. **A Hot Spot** is a region deep within the Earth's mantle from which heat rises through the process of **convection** (transmission of heat within a liquid or gas by the movement of heated particles). This heat facilitates the melting of rock at the base of the lithosphere, where the brittle, upper portion of the mantle meets the Earth's crust. The melted rock (magma) often pushes through cracks in the crust to form volcanoes.

Ring of Fire

The **Ring of Fire** (also known as the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, the **Rim of Fire**, the **Girdle of Fire** or the **Circum-Pacific belt**) is a region around much of the rim of the **Pacific Ocean** where many **volcanic eruptions** and **earthquakes** occur. Most of the active volcanoes on Earth are located underwater, along the **"Ring of Fire"** in the Pacific Ocean. It is made up of more than 450 volcanoes in a region around much of the rim of the **Pacific Ocean**. The Ring of Fire stretches for nearly 40,250 kilometres (25,000 miles) arc, running in the shape of a horseshoe (as opposed to an actual ring) from the southern tip of South America, along the west coast of North America, across the Bering Strait, down through Japan, and into New Zealand. The Ring of Fire is the result of plate tectonics. Along much of the Ring of Fire, much of the volcanic activity occurs along subduction zones.

Oceanic trenches

Oceanic trenches are prominent long, narrow topographic depressions (hollows) of the ocean floor. Trenches are steep depressions in the deepest parts of the ocean and are formed by subduction. They are typically 50 to 100 kilometres wide and 3 to 4 km (1.9 to 2.5 mi) below the level of the surrounding oceanic floor but can be thousands of kilometres in length. There are about 50,000 kilometres (31,000 mi) of oceanic trenches worldwide, mostly around the Pacific Ocean, but also in the eastern Indian Ocean and a few other locations.

The **Tonga Trench** is an oceanic (submarine) trench located on the floor of the southwestern Pacific Ocean, about 850 miles (1,375 km) in length. The distance from Tonga Trench to Hunga Tonga volcano is 272 km (169 mi). Its deepest point is 10,882 m, a site known as **the Horizon Deep**. It is the deepest trench in the Southern hemisphere and the second deepest on Earth after the **Mariana Trench.** The Mariana Trench is located in the western Pacific Ocean about 200 kilometres (124 miles), east of the Mariana Islands. It is 11,034 meters (36,201 feet) deep, which is almost 7 miles; the deepest oceanic trench on Earth. It is crescent-shaped and measures about 2,550 km (1500 miles) in length and 69 km (43 miles) in width.

VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS have the power to destroy whole cities and alter the global climate, because of the temperature decrease, which can cause crops to fail over large areas. Flows of incredibly hot liquid mud and rock destroy or damage any buildings or structures surrounding the area of a volcano. Homes are commonly destroyed by hot ash falling like rain on everything below. Crops can be buried by ash or animals poisoned by chemicals in the ash. Large size volcanic eruptions can also destroy and devastate economies. The costs of more recent eruptions are calculated by measuring the loss of infrastructure and the loss of income to people in the area. A United Nations study found that between 1995 and 2015, volcanic eruptions cost $152.6 billion in damages, roughly $7.6 billion a year. An undersea volcanic eruption may sometimes be susceptible to send tsunami waves and can trigger unusual high tide waves to nearby and faraway, depending upon VEI magnitude. (For example, the incident of Peru oil spills after Tonga massive volcanic eruption which is 10,000km away. It is an 'ecological disaster'.) The Mount Pinatubo, Philippines, eruption was the second-largest volcanic eruption of the 20th century, which measured **VEI-6**. On 15 June 1991, the volcano erupted, creating an ash cloud that rose 35km into the air. The eruption created massive avalanches of pyroclastic flows and ejected nearly 20 million tons of SO_2 into the stratosphere, causing global temperatures to plummet. 722 people were killed and left more than 200,000 people homeless. The eruption cost upwards of $200 million.

Volcanoes are not causing the warming that the Earth is experiencing today. Volcanoes release carbon dioxide (CO_2) and other greenhouse gases when they erupt, which can lead to climate warming if the input of CO_2 into the atmosphere is sufficiently large. The most consequential effect of volcanoes on the modern global climate has not been warming, but short-term cooling. This happens because the sulfate particles that are released in a volcanic eruption block incoming sunlight. But the net long-term effect of volcanism over the last 200 years has not been significant enough to warm the climate. For example, Scientists estimate that Mount Pinatubo's eruption released about 50 million tons of CO_2 into the atmosphere in 9 hours. It spewed clouds of gas and dust more than 30 kilometres up into the atmosphere. The eruption of Mt. Pinatubo led to an almost 0.6°C (1°F) decrease in average global temperatures over the following 15 months.

New studies by scientists have found that climate change affects the frequency of volcanic eruptions. Even relatively small-scale climatic changes affect volcanic activity. Minor climate variations may have such an influence. If they are right, today's global warming could mean more and bigger volcanic eruptions in the future.

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■ ■ ■

A volunteer takes care of a koala in Adelaide Koala Rescue in Adelaide, Australia, 28 January 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA/BAI XU/FILE**

Aussie conservation group calls for "endangered" listing for koalas

ONE of Australia's leading conservation groups has called on the federal government to upgrade koalas' status from "vulnerable" to "endangered" following research into the extent of their habitat's destruction.

Since Australia's iconic marsupial was listed as vulnerable a decade ago, some 25,000 hectares of their habitat across the nation has been cleared.

The report released by the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) on Tuesday revealed that 63 planned government projects would result in another 25,000 hectares of koala habitat being destroyed.

Koalas are particularly vulnerable to habitat destruction as they subsist wholly on the leaves of the eucalyptus tree. It is estimated that their populations have declined by 30 per cent in the last three years alone.

Media and Investigations manager at the ACF Freya Cole told Xinhua on Tuesday that given the rate of destruction of koala habitats, if now assessed, their status would "almost certainly" be upgraded. The Threatened Species Scientific Committee, the body that advises the Australian government on conservation listings, has already issued advice. But the advice has not been acted on.—Xinhua

Students for Diamond Jubilee Union Day Ceremony pay study tour in Nay Pyi Taw

THE students, who will participate in the Diamond Jubilee Union Day Ceremony by performing the characters of states/regions and the marching band, and their teachers arrived at Tatmadaw transit centre (Ywadaw) on 7 February.

The officials arranged the study tour to the construction site of Maravijaya Buddha Image, Uppatasanti Pagoda, National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) and Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Park for the students.

The study group included a total of 1,240 students and teachers. — MNA

Students go on study tours around Nay Pyi Taw.

MoHT Union Minister meets hoteliers in Inlay, Kalaw

UNION Minister Dr Htay Aung of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism conferred with hoteliers in Nyaungshwe at Aureum Palace Resort for hotels and tourism sector development on 7 February.

The Union minister inspected the accomplishment of invasive water hyacinth and lake debris removing project in Inlay Lake by motorboat.

At the meeting with the hoteliers, the Union minister praised the successful project for eradication of water hyacinth. He gave a remark that creating community-based tourism requires short-term and long-term strategies, rules and regulations to enhance the socio-economy of the residents and he directed to coordinate those matters. Moreover, he asked officials concerned and stakeholders in the tourism industry to cooperate in preserving cultural heritage and ecology in Inlay Lake.

Afterwards, the Union minister inspected the dried water hyacinth processing and export activities of Namu International Co., Ltd in Mongthouk village in Nyaungshwe Township.

On the morning of 8 February, the Union minister met hoteliers and officials concerned at Pine Hill Resort Hotel regarding upgrading Kalaw city as a tourism destination. Shan State government planned to raise the fund in the 2022-2023 Financial Year. The Union minister encouraged the stakeholders in the industry to coordinate in implementing the main project and the expansion projects in order to effectuate the economic, environmental and social development in their own community. — MNA

Public transport fares to be increased due to rising fuel oil prices

A plan is underway to increase the public transport fares due to rising fuel oil price, other vehicle spare parts and maintenance costs, it is learnt.

Currently, the domestic fuel oil price is K1,645 per litre for petrol (RON 92), K1,700 per litre for petrol (RON 95), K1,670 per litre for diesel and K1,670 per litre for premium diesel. That is the reason, the bus line's owners have submitted a proposal to YRTC to increase the YBS bus fare up to K400 legally as YBS vehicles operating in the city need to remain operational.

The commuters are only allowed to charge K400 depending on the trip distance. But there are no official fees of K400 to collect from the passengers, said U Lyan Cin Mang, Joint secretary of YRTC.

"We have taken action to the YBS bus lines for collecting extra charges K500 or K1,000 per person. We have granted the YBS bus lines to collect up to K400 per person depending upon the distance. But, they are not permitted to collect the extra fare. The bus line companies are negotiating with the Asia Starmar Company for the YPS card. We don't plan to increase the YBS fare," he added.

"The YBS buses are collecting K300 per person wherever they go. The bus should collect only K200 per person who is going to only two or three bus stations. Now, we head that the YBS will increase the bus fare to K400. K100 is nothing for some people. But for us, we pay K200 for every day, said a commuter from Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

Similarly, there is a plan to increase the fares of the water ferry due to the rising price of fuel oil and spare parts of the water ferry, said U Kyaw Nyein, Chairman of the Dala Township Motorboat Supervision Team.

"We have planned to increase the water ferry fares starting from the first week of March after negotiation with authorities. Before we increase fares, we will announce the commuters, meeting decision with the executive team," he added. There are 11 motor vessels in Dala township. They are collecting K150, 200, 250 or 300 per person. Now, the motor vessels will increase their fares to K50 or K100 per person depending on the distance.

With the rising fuel oil prices, YBS buses and motor vessels are planning to increase their fares. Yangon-Bago Smart City bus lines operating Yangon-Bago has increased their fares beginning from 24 January. Now, the fare for Yangon-Bago, Bago-Yangon routes was K2,000 per passenger. Now, it has been amended to K3,000 per person. — Ko Naing/ GNLM

Public Notice

THE respective district Rapid Response Teams (RRT) are organized for 24-hour information for the people living in Yangon Region who suffer from COVID-19 symptoms and have close contact with the positive patients, and the people can contact the following phone numbers of the districts.

Those who want to take a test for COVID-19 can contact the district RRT and undergo the COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test (RDT) at the places recommended by the RRT from 9 am to 4 pm daily.

The district Bed Management Committee will help assist the patients who need to be treated at the hospital/COVID-19 treatment centre among the COVID-19 confirmed patients.

Southern District Public Health Department, 24 hours contact numbers to RRT

09 882555067
09 882555068
09 882555069

Northern District Public Health Department, 24 hours contact numbers to RRT

09 882555071
09 882556338
09 882556340

Western District Public Health Department, 24 hours contact numbers to RRT

09 882555063
09 882555064
09 882555065

Eastern District Public Health Department, 24 hours contact numbers to RRT

09 882555049
09 882555061
09 882555062

Ministry of Health

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 39 tonnes of masks were imported by four vehicles of one company via the Chinshwehaw trading post 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

Lorries are seen transporting anti-Covid devices and medical supplies to states/regions.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timber, consumer goods seized this week

Confiscated consumer goods and timbers.

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

On 7 February, a combined inspection team from the Mayangchaung permanent checkpoint stopped the vehicle and seized 150 cartons soft drinks (estimated at K1,950,000) that were not accompanied by any official documents and were prosecuted under the Customs Law.

Managed by the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, a combined inspection team led by the Department of Forest inspected sites in Bago Region on 8 February. Next, 21.6230 tonnes of illegal timber (estimated value of K2,157,558) were confiscated in the forest areas of Thayawady, Pyay, Toungoo and Bago districts and action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, the total number of arrests on 7 and 8 February were two and the estimated value was K4,107,558, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Illegal drugs seized in Myitkyina, Tamway

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Narcotic Drug Force searched the vehicle (Isuzu) driven by Lahtaw Zaw Phang on the Sutjat street, Tatkon ward, Myitkyina, on 6 February, and seized 1.1 kilogrammes of heroin from the vehicle.

Similarly, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Narcotic Drug Force confiscated 1,010 stimulant tablets from Zaw Moe and Zaw Win Tun (a) San Shay when they were found suspected on Thamein Bayan road, Natchaung ward, Tamway Township on 7 February.

It is reported that action is being taken against arrested drug dealers under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to the Myanmar Police Force. — MNA

An arrestee is seen along with seized drugs and vehicle.

Nissan lifts FY 2021 net profit outlook to 205 bil. yen

NISSAN Motor Co. lifted on Tuesday its net profit outlook for the current business year to March to 205 billion yen ($1.8 billion) from its earlier projection of 180 billion yen, helped by a weaker yen and a reduction in costs.

The Japanese automaker expects to return to the black after two straight years of massive losses.

Operating profit is now forecast at 210 billion yen, up from 180 billion yen projected in November, while the company lowered its sales projection by 90 billion yen to 8.71 trillion yen.

Nissan maintained its global sales target at 3.8 million vehicles as a global semiconductor shortage and factory closures caused by the coronavirus pandemic continue to hit the auto industry. "Given the unpredictable environment surrounding us, we are approaching the period ahead of us with cautious optimism," Nissan Chief Operating Officer Ashwani Gupta told an earnings briefing. A weaker yen is proving a boon to automakers as their overseas profits are boosted when repatriated.

The Yokohama-based company reported a net loss of 448.70 billion yen in fiscal 2020 and 671.22 billion in fiscal 2019 when it saw its first full-year red ink in 11 years.

For the April to December period, the Japanese automaker reported a net profit of 201.34 billion yen, a turnaround from a loss of 367.72 billion yen a year earlier.—Kyodo ■

Nissan Global Headquarters Gallery is the headquarter of the world-wide automobile manufacturing company, Nissan Motor Co. The first floor of the building serves as a showroom with the current and past Nissan Car models **PHOTO: NISSAN/KYODO/FILE**

Chinese drug giant halts trading as US move triggers stock plunge

Wuxi Biologics has suspended trading in Hong Kong after a US listing triggered a record slump in its share price. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

WUXI Biologics suspended trading in Hong Kong on Tuesday following a record slump in its share price, after Washington added the Chinese pharmaceutical giant to a list that could restrict its US operations.

The Department of Commerce on Monday said the company was among 33 Chinese entities added to its unverified list, which may force it to obtain additional licences to do business with American firms.

Wuxi Biologics, which produces vaccines and drugs on contract for pharmaceutical firms, said the move would have "no impact" on its business and that it was "in compliance with all US export control regulations".

But its shares plunged as much as 32 per cent in Hong Kong on Tuesday before suspending trading down 23 per cent at HK$62.25.

The company has expanded aggressively in recent years with a 1.3 million-square-foot production facility set to open in the western Chinese city of Chengdu next year, according to its website. It signed an agreement with GlaxoSmithKline and Vir Biotechnology to produce Covid-19 antibody treatment Sotrovimab in 2020, and took over a Bayer factory in Germany last year to produce Covid-19 vaccines.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

SoftBank's $40 bn sale of chip group Arm to Nvidia collapses

JAPAN'S SoftBank said Tuesday that the $40 billion sale of chip powerhouse Arm to Nvidia had collapsed because of "significant regulatory challenges" over competition concerns, and it now plans to take the unit public.

The move comes after US authorities filed a lawsuit seeking to block the sale and probes were launched into the mega-deal in the United Kingdom and Europe.

Alongside the announcement, the Japanese telecoms firm-turned-investment giant reported a net profit of 29.0 billion yen ($251 million) in the third quarter.—AFP ■

BP swings into $7.6 bn annual profit after huge loss

BP returned to profit in 2021 as oil and gas prices surged following a huge loss the prior year when the pandemic struck, the British energy giant revealed Tuesday.

BP posted a net profit of $7.6 billion (6.7 billion euros) last year, compared with a loss after tax of $20.3 billion in 2020, the company said in a statement.

"2021 shows BP doing what we said we would — performing while transforming," said BP chief executive Bernard Looney.—AFP ■

Venice glassblowers scorched by blazing energy bills

THE blown glass creations forged in the furnaces on Venice's Murano islands are prized around the world — but soaring gas prices are threatening the centuries-old craft.

"It's a huge problem... A hurricane has hit the economy," Luciano Gambaro, head of the Promovetro glass association, told AFP, describing bills that have risen a whopping 600 percent.

Murano's artisans fashion everything from tiny, coloured animals to majestic chandeliers, seven days a week.

To do so, they need one key thing: heat. Energy is their second biggest expense, after labour costs, and they are suffering from record gas prices worldwide. They were paying 20 cents ($0.23) per cubic metre until September.

"On the December bill, the price was 1.27 euros, a rise of over 600 per cent," said Gambaro, who employs six people and is feeling the strain.

There have been glassmakers on Murano — a series of islands linked by bridges — since the 13th century, when they were moved from Venice proper after devastating fires which began in their furnaces.—AFP ■

The energy bills of Murano's glassblowers soared sixfold between September and December. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

US Air Force ordered to pay more than $230 mn over 2017 Texas church shooting

A US federal judge on Monday ordered the Air Force to pay more than $230 million in damages to survivors and relatives of victims of a 2017 Texas shooting for failing to report the perpetrator's criminal record.

Twenty-six people were killed and 22 more wounded when Devin Patrick Kelley opened fire at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, in November 2017.

Kelley, a convicted felon, had a history of domestic abuse and mental health problems.

The attack, after which Kelley was found dead having shot himself, was the worst mass shooting in Texas history. "The Court concluded that the Government failed to exercise reasonable care in its undertaking to submit Kelley's criminal history to the FBI and that the Government was 60 per cent responsible for the Plaintiffs' injuries," the ruling read.—AFP ■

US offers $10 mn reward to help track IS-K leader

THE United States on Monday offered a $10-million reward for information leading to the "identification or location" of the leader of the Afghanistan regional chapter of the Islamic State group.

The reward offered by the US State Department was also for any information that would aid in arresting or convicting those responsible for the "terrorist attack at the Kabul airport" on 26 August which was claimed by the Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K).

The attack, which killed more than 100 people including 13 American soldiers, was launched as the United States orchestrated its chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan and the evacuation of Afghans deemed under threat by the Taliban's takeover.

According to Washington, Sanaullah Ghafari — also known as Shahab al-Muhajir — was appointed head of IS-K in June 2020 by the Islamic State group.—AFP ■

Putin says ready for compromise after talks with Macron on Ukraine

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said he was ready for compromise and would look at proposals put forward by French leader Emmanuel Macron during talks on Monday, while still blaming the West for raising tensions over Ukraine.

Emerging from a meeting in the Kremlin that lasted more than five hours, the two leaders voiced hope that a solution could be found to the worst crisis between Russia and the West since the end of the Cold War.

Moscow has amassed tens of thousands of troops on the borders of Ukraine, raising fears that it is preparing a possible invasion of its pro-Western neighbour.

Putin praised Macron's efforts to de-escalate the crisis. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/AFP**

The West has repeatedly warned of "severe consequences" if Russia invades, and Macron was the first major Western leader to meet with Putin since the start of the crisis in December.

Repeatedly thanking the French leader for coming to Moscow, Putin said at a joint press conference that Macron had presented several ideas worth studying.

"A number of his ideas, proposals... are possible as a basis for further steps," Putin said, adding: "We will do everything to find compromises that suit everyone." He did not provide any details but said the two leaders would speak by phone after Macron meets with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kyiv on Tuesday.

Putin 'ready to engage'

Macron said he made concrete proposals to address the concerns of both Russia and the West. "President Putin assured me of his readiness to engage," Macron said, adding: "There is no security for the Europeans if there is no security for Russia."—AFP ■

Turbulent priest: India's anti-Muslim firebrand and possible future PM

Yogi Adityanath is seen as a possible successor to Narendra Modi within the BJP. **PHOTO: AFP**

A monk known for his incendiary anti-Muslim rhetoric leads the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party into elections in India's most populous state Thursday, where a strong win could put him in pole position to succeed Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Yogi Adityanath, 49, has stirred controversy since his surprise appointment in 2017 as chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, a state in northern India home to over 200 million people — more than the entire population of Brazil.

Office has done nothing to temper his views, and as he seeks a second term he is exhorting Hindu voters to back the BJP while riding roughshod over Muslims who make up one-fifth of the state's population.

A hardline protege of Modi, Adityanath has soared in popularity beyond Uttar Pradesh, thanks to his fiery speeches and projection as a tough, no-nonsense administrator.

"He is brazenly open about his Hindu politics and ideology... He has projected himself as a Hindu leader and that's what brings him crowds and votes," said journalist and political commentator Sunita Aron.

"When he does Muslim-bashing, he grabs eyeballs and audiences," she told AFP. In the run-up to the bellwether polls this week, the saffron-clad monk did not mince his words, saying it would be a fight between "80 per cent and 20 per cent", referring to the state's demographic split on religion. Crowds thronged one rally for a glimpse of the ascetic, despite coronavirus restrictions, cheering loudly each time he made a mocking reference to Muslim voters. —AFP ■

Japan gov't OKs bill for foreigners-only SDF evacuation missions

JAPAN'S Cabinet approved Tuesday a bill that would facilitate future evacuation missions by the Self-Defence Forces targeting only foreign nationals during overseas crises, after Tokyo rescued just one citizen when Afghanistan fell to the Taliban last August.

The current law on SDF operations restricts the rescue of foreign individuals such as spouses and local workers for Japanese agencies to those accompanying Japanese citizens, but the revised legislation will cover cases involving foreign evacuees only.

The law revision "will enable swift and flexible implementation of evacuation missions in dealing with various contingencies," Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi told a press conference. The government aims to have the legislation enacted during the current parliament session through June.

When the Taliban returned to power last August after the United States began pulling out its troops from Afghanistan, the SDF was dispatched to evacuate around 500 people, including local employees of the Japanese Embassy and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.—Kyodo ■

A Japan Air Self-Defence Force C-130 transport plane is pictured before its departure from the ASDF's Iruma base in Saitama Prefecture, eastern Japan, on 24 August 2021, on a mission to evacuate Japanese nationals in Afghanistan amid the worsening security situation following the Taliban's recent takeover of the country. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

N. Korea marks founding of army amid tough stance on US

NORTH Korea on Tuesday marked the 74th anniversary of the founding of its army, as the nuclear-armed nation steps up its provocation against the United States amid a severe economic downturn.

The anniversary comes with North Korea having already fired projectiles seven times this year. It has also hinted at restarting nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests to counter the United States, while calling on Washington to drop its "hostile policy".

Back in 2018, North Korea staged a military parade in Pyongyang to mark the anniversary at which it displayed what appeared to be ICBMs including the Hwasong-15, which is seen as capable of carrying a nuclear warhead to anywhere on the US mainland.

There is speculation North Korea may test weapons or conduct a military parade on Tuesday.

The official Korean Central News Agency, meanwhile, reported Tuesday that North Korea held a session of its top legislature for two days through the eve of the anniversary, at which the state budget for the year was approved.

The Supreme People's Assembly endorsed a blueprint that will allow North Korea to spend 15.9 per cent of its 2022 total budget with the aim of "bolstering" its national defense capabilities. The actual amount of the budget is unknown.

Foreign affairs experts were looking to see what kind of diplomatic policy North Korea would adopt at the latest legislative session, but there was no announcement about it. Reports by state-run media also suggest that leader Kim Jong Un did not attend.

North Korea holds a session of its top legislature in Pyongyang on 6-7 Feb 2022. **PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO**

The Supreme People's Assembly usually rubber-stamps budgetary and personnel matters already determined by the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, headed by Kim.

North Korea will commemorate on 16 February the birthday of former leader Kim Jong Il, the father of Kim Jong Un, who died in December 2011.— Kyodo ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police step in as UK opposition leader mobbed outside parliament

Anti-lockdown protesters mobbed British opposition leader Keir Starmer on Monday as he left the Houses of Parliament in London, with many shouting "traitor", prompting police to step in to shield him.

A video posted online showed the Labour leader being jostled, before police intervened and escorted him to a car.

One protestor could be heard asking why he was "protecting paedophiles" during his previous role as the country's top prosecutor. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been under fire over the last week after accusing Starmer of not taking action against notorious celebrity paedophile Jimmy Savile when he was head of the Crown Prosecution Service, despite not being personally in charge of the case.—AFP ■

American lawyer jailed again for assaulting Hong Kong police

An American lawyer working in Hong Kong lost his appeal Tuesday and was jailed for assaulting a plainclothes policeman when he intervened in a confrontation between the officer and members of the public three years ago. The confrontation occurred toward the end of the huge and often violent democracy protests that rocked the financial hub.—AFP ■

Australia PM apologizes for abuse, bullying in parliament

Former government staffer Brittany Higgins' rape allegation fuelled nationwide protests in Australia. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

AUSTRALIA'S prime minister apologized for widespread sexual harassment, abuse and bullying of political staff Tuesday, a year after a high-profile rape allegation rocked the country's parliament.

Addressing lawmakers, Scott Morrison apologized directly to former staffer Brittany Higgins who said she was raped by a male colleague in a minister's office in 2019.

"I'm sorry to Ms Higgins for the terrible things that took place here," Morrison said describing a decades-long culture of abuse in the corridors of power.

"But I am sorry for far more than that -- for all of those who came before Ms Higgins and endured the same."

"Over many decades, an ecosystem, a culture, was perpetuated where bullying, abuse, harassment, and in some cases even violence, became normalized," he said.

Higgins went public in January last year, sparking nationwide protests. Australians were shocked by the alleged abuse she experienced, but also the way she was treated when she told her bosses.—AFP ■

Weeks of increasing talk of war has been tough on morale for frontline Ukrainian soldiers. **PHOTO: AFP**

'It's too quiet': Tensions take toll on Ukraine front line

AS international tensions have risen over their country's fate, Ukrainian soldiers in the trenches of war-ravaged Maryinka have been living a strange paradox.

For even as fears have rocketed over a possible full-scale Russian invasion, they have seen a drop in the number of shells and bullets coming their way from Moscow-backed separatists.

"It's too quiet," Ukrainian serviceman Botsman, 49, told AFP, giving only his call sign in line with military regulations.

"It's unsettling, like the calm before a storm."

The West's attention is currently focused on the more than 100,000 Russian troops parked on Ukraine's border, but Kyiv has been locked in a festering conflict with Moscow-backed rebels for almost eight years.

The violence along the eastern front line has ebbed and flowed at a relatively low intensity for a long time and, according to Botsman, recently subsided. Still, he said, on Monday alone his position came under fire from enemy mortars and rocket-propelled grenades. The odd explosion was also audible when AFP journalists visited.—AFP ■

History-making Mayer retains men's Olympic super-G title

AUSTRIA'S Matthias Mayer went "all in" to successfully defend his Olympic super-G title on Tuesday in Beijing and make history as the first men's alpine skier to win gold medals in three consecutive Games.

Mayer, who won his first super-G title in Pyeongchang in 2018 and also took downhill gold at the 2014 Sochi Olympics, clocked a winning time of 1min 19.94sec.

American Ryan Cochran-Siegle took a surprise silver with a time 0.04sec behind Mayer, with Norway's Aleksander Aamodt Kilde claiming bronze at 0.42sec.

Mayer, 31, again went one better than his father Helmut, won silver when the super-G made its Olympic debut in 1988.

"I tried to push hard, really hard," said Mayer, who also won a bronze medal in Monday's downhill, won by Switzerland's Beat Feuz.

"I saw Kilde's run on TV at the start and it was really good so I knew that I had to go all in. I tried to push hard to the last gate, and it was good."

Matthias Mayer roars his approval after his winning ski in the Olympic men's super-G. **PHOTO: AFP**

Kilde was the big favourite coming into the race as the World Cup leader in the speed event, having won three of the last four super-G races on the circuit this season. The Norwegian took temporary control of the leaderboard, but could only look on as Mayer delivered a gliding masterclass in the bottom section of the 2.3km-long "Rock" course that helped him take the definitive lead.

Hitting speeds of 120 kilometres per hour (75 miles per hour), Mayer was behind on the first intermediaries in the testing upper section that snaked through the barren mountainscape of Yanqing, north of Beijing.—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.

Chen smashes Hanyu world record to fire first shot in Beijing

NATHAN Chen smashed a world record held by his fierce rival Yuzuru Hanyu as the Japanese two-time reigning Olympic figure skating champion made an uncharacteristically shaky start to his title defence Tuesday.

Facing off for the first time at the Beijing Games, Hanyu had to settle for a disappointing eighth in the short programme, with his younger teammates Yuma Kagiyama and Shoma Uno second and third.

Chen, of the US, scored 113.97 — the highest ever awarded in a short programme — comfortably beating Hanyu's previous record of 111.82.

The score takes the three-time world champion one step closer to the only major prize that has eluded him, a gold medal at the Games.

Hanyu, who scored 95.15 after making a mistake on a jump, has to close a gap of almost 20 points in the free skate to be able to complete his goal of securing a third Olympic title.

Nathan Chen is a top tip for gold in Beijing. **PHOTO: AFP**

Chen, Hanyu's prime competitor for gold in Beijing, had come close to beating the record already when he performed the same "La Boheme" programme for the team event on Friday, but his skate on Tuesday was cleaner and the judges rewarded him accordingly.

Dressed simply in black and white, Chen was completely in control as he sped around the rink, landing two quadruple jumps and a triple axel with ease.—AFP ■

Chinese women's Asian Cup win sparks calls for gender pay equality

THE dramatic triumph of China's women footballers at the Asian Cup has sparked calls on social media for equal pay, with commenters contrasting their performance with the dismal men's side.

Xiao Yuyi's stoppage-time goal clinched a remarkable 3-2 comeback win over South Korea in the final, sealing a record ninth Asian title for China.

Fans on social media were quick to contrast their stirring victory with the less successful men's team, who were heaped with scorn last week after a limp defeat to Vietnam ended their slim hopes of qualifying for the 2022 World Cup.

"Please hand out prize money to the women's team according to what the men get — equal pay for equal work!" read one widely shared post on the Twitter-like Weibo.

Another popular post said China's football association "leads the way in favouring men over women".

China have won the women's Asian Cup for a record ninth time. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Women "keep working hard, and the money they bring home goes towards the football association's hapless sons," it added.

In China, women earn 12 per cent less than men overall, according to a report last year by online recruitment firm Zhaopin.

Equal pay campaigns for national women's teams have gained ground in recent years, with countries including England, Brazil and Australia taking action to pay them the same as men.

But other nations have been slow to follow suit, with the US women's team — the most successful in international competition — locked in a long-running dispute with the country's soccer federation over what it calls discriminatory pay practices.—AFP ■