SEE GOOD PROSPECTS TO MANUFACTURE BETTER TEXTILE PRODUCTS PAGE-8 (OPINION)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 297, 10th Waxing of Tabodwe 1383 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Thursday, 10 February 2022

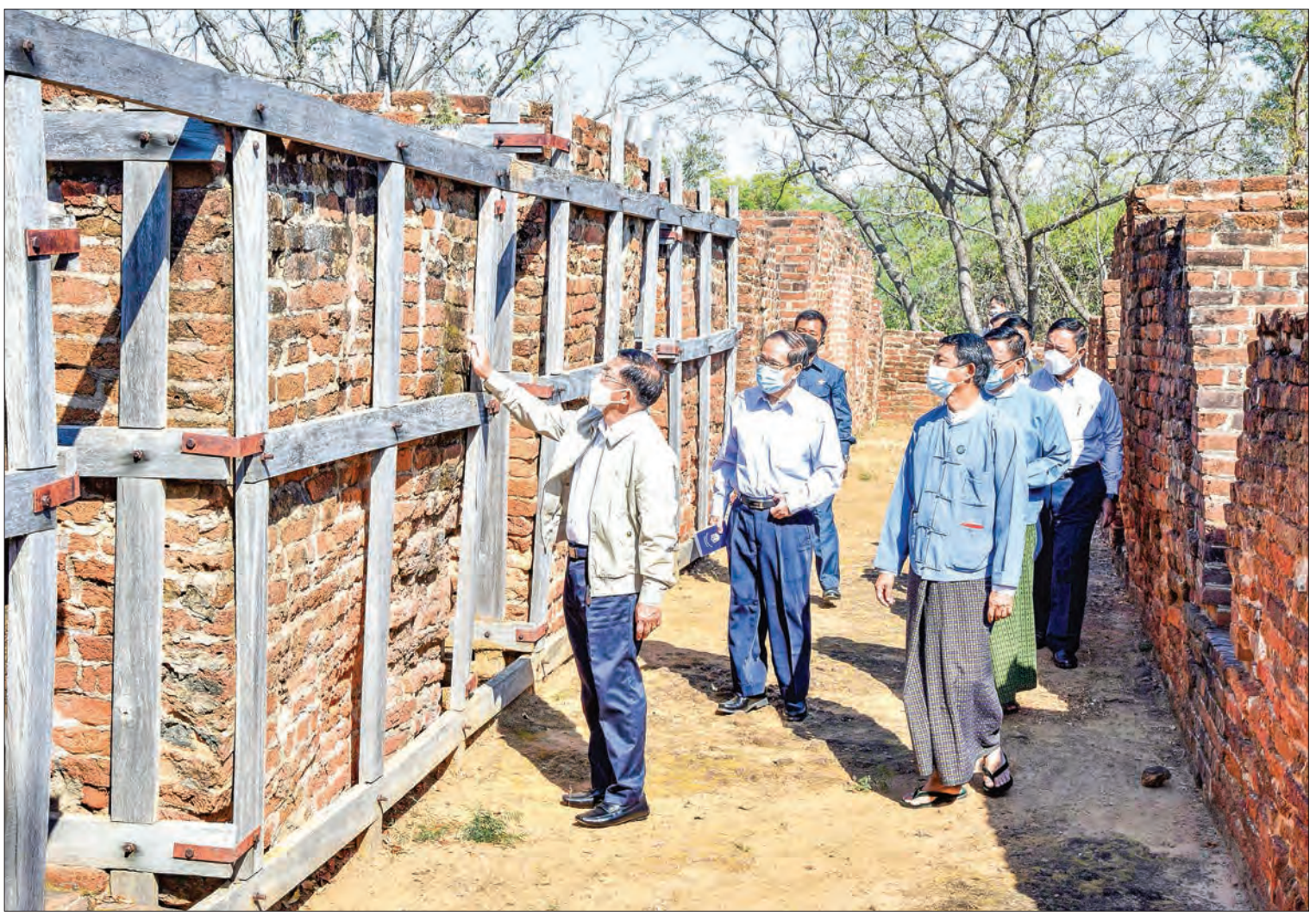
Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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.

As ancient Pyu states included on the list of World Heritage are invaluable, it is necessary to systematically maintain ancient cultural heritage sites and environs: Senior General

ONLY when people know the history will they understand the culture and adore the country, so it is necessary to maintain historical heritages for long term existence in generations, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in visiting ancient Beikthanoe city of the World Heritage Site in Taungdwingyi Township of Magway Region.

At the Beikthanoe Archaeological Museum, Director-General U Kyaw Oo Lwin of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum reported on brief histories of ancient Pyu city-states Hanlin, Beikthanoe and Sri Kestra put on the World Heritage List, the progress of excavation, submission of the dossier to seek the recognition of the World Heritage in line with three points of global standards, designation of these areas as the World Heritage Sites in the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee, and maintenance tasks of the department for the ancient cultural works. Dr Nanda Hmun, permanent secretary and director-general of the Historical Research Department (Retd) reported on the maintenance of ancient cultural works, buildings and sites, and efforts for seeking the recognition of three Pyu city-states as the World Heritage Sites.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the maintenance work of ancient Beikthanoe city of the World Heritage Site in Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Region yesterday.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General said as ancient Pyu states included on the list of World Heritage sites are invaluable, it is necessary to systematically maintain the ancient cultural heritage sites and environs. The walls and ancient heritage works underground may face damaged, excavation for them must be undertaken in time. As the government will provide necessary assistance, further excavation and maintenance of ancient Hanlin, Beikthanoe and Sri Kestra cities must go on. **Exposing the ancient cultural heritage will reflect measures of valuing the State, strengthening the nationalistic spirit and adoring the ancient cultural heritage.** As these ancient cities are symbols of the Magway Region as well as the country, maintenance of the world cultural heritage will help develop the region.

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
Myanmar ancient Fire Engines Museum to be opened to commemorate Diamond Jubilee Union Day
PAGE-6

NATIONAL
Course opened for Establishment of Myanmar ICT Development Institute Project
PAGE-7

LOCAL BUSINESS
Myanmar earns $390.895 mln from over 486,413-mln-tonne pulses export in nearly 4 months of mini-budget year
PAGE-10

LOCAL BUSINESS
Approximately 100 watermelon truckloads daily delivered to China
PAGE-10

National Objectives of Diamond Jubilee Union Day 2022

(1) All ethnic nationals to safeguard non-disintegration of the Union, national unity and sovereignty forever
(2) To perpetually ensure strengthening dynamic Union Spirit which is a genuine patriotic spirit
(3) To further strive for the perpetual existence of the country through strong and united strength of all ethnic national brethren
(4) To build the Union based on democracy and federalism in the realization of genuine, disciplined multiparty democracy
(5) To equalize development of all regions and states while making efforts for the enhancement of health, education and job opportunities of the ethnic nationals

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

* United strength across Myanmar focuses on Union affairs forever

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

1,043 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 9 February, total figure rises to 540,597

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 540,597 after 1,043 new cases were reported on 9 February 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 514,607 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,310 without casualties for 17 days consecutively.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 8-2-2022, a total of 22,573,806 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 19,456,464 people have been fully vaccinated and 3,117,342 people have yet to get the second shots.—MNA

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)

As ancient Pyu states included on the list of World Heritage ...

FROM PAGE-1

The civilization of Pyu cities was the earliest in Southeast Asia, and cultural evidence of these cities are located in China and other countries. The Senior General recounted that when he visited Thotlakonda Buddhist Complex on the Bheemunipatnam Hill in India, he found ancient cultural works and silver coins similar to that of ancient Pyu cities, and the buildings similar to the religious buildings excavated in ancient Beikthanoe city. **Only when people know the history will they understand the culture and adore the country, so it is necessary to maintain historical heritage for long-term existence in generations.** It is necessary to insert knowledge related to ancient cultural historical heritage at basic education schools and universities.

In response to the reports of U Kyaw Oo Lwin and Dr Nanda Hmun, discussions highlighted that archaeological works must be based on archaeological, geological and geographical perspectives. The civilization process of Myanmar started as of BC 3rd and 2nd centuries.

The Senior General hears the report made by the director-general of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum on ancient Pyu city-states—Hanlin, Beikthanoe and Sri Kestra.

It is necessary to expose the grandeur of the State and high cultural standards from then onward for displaying the various kinds of ancient objects. Efforts must be made to attract local and foreign visitors.

The Senior General, wife and party then viewed the ancient Beikthanoe city map, the entrance to the city and walls, ancient objects, literary evidence, Pyu bricks, royal architectural works and Pyu utensils on respective booths. After hearing the clarifications of officials, the Senior General instructed them to place the captions on dates for the documentary photos which must be quality and panoramic and locations for excavated sites and arrange for observers to closely view the ancient coins and jewellery ornaments.

The Senior General, wife and party viewed around the building with the KKG-2 monastery-designed foundation, KKG-3 pagoda-designed building, KKG-4 religious monument, BTO-1, BTO-2, BTO-3, BTO-4 and BTO-5 inner and outer walls of the place at the royal palace in the area of ancient Beikthanoe City and left instructions on the systematic erection of the directions for looking the ways and ancient buildings, and needs for systematic maintenance.

Ancient Beikthanoe City is located 12 miles west of Taungdwingyi in Taungdwingyi Township of Magway Region. The fertile cultivable city is surrounded by Yin Creek and Saton Creek in the north, TaungU Creek and Yanpei Creek in the south. The city was established relying on the fertile area and Taungdwingyi plain from 1st Century AD and 5th Century AD. The Myanmar Archaeology Department conducted observation there in 1905. A total of 25 ancient mounds were excavated for research from 1959 to 1962. A total of 41 further mounds were unearthed from 1995 to 2015. So far, research has been conducted on 66 mounds. Depending on Kokkokhwa Village, the mounds of the city were named KKG. As of 1995, the mounds were renamed as BTO in short sign. At present, the ancient Pyu cities are under maintenance in line with the policies of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.
—MNA

The Senior General observes the displays at the Museum.

Existing sound foundations must be utilized with utmost efforts for Magway Region to be reliable for the country: Senior General

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets the Magway Region cabinet members, district and township-level departmental personnel, town elders and local farmers in Magway on 9 February 2022.

OFFICIALS need to make efforts for narrowing the development gap among the areas of Magway Region and improvement of rural areas, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with Magway Region cabinet members, district and township level departmental personnel, town elders and local farmers at the city hall in Magway yesterday afternoon.

Magway Region Chief Minister U Tint Lwin reported on efforts for the development of respective sectors in the region while local farmers and agriculturists discussed the needs of agricultural machinery, inputs and fertilizers, export of agricultural products and the plans to increase the per-acre yield of crops.

Union ministers and the Auditor-General of the Union responded to the discussions on environmental conservation in successive governments, enhancement of health, agriculture and livestock sectors, academic and rural development measures, generating of electricity and running of fertilizer plants.

In his address, the Senior General pointed out that sesame can produce the least rate of oil rather than groundnut. So, efforts must be made for increasing the oil production rate to have greater benefit in Magway Region.

There are more than 600,000 acres of paddy and over 2.2 million acres of other crops. The region needs to efficiently use water as well as solar energy. Generating electricity from solar energy can operate the river water pumping stations to be able to irrigate the cultivable lands. Moreover, **low head dams should be built in the region to generate electricity.**

> Low head dams should be built in the region to generate electricity.

Animal dung must be effectively used in agricultural tasks. If breeding tasks are undertaken in a cage system, a bio-fertilizer is available. Magway Region is plentiful of feedstuff. Corns and straws must be systematically prepared for ensuring feedstuff sufficiency.

Plans are underway to establish more institutes of agriculture. The universities were opened on 6 January. It is necessary to produce educated persons for the development of the nation. The pass rate of matriculation examination was low in Magway Region.

Learning school education generates knowledge. Hence, school education is of importance. Those who had passed at least the ninth standard will have the chance to attend agriculture and livestock schools to have agriculture and livestock knowledge in order to improve the socio-economic life of the people. It is necessary to enhance the schools and education for turning out human resources. Individual people need to change their mindsets for the improvement of health standards. The Senior General stressed the need to encourage the production of local products. Efforts must be made to manufacture the clothes for people from the whole country.

> Learning school education generates knowledge. Hence, school education is of importance. Those who had passed at least the ninth standard will have the chance to attend agriculture and livestock schools to have agriculture and livestock knowledge in order to improve the socio-economic life of the people.

Magway Region is the land for the production of onion. Myanmar exports onion to foreign markets on a yearly basis. Hence, it is necessary to produce value-added onion products for running small-scale industries.

Officials need to make efforts for narrowing the development gap among the areas of the Magway Region and improvement of rural areas. Measures of peace and stability are being taken in the region for discarding the grudge. Existing sound foundations must be utilized with utmost effort for Magway Region to be reliable for the country.

In the evening, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and party paid homage to Myathalun Pagoda in Magway. The Senior General and wife donated cash to the fund of the pagoda to the pagoda board of trustees and cordially greeted local people. — MNA

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515
ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

gnlmnews@gmail.com
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

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.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects three-storey maternal and newborn babies care building at Magway General Hospital

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays the inspection tour around the building of maternal and newborn babies care at Magway General Hospital yesterday.

STATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected the newly constructed three-storey building for Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatal in Magway General Hospital yesterday.

First, Magway Region Public Health Department Head Dr Thaung Hlaing, Medical Superintendent Dr Win Nilar Hla and health workers welcomed the SAC Chairman.

Then, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win briefed the Senior General on the construction of the three-storey building with the assistance of the Japanese government in collaboration with the ministry and JICA, hospital equipment installation and supportive learning sectors for the University of Medicine in Magway.

Regarding the presentation, the SAC Chairman Prime Minister said the Life expectancy of people living in Magway Region is 65 years and the average life expectancy of the country is 67.42 years. **As the infant mortality in Magway Region is high, the current three-storey maternal and newborn babies care building will bring many benefits to the region.**

There were 2,318 patients who gave birth in the region in 2021. As Magway township is located in the junction area and it needs to provide health care services for the locals.

Arriving in Magway in April 2021, according to the report of the Ministry of Health, he immediately discussed with Japanese authorities to receive the remaining hospital equipment to be installed at the new hospital. And now, the country has received the equipment.

These materials should be used in treatment sectors effectively and it should make efforts to upgrade the remaining hospitals. The Ministry of Health should arrange to construct further hospitals for cancer and install a solar system to be used as an emergency light during a power outage. Moreover, the ministry should conduct systematic hospital construction operations.

Then, he inspected the new hospital and left the necessary instructions. — MNA

As the infant mortality in Magway Region is high, the current three-storey maternal and newborn babies care building will bring many benefits to the region.

Arriving in Magway in April 2021, according to the report of the Ministry of Health, he immediately discussed with Japanese authorities to receive the remaining hospital equipment to be installed at the new hospital.

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

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspects full dressed rehearsal of participants in Diamond Jubilee Union Day 2022

State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice -Senior General Soe Win inspects the full dressed rehearsal for Diamond Jubilee Union Day Ceremony.

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspected the full dressed rehearsal for the successful holding of the ceremony to mark Diamond Jubilee Union Day 2022 at the Grand Military Parade Ground in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Vice-Senior General viewed position-taking of columns and companies and marching of vehicles from regions and states for Diamond Jubilee Union Day 2022, presentation of traditional songs of respective ethnic traditional cultural troupes on the agenda and left necessary instructions.

Also present on the occasion were members of the State Administration Council, members of the Central Committee for Organizing Union Day Union ministers, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, chairpersons of subcommittees deputy ministers, officials, and senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, attended to the needs.

The ceremony to mark Diamond Jubilee Union Day will be broadcast live on MRTV-HD, MRTV NRC, MWD, MWD Variety, 5 Plus, Readers Channel, Skynet Up-to-Date and Skynet Ethnic Channel, Radio Myanmar, Padamyar FM, Cherry FM, Pyinsawady FM, Mandalay FM, Shwe FM and Thazin FM starting from 6:15 am of 12 February 2022. — MNA

Myanmar ancient Fire Engines Museum to be opened to commemorate Diamond Jubilee Union Day

The ancient Fire Engines Museum. **PHOTOS: KA NU**

THE Myanmar Fire Brigade Headquarters will hold an opening ceremony of the Myanmar Fire Engines Museum to commemorate Diamond Jubilee Union Day on the morning of 10 February in Yangon.

The Fire Engines Museum will be open to the public with the purpose of increasing the desire of firefighters to systematically operate the fire engines/vehicles they are using with pride and preserving them as a historical heritage so that the public can learn about fire engines/vehicles and value them.

"Ancient fire engines which firefighters have used for generations will be displayed at the museum in front of the Fire Brigade Headquarters just as international fire brigades pay tribute to ancient fire engines, said Director of the Headquarters U Thein Tun Oo.

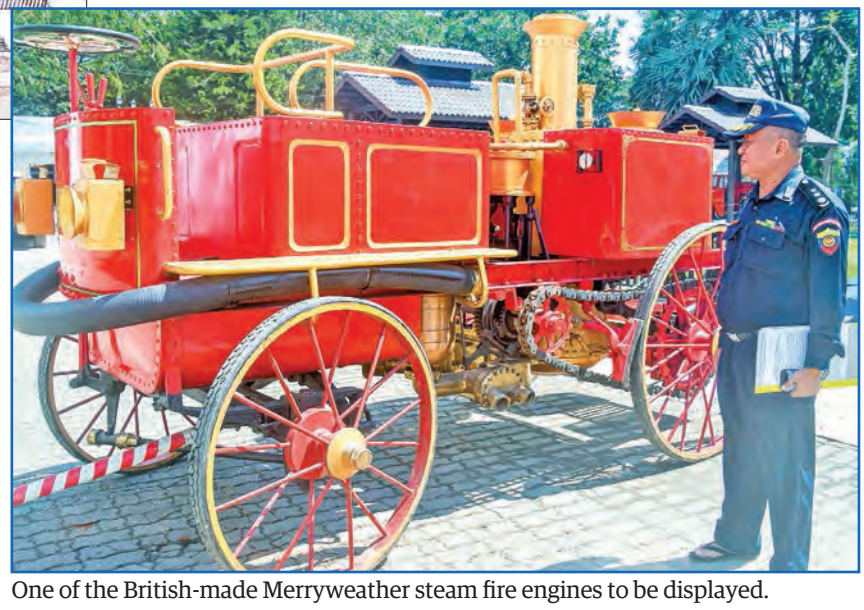
"It is an honour for our country because foreigners also have a special interest in ancient fire engines," he continued.

"As this is the first fire Engines museum in Myanmar, it is a matter of great pride for us to see the fruits of our collective cooperation under the guidance of the Union Minister for Home Affairs and the Director-General," he added.

The Fire Engines Museum will display some of the oldest firefighting vehicles/engines used in urban and rural areas for generations since colonial times.

Due to the historical catastrophic fire cases in the world such as the Great Fire of Rome in Italy and the New York Fire in the United States, fire-fighting equipment was invented. The first steam-powered fire engines were used in 1841, and fire engines were developed in the early 20th century.

The museum will display nine ancient fire engines, including the British-made Merryweather (Steam) and Merryweather (Petrol) fire engines, part of the world's oldest class of fire-fighting vehicles, introduced to Myanmar in 1909 dubbed as the Fire King. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM



One of the British-made Merryweather steam fire engines to be displayed.

Course opened for Establishment of Myanmar ICT Development Institute Project

THE opening ceremony of the Microsoft Azure DevOps Expert Course (AZ-400) and Microsoft Azure Security Technologies Courses (AZ-500) for the establishment of the Myanmar ICT Development Institute project to be implemented by Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund 2018, headed by Information and Communication Technology Research Department, Research and Innovation Department, Ministry of Science and Technology was held at 9:30 am yesterday.

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, Minister Counselor Madam Li Xiao Yan of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Myanmar and Vice-Chairman of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation National Coordination Unit (MLC NCU (Myanmar), Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Win Zeyar Tun addressed the ceremony.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw said that the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Project is effective cooperation for the countries in the Mekong region.

By providing training, it will be possible to develop the cloud computing technologies required by the current ICT business and produce more ready-to-work IT professionals, the Union minister continued.

"Trainees from Mekong countries such as Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam will learn how the latest cloud computing technologies work on private servers.

"It will benefit the development of the economy in the respective countries, national research, education, and health sectors, and enhance cooperation between Myanmar and the Mekong-Lancang region, which will contribute to the development of Myanmar's ICT sector," the Union minister added.

Fourteen trainees from Laos, Thailand and China and 39 trainees from universities under the Ministry of Science and Technology attended the course.

Virtual training will be taught online for foreign trainees and on-site for local trainees. The training period will be from 10 to 25 February. —MNA

Motto of 75th Anniversary Union Day 2022

* Joining hands in unison among ethnic nationals of the Union

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timber, juice, unregistered motorcycles seized

Confiscated timbers and consumer goods.

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

On 7 February, the Yangon Region Forest Department and combined inspection team conducted a surprise check and seized a total of K120,480 worth of illegal teak (0.4016 tonne) near No 3 Highway junction in Hlegu Township.

On 8 February, Ayeyawady Region Forest Department confiscated K36,190 worth of illegal timber (0.517 tonne) in Yekyi Township.

Similarly, the inspection team led by Bago Region Customs Department launched surprise checks and seized K2,020,000 worth of 22 undocumented packs of various juices from a passenger vehicle on the same day.

On 9 February, the region Forest Department also seized K3,646,810 worth of illegal timbers (12.5971 tonnes) in the forest reserve of Bago District.

Moreover, Rakhine State Forest Department confiscated 43.82 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K3,067,400 in Taungup Township.

The Sagaing Region inspection team also seized two unregistered motorcycles worth of K800,000 in Monywa and Kanbalu townships. Thus, a total of seven arrests (estimated value of K9,690,880) were made on 7, 8 and 9 February and the officials took action under the Forest Law, the Customs Law and the Export and Import Law, the committee stated. — MNA

Drugs seized in Myeik, Chaungzon townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force inspected a man named Kyaw Soe (alias) Yunut on Strand Road, Kangyi Ward, Myeik at 9 am on 8 February and 1 kg of Ice was confiscated during the investigations.

Next, a search of his tent in Marin Nge Phya village turned up 0.26 kilogram of ecstasy in Sandawut Village-tract, Myeik Township.

Similarly, a combined team consisting of members of the Mon State Police Force arrived in Bo Nak Village-tract, Chaungzon Township at 6 pm on the same day. A search of Thet Paing Oo (alias) Nge Nge's house in Bo Nak village turned up 1,952 stimulant tablets and a homemade air gun.

They are being prosecuted under the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.—MNA

An arrestee is seen along with seized drugs.

10 FEBRUARY 2022
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

See good prospects to manufacture better textile products

LOCAL people residing in dry regions of Myanmar have been engaging in the cultivation of various cotton species for many years to earn family incomes.

They use cotton wool in making threads through traditional methods to produce textile at traditional looms. Consequently, their products just meet the local demand but cannot compete with imported ones. It is because those local growers and loom owners do not have modern techniques for manufacturing quality products. So, their products miss the chance to penetrate the international market.

According to the estimation of relevant ministries, the cultivation of cotton plants in the country may exceed the demand. But, the local-made textile products are not able to compete with the imported ones in the domestic market. As such, traditional weaving industries need to seek modern techniques for the production of quality textile products.

> Relevant ministries need to seek technical assistance and expertise from cotton expert countries such as Egypt, Turkey, Pakistan and India, and Central Asian countries to get quality cotton strains and operate long-staple cotton industries. The expertise from those countries should be combined with Myanmar's initiatives to create better textile products capable of competing with imported products.

Consequently, textile and related accessories worth US$1,280.152 million were imported in 2021 for the operation of local garment factories. In this regard, Myanmar exporters pay a set rate of tax in exporting cotton wool to foreign countries and buy necessary raw textile at high prices. If the country can produce quality textile at home with the use of owned cotton wool, unnecessary costs can be cut and prices of products reduced, contributing much to meeting local demand and garment industries.

In this regard, it is necessary to upgrade traditional looms for manufacturing quality products, aimed at supplying local clothing demands and helping garment industries increase export products. Hence, local and foreign investments should be invited for better production.

Myanmar cultivates long and short-staple cotton species. Of them, local growers prefer to use long-staple cotton strain. It is because the long-staple cotton is the most appropriate for the production of good textile.

Relevant ministries need to seek technical assistance and expertise from cotton expert countries such as Egypt, Turkey, Pakistan and India, and Central Asian countries to get quality cotton strains and operate long-staple cotton industries. The expertise from those countries should be combined with Myanmar's initiatives to create better textile products capable of competing with imported products.

In fact, local cotton growers and relevant ministries need to upgrade traditional cultivation and production methods for cotton industries in order to manufacture better quality textile products and cut the unacceptable waste of spending foreign exchange in a long run.

■■■

New Covid test gives results within 4 minutes, say Chinese scientists

NEW testing device uses mechanical components made of DNA combined with microelectronics and sends results to a phone or computer. It is as accurate as a PCR test but cuts out the need for lab analysis, according to Fudan University team.

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests are widely considered the most accurate and sensitive for the virus that causes Covid-19, but they usually take several hours.

Chinese scientists say they have developed a new coronavirus test that is accurate as a PCR lab test but gives results within four minutes.

> "We implemented an electromechanical biosensor for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 into an integrated and portable prototype device, and show that it detected (virus RNA) in less than four minutes," the team said in the paper, referring to the official name of the Covid pathogen.

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests are widely considered the most accurate and sensitive for the virus that causes Covid-19, but they usually take several hours.

Some countries have experienced severe backlogs in the face of heavy testing demand, fuelled by the explosive spread of the highly transmissible Omicron variant.

Researchers from Fudan University in Shanghai say they have a solution.

In a peer-reviewed article published Monday in the journal Nature Biomedical Engineering, the team said their sensor — which uses microelectronics to analyze genetic material from swabs — can reduce the need for time-consuming Covid lab tests.

The most accurate tests for Covid-19 currently need to be sent to laboratories for time-consuming analysis. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

"We implemented an electromechanical biosensor for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 into an integrated and portable prototype device, and show that it detected (virus RNA) in less than four minutes," the team said in the paper, referring to the official name of the Covid pathogen.

The researchers said their method offers speed, ease of operation, high sensitivity and portability.

Their trial involved taking samples from 33 people in Shanghai who were infected with the coronavirus, with PCR tests conducted in parallel.

Results from their method were a "perfect" match

The results from their method were a "perfect" match with the PCR tests, according to the article.

Their study involved testing the new method on 54 samples, which included people with fever who did not have the coronavirus, those with influenza, and healthy volunteers.

Those cases did not yield any false positives, the team said.

The Fudan researchers said that once developed, their testing device can be used for quick testing in a variety of situations, including airports, health facilities and "even at home".

PCR tests are not only slow, but they also require lab infrastructure that can be limited in many countries, reducing the number of cases that can be handled each day.

And while rapid diagnostic tests have now become available in many parts of the world, they are generally less accurate.

China is one of the world's biggest makers of coronavirus test kits.

According to customs data, it exported $1.6 billion worth of test kits in December, a 144 per cent increase from the previous month.

SOURCE: AFP

Hot spring where monkeys take a bath

A herd of about 160 animals uses this open-air bath, and mainly females and baby monkeys take a bath. However, some males love hot springs, showing the individuality of monkeys. They use hot springs just in case they need to warm themselves on cold winter days or bad weather. Nowadays, some monkeys take the same bath as humans.

By Yoshida Suzuka

FEBRUARY is the coldest month of the year in Japan.

The cold weather is particularly severe in the northern mountainous areas and seems to be painful not only for humans but also for monkeys living in the hills and mountains.

Monkeys living in Nagano Prefecture come to a natural hot spring while it is snowing to warm their bodies. The sight of wild monkeys taking a bath in an open-air bath named Jigokudani Yaen-Koen (the Hell Valley Wild Snow Monkey Park).

It wasn't until 1964 that wild monkeys made a habit of bathing in hot springs. Mr Hara, an employee of a railroad company, saw wild monkeys displaced by the development of ski resorts beginning to cause fruit-eating damage in orchards, and realized the necessity of "coexistence of wild monkeys and humans". Then, he started feeding wild monkeys. Some of the little monkeys who came to eat the food began to learn to sink the hot springs little by little. The warmth of the hot springs was passed on from the baby monkeys to the adult monkeys, and eventually many monkeys came to the hot springs. Ultimately, Mr Hara, an employee of the railway company, cooperated with the local people around him to create an open-air bath exclusively for monkeys and opened Jigokudani Yaen-Koen.

There was a hygiene problem when monkeys and humans used the same bathtub, and problems occurred when the distance between monkeys and humans was short, so they created a hot spring exclusively for monkeys. A herd of about 160 animals uses this open-air bath, and mainly females and baby monkeys take a bath. However, some males love hot springs, showing the individuality of monkeys. They use hot springs just in case they need to warm themselves on cold winter days or bad weather. Nowadays, some monkeys take the same bath as humans.

The government is not involved in the establishment and operation of the garden. There are interesting places in Japan that are motivated by the playfulness of civilians.

SOURCE: https://en.jigokudani-yaenkoen.co.jp

Japanese macaques enjoy a hot spring. Jigokudani Yaen-koen (the Hell Valley Wild Snow Monkey Park),was opened in 1964 and it's known to be the only place in the world where monkeys bathe in hot springs. The Jigokudani Yaen-koen (altitude 850 metres) is located in the Valley of Yokoyu River sourced from Shiga-Kogen of the Joshinetsu-Kogen National Park in northern part of Nagano prefecture. **PHOTO: JIGOKUDANI-YAENKOEN.CO.JP**

MYANMAR Daily Weather Report

(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Wednesday 9 February, 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 10 February, 2022: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi region and Kachin state. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in upper Sagaing region and Kayin, 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: Likelihood of isolated light rain in upper Sagaing region and Kachin state.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 February, 2022: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 February, 2022: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 February, 2022: Generally fair weather.

The Global New Light of Myanmar
Order Now
www.gnlm.com.mm
PLEASE CALL
Myanmar's long-running & most circulated English Daily Newspaper
09 454 237 515

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm
သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နှိုင်းတကာစံချိန်မီ
ပုံနှိပ်ရိုက်ကူးပေးနိုင်ပါတယ်
01 860 4530
ကြော်ငြာဂျာနယ်များနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအောဂျဲဇင်များ ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းရိုက်ကူး
ထိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ် ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါတယ်
09 974 424 848

Myanmar earns $390.895 mln from over 486,413-mln-tonne pulses export in nearly 4 months of mini-budget year

MYANMAR had earned US$ 390.895 million from the export of over 486,413 million tonnes of various beans and pulses through maritime and border routes from 1 October to 28 January during the mini-budget year of 2021-22 FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Nearly four months of this mini-budget period, 453,684.109 tonnes of various beans and pulses worth $361.919 million were exported through a maritime trade route and 32,729.362 tonnes worth $28.976 million through a border trade route.

In the 2019-2020 financial year, Myanmar earned over $1.57 million from the export which exceeded more than $374 million worth of beans and pulses through both maritime and border routes, the ministry's data showed.

In the 2019-2020 financial year, Myanmar earned over $374 million from the export which $1.57 million worth of beans and pulses through both maritime and border routes, the ministry's data showed.

During the 2019-2020FY, the country earned $966.407 million through maritime route and $604.300 million through border trade route from pulses export.

A memorandum of understanding was signed on 18 June to export a total of 350,000 tonnes of Myanmar pulses, including 250,000 tonnes of black bean and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon pea to India in five consecutive years (from the 2021-22FY to the 2025-26FY).

Of various kinds of beans and pulses domestically grown, Myanmar mainly exports mung bean, pigeon pea and green gram.

Mung bean and pigeon pea mainly go to India and green gram to China and some European Union countries.

Myanmar has more than 11 million acres of plantations of 18 kinds of beans and pulses. The black bean plantations are yielding around 400,000 tonnes annually in Myanmar. Besides, Myanmar has also produced about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon pea yearly. — Aye Maung/GNLM

Approximately 100 watermelon truckloads daily delivered to China

MYANMAR conveys about 100 truckloads of watermelon to China every day, said U Min Thein, vice-chairman of the Muse Rice Commodity Depot.

At present, Myanmar daily sends 140 truckloads of goods to China through the Kyinsankyawt checkpoint, including 100 trucks carrying the watermelon and 40 trucks loaded rice, broken rice, pulses, rubber, dried plum and other food commodities.

The watermelon traders daily send them as they can afford to pay about 30,000 Yuan for freight transport, U Min Thein explained.

They can spend the high transport cost as watermelon is perishable, he was quoted as saying.

Nonetheless, other traders cannot bear the high transport cost anyhow. Consequently, the number of truckers dropped.

In a bid to contain the spread of coronavirus on the border, China banned border crossing. Only Myanmar goods can be exported to China through the Kyinsankyawt border using a Chinese short-haul trucking service.

The pricing of short-haul trucking service has exorbitantly soared owing to the shortage of Chinese truckers, U Min Thein pointed out.

The cost of Chinese short-haul trucking tremendously rose to K10 million per truck, whereas the trucking was earlier worth only K700,000-K800,000 when Myanmar truckers were allowed to enter China, he elaborated.

Therefore, the volume of rice and broken rice export plunges from 60,000 bags to 10,000 per day.

China shut down all checkpoints linking to the Muse border amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Of all checkpoints, Kyinsankyawt has resumed trading activity from 26 November on a trial run. Myanmar daily delivers rubber, various beans and pulses, dried plum, watermelon, muskmelon and other food commodities to China through Kyinsankyawt. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar daily delivers rubber, various beans and pulses, dried plum, watermelon, muskmelon and other food commodities to China through Kyinsankyawt.

Clementine oranges from Monghsat township sold well

Each kilogramme of orange is sold for K3,000. Now, the clementine orange is highly demanded from other townships and the market is booming. **PHOTO : MYINT MAUNG (MONGHSAT)**

THE clementine oranges from Monghsat township, Shan State (East) are conveyed to other townships, and the honeybell orange market is booming, it is learnt.

The honeybell orange from Monghsat Township has a fresh, juicy flesh and sweet taste. The visitors and residents come and buy at the retail shops and orange farm for gifts and consumers while they are visiting Monghsat.

"Rather than using chemicals for the trees, natural methods should be used. Rather than chemical fertilizers, natural fertilizers such as manure should be used," said an orange grower.

Taw Win Tant Hsaing orange farm is distributing both retail and wholesale of the clementine orange. The farm primarily conveys them to Monghsat and other townships. Each kilogramme of orange is sold for K3,000. Now, the clementine orange is highly demanded from other townships and the market is booming, according to the owner of Taw Win Tant Hsaing orange farm. — Myint Maung (Monghsat)/GNLM

Brunei sees surging cases amid 3rd wave of COVID-19, urging early third-dose vaccination

BRUNEI is suffering its third wave of COVID-19 with surging infections in the past several weeks, and the government has urged people to get their third vaccine dose as early as possible.

Brunei reported 368 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, bringing the total tally to 18,152.

With all the newly recorded cases identified as local infections, the Southeast Asian country has witnessed a quickly rising number of weekly new cases.

The country's COVID-19 tally hit 1,371 from 31 Jan to 6 Feb , 2022, up from 281 in the past week, which is also higher than the caseloads of 251 and 247 for the previous two weeks.

According to a statement from Brunei's Ministry of Health Monday evening, the country is now going through the third wave of COVID-19, "where the number of cases is expected to increase beyond the total reported during the second wave."

However, the health ministry said that the number of severe cases who would require oxygen assistance and intensive care during the third wave "will continue to be low and not exceed the number logged in the second wave".

"The Omicron variant has been found to be replacing the Delta variant as the main or dominant variant in Brunei Darussalam at this time," the health ministry said, adding that all the Omicron variant cases detected in Brunei only had mild symptoms or were asymptomatic.

Residents wait to get COVID-19 vaccine injection at a vaccination centre in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, on 5 July 2021. **PHOTO: JEFFREY WONG/XINHUA**

"In this regard, we should not feel panic. We should continue to be prepared for the increase in cases of the Omicron variant that has been anticipated," the ministry said.

"COVID-19 will be with us, and we have to live with it, together," it said. The ministry urged the public to adhere to the standard operation procedures (SOPs) and guidelines set by the government and to "practise our social responsibility as we live with COVID-19". The SOPs and guidelines listed by the health ministry include getting the third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible, wearing a well-fitting face mask when going outdoors, and maintaining physical distancing.—Xinhua ■

New Zealand supports farmers, growers against COVID-19

New Zealand farmers and growers are getting a helping hand against the Omicron variant of COVID-19, Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor said on Tuesday. **PHOTO: HORTNZ/XINHUA**

NEW ZEALAND farmers and growers are getting a helping hand against the Omicron variant of COVID-19, Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor said on Tuesday.

The government has allocated 400,000 NZ dollars (265,280 US dollars) to support primary producers with contingency planning and response if a farmer or grower contracts COVID-19, O'Connor said in a statement.

The funding will bolster the resources of organizations like the Rural Support Trusts and those supporting Maori agribusinesses, to help them respond to the COVID-19 situation, O'Connor said.

"This funding will help ensure there's someone that farmers and growers can speak to and provide guidance should they or their staff be dealing with Omicron," he said, adding the Rural Support Trusts are well woven into rural communities to provide wrap-around support services.

"The sector has to date been resilient throughout the pandemic," the minister said, adding the hard work of farmers and growers along with those involved in keeping supply chains open and exports flowing, is leading New Zealand's trade-led recovery from COVID-19.—Xinhua ■

School reopening drives COVID-19 cases increase in Aussie state

THOUSANDS of students in the Australian state of Victoria tested positive for COVID-19 since returning to classrooms, while the state government hasn't decided yet to extend the school surveillance testing.

There were 2,368 school students and 125 staff in the state tested positive on Monday, taking the infection tally to 7,046 school students and 925 staff since schools reopened last week, according to Victoria's Education Minister James Merlino on Tuesday. Despite the infections, no schools have been forced to return to remote learning, and Merlino argued the current highly recommended twice weekly rapid antigen testing is "really providing confidence and comfort to everyone in school".—Xinhua ■

Hong Kong imposes its strictest Covid curbs to date as cases soar

HONG KONG on Tuesday imposed its strictest social distancing measures yet as it struggles to maintain a "zero-Covid" policy amid an Omicron-fuelled spike in cases.

Like mainland China, Hong Kong has adhered to a staunch "zero-Covid" policy that has kept infections low through targeted lockdowns and prolonged social distancing measures. The approach has left it one of the most isolated major cities in the world.

But the spread of the Omicron variant in the Chinese territory is threatening to derail the strategy as cases rapidly tick up each day.

On Tuesday, city leader Carrie Lam announced gatherings in private premises will now be limited to two families — the first time Hong Kong has applied restrictions to homes. She did not detail how it would be enforced.

In public, all gatherings will now be capped at two people — down from four.

"We are now facing the most dire situation," Lam said.

"We have seen a surge in the number of confirmed cases and some are worried the real number would be beyond thousands each day."

The city on Wednesday recorded 625 new cases -- setting a new daily record.

Starting Thursday, Hong Kong will close hair salons and places of worship, while a vaccine pass will be rolled out 24 February.—AFP ■

Hong Kong is struggling to maintain its "zero-Covid" policy amid an Omicron-fuelled surge in cases. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Biden threatens to shut down gas pipeline project if Russia attacks Ukraine

US President Joe Biden made a categorical vow Monday at a meeting with Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz to shut down the controversial Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia to Europe if Moscow launches an invasion of Ukraine.

Scholz, however, remained more ambiguous, promising only that he was "united" with Biden.

Biden's declaration was his most blunt so far on the fate of the massive new pipeline, which has been completed, but has yet to begin funnelling natural gas to Germany, tying energy hungry Europe ever closer to Russia. "If Russia invades – that means tanks or troops crossing the border of Ukraine, again – then there will be no longer a Nord Stream 2," Biden told a joint White House news conference with Scholz, following bilateral talks in the Oval Office.–AFP ■

High energy prices put more pressure on Turks

WHEN temperatures plunged well below freezing in Ankara and energy prices soared, Dondu Isler had to make a tough choice to both stay warm and keep her soaring utility bills down.

She turned off the heating in two bedrooms of her apartment.

"Only the living room and the kitchen were heated, but at a minimum. We try to keep warm with blankets," the 61-year-old woman said.

Energy prices in Turkey and other countries have soared in the past year due to recovering demand and geopolitical tensions.

But Turks have also seen their overall purchasing power dwindle dramatically amid a currency crisis and two-decade high inflation that reached almost 50 per cent last month.

Isler and her husband do not know how they will pay their bills, rent and food in the future.–AFP ■

Why has a Chinese city's lockdown sent aluminium prices surging?

THE Covid lockdown this week of a relatively unknown Chinese city sent global prices of aluminium rocketing to a 14-year high.

Why did the outbreak in Baise spark fears around the world about the key metal?

Where is Baise?

Located near the border with Vietnam, Baise is nicknamed the "aluminium capital of southern China".

Home to around 3.5 million people, Baise is a hub for aluminium mining and production.

It produces about 2.2 million tonnes of the commodity per year — more than 80 per cent of the output in the resource-rich Guangxi region.

Guangxi is China's main alumina-exporting region, shipping out around 500,000 tonnes of the aluminium component per month.

Resource-rich Guangxi region is one of China's major aluminium production hubs. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

China is the world's biggest producer of aluminium, a crucial component in major industries including automobiles, construction and consumer goods.

Why was Baise locked down?

At just under 190 cases, the Baise coronavirus outbreak is tiny compared with caseloads in other parts of the world.

China, however, has a zero Covid strategy, using strict, targeted lockdowns, travel restrictions and mass testing to eliminate infections.

Baise was locked down Monday, leaving most of its residents under home confinement and others unable to leave rural counties and townships under the city's jurisdiction.

The national Covid strategy has helped maintain some economic growth during the pandemic, but its enforcement has caused frequent disruptions at key manufacturing and shipping hubs in recent months.— AFP ■

Qatar to host gas exporters summit as Ukraine crisis simmers

WITH Europe worried about its gas supplies amid fears of a Russian invasion of Ukraine, Qatar will host a summit of top natural gas exporters including Russia, organizers said Tuesday.

The United States has sought the help of its close ally Qatar in providing emergency supplies if pipelines to Western Europe are cut, according to US officials.

Organizers did not immediately confirm whether Russia's President Vladimir Putin would attend the biannual Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) summit on 22 February.

Russia, Iran and Qatar are key members of the forum, which will also hold two days of ministerial meetings. The United States and Australia, two other leading exporters, are not part of the group. US President Joe Biden vowed on Monday, during a meeting with Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz, to shut the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia to Europe if Moscow launches an invasion of Ukraine.

The Ras Laffan Industrial City, Qatar's principal site for production of liquefied natural gas and gas-to-liquid, some 80km north of Doha, on 6 February. **PHOTO: AFP**

The massive new pipeline has been completed, but has yet to begin funnelling natural gas to Germany, a route tying energy-hungry Europe ever closer to Russia. The European Union has also been seeking alternatives to Russian gas in case of an energy crisis. European Union energy commissioner Kadri Simson visited Azerbaijan, an observer member of the gas forum, on Friday in an effort to diversify the continent's energy sources.—AFP ■

Africa's 'most reliable partner' is Europe, says EU chief

Peanuts are an important export in the West African state of Senegal, with the area around the central city of Kaolack a hive of production. Women are sorting peanuts in central Senegalese village. **PHOTO: AFRICA-ME/AFP**

AS China and Russia court impoverished and fragile African states with offers of security or loans, EU chief Ursula von der Leyen says Europe offers the continent the "most reliable" partnership.

In an interview with AFP ahead of a visit to Senegal, Von der Leyen said she will use the trip to unveil the first African scheme in a new investment scheme dubbed Global Gateway.

Seen as the European Union's response to China's Belt and Road strategy, Global Gateway aims to mobilize investments of up to 300 billion euros ($340bn) for public and private infrastructure around the world.

The president of the EU's powerful executive, Von der Leyen arrives in Dakar on Wednesday to prepare for a summit between the EU and African Union on 17-18 February.

On Thursday, she will meet Senegalese President Macky Sall, who has recently assumed the AU presidency.

Von der Leyen responded to written questions from AFP. Her replies have been edited for length and clarity.—AFP ■

UK MPs' report finds Brexit burdening businesses

BRITAIN'S trade with the European Union has been dented by Brexit, with businesses facing greater costs, paperwork and border delays since the UK's full withdrawal, a watchdog panel of MPs said Wednesday.

A report by the cross-party Public Accounts Committee found that although it was difficult to disentangle the effects of the pandemic from those of Brexit, "it was clear that EU exit has had an impact".

It concluded the "only detectable impact" of the UK withdrawal from the EU's single market and customs union at the start of last year was increased burdens on businesses.

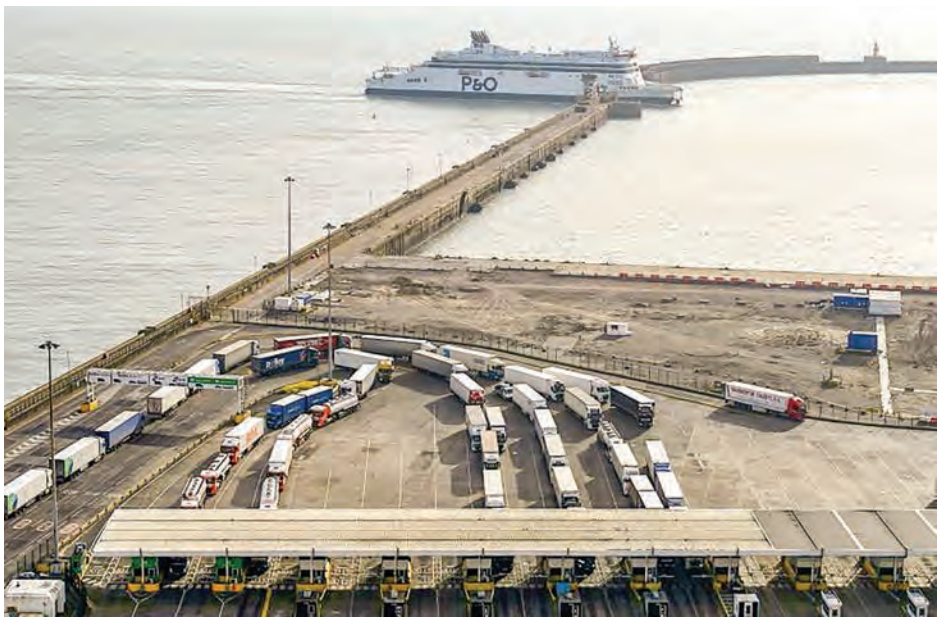
"New border arrangements have added costs to business," the report said, noting the government has "much more work" to do to ease the woes suffered by firms.

The committee's scathing verdict contrasts with the upbeat picture painted by Brexit proponents such as Prime Minister Boris Johnson ahead of the 2016 referendum on EU membership.

The UK narrowly voted to leave after nearly five decades inside the club — now comprised of 27 countries — sparking several years of political upheaval.

Since Britain formally departed the bloc in January 2020 and then ended a transition period 11 months later, Johnson has proclaimed Brexit's benefits, touting the ability to rewrite immigration laws and ink independent trade deals.

But in an apparent sign of some of the difficulties adjusting to life outside the bloc, Johnson on Tuesday appointed prominent Eurosceptic MP Jacob Rees-Mogg in a newly-created post of "minister for Brexit opportunities and government efficiency". It was part of a minor reshuffle of his ministers.— AFP ■



Trucks have faced massive queues at the English port of Dover. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

EU automobile sales to rebound in 2022: industry

AUTOMOBILE sales are likely to rebound by 7.9 per cent in the European Union in 2022, but still remain far below the 2019 level, industry figures showed Tuesday.

The European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) said it "now forecasts that passenger car registrations in the EU will return to growth this year, rising by 7.9 per cent to reach 10.5 million units". That follows 9.7 million units sold in 2021. The ACEA based its forecast on expectations semiconductor chip supplies will stabilise this year after shortages severely hurt the industry.

While the EU launches a plan Tuesday to raise tens of billions of euros to boost semiconductor production in Europe, the ACEA urged the bloc to reduce its dependence on non-European suppliers to avoid damage to the industry in the future. After a sharp drop in sales in 2020 with the coronavirus pandemic, the US and EU automarkets were paralysed last year by semiconductor shortages, especially those made in Asia. However, ACEA said, the share of rechargeable hybrid and electric vehicles has continued to increase: they now account for one out of every five cars sold in the EU. "However, we cannot forget that this is still quite a fragile market," according to ACEA President and CEO of BMW Group, Oliver Zipse. He added the market "is highly reliant on support measures such as purchase incentives and, above all, the widespread availability of charging infrastructure."—AFP ■

European car sales are expected to rise again in 2022 as the microchip shortage will ease, an industry group says. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (0309S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (0309S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-2-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V NORDBORG MAERSK VOY.NO. (202S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORDBORG MAERSK VOY.NO. (202S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-2-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V X-PRESS GODAVARI VOY.NO. (22002N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V X-PRESS GODAVARI VOY.NO. (22002N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-2-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S X-PRESS FEEDERS LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
TUG;CASSANDRA-1 BG;CASSANDRA 2501 V.01/22

Consignees of cargo carried on **TUG;CASSANDRA -1 AND BG;CASSANDRA 2501 (V.01/22)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-2-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-2** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 12th FEBRUARY 2022 (Union Day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm
သတင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
09 454 237 515

Macron in Kyiv says no 'escalation' from Putin

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron said Tuesday he had convinced Russia's Vladimir Putin not to escalate the crisis around Ukraine, ahead of talks in Kyiv aimed at defusing fears Moscow could invade.

During a five-hour meeting over dinner in the Kremlin Monday, Macron said he offered Putin "concrete security guarantees" as the West scrambles to deal with Russia's massive troop build-up on Ukraine's border.

"I obtained that there will be no degradation nor escalation," the French leader told journalists as he arrived in Kyiv for talks with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky.

"My aim was to freeze the game, to prevent an escalation and open up new perspectives," Macron said. "This objective for me is fulfilled."

Putin — who has demanded sweeping security guarantees from NATO and the United States — told Macron that Moscow would "do everything to find compromises that suit everyone".

He said several proposals put forward by Macron could "form a basis for further steps" on easing the crisis over Ukraine, but did not give any details.

At the same time as sending its military hardware to Ukraine's borders, Moscow issued demands the West says are unacceptable, including barring Ukraine from joining NATO and rolling back alliance forces in eastern Europe. The French presidency said Macron's counter proposals include an engagement from both sides not to take any new military action, the launching of a strategic dialogue and efforts to revive the peace process in Kyiv's conflict with Moscow-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine.— AFP ■

French President Emmanuel Macron said he had made proposals of 'concrete security guarantees' in talks with Russian leader Vladimir Putin. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

US troops arrive in Romania amid Ukraine tensions

A first batch of US troops — meant to bolster NATO's eastern flank amid fears of a Russian invasion of Ukraine — have arrived in Romania, the country's defence minister said on Tuesday.

US President Joe Biden announced last week that he is sending 1,000 soldiers to Romania and 2,000 to Poland, as Russia refuses to pull back troops poised on Ukraine's borders.

"More than 100 US soldiers, specialists, who are preparing this deployment, have arrived," Romanian Defence Minister Vasile Dancu told reporters.

"It won't take long until the rest of the troops will arrive," he added.

The Pentagon has said that the Stryker Squadron to be relocated to Romania was coming from Vilseck, Germany.—AFP ■

Mummified body of Italian woman found two years after death

ITALIAN police have discovered the mummified remains of a 70-year-old woman sitting at a table more than two years after she died, prompting calls for better elder care in the country.

Marinella Beretta, who had no living relatives, was found in her house in Prestino, near Lake Como in northern Italy.

Police stumbled upon her remains when they made a house call during high winds in Lombardy, which risked uprooting neglected trees in her garden.

She had not been seen by neighbours for at least two and a half years, according to Italian media reports.—AFP ■

Marcos Jr: Philippine dictator's son vying to take over from Duterte

Philippine presidential candidate Ferdinand Marcos Jr at a campaign rally in Bocaue town, in Bulacan province, on 8 Febuary 2022 **PHOTO:**

FERDINAND Marcos Jr, whose father and namesake was the notorious Philippine dictator, is on track for the ultimate rehabilitation of his family brand: capturing the presidency.

In the decades since a popular uprising toppled the strongman and chased the family into US exile, the Marcoses have staged a stunning political comeback.

But Marcos Jr, 64, known by his nickname "Bongbong", made it the furthest yet when he almost won the vice presidency in the 2016 election that vaulted Rodrigo Duterte to the nation's top office.

Marcos Jr's links to his father, especially the bloody repression of the martial law years, have made him one of the nation's most polarizing politicians.

But a massive social media campaign targeting people too young to remember the dictatorship has been critical in boosting his popularity — and, critics say, rewriting history.

Now, polls show Marcos Jr heading for a landslide victory in the 9 May elections — and returning to the presidential palace his family fled more than 35 years ago.

Links to father's crimes

Marcos Jr was at boarding school in Britain when he received word in 1972 that his father had declared martial law, unleashing large-scale corruption and a bloody crackdown on dissent.

He has defended his father's rule by citing the initial surge of economic growth and government spending under martial law, rather than the graft and mismanagement that later impoverished the nation.—AFP ■

Giant cinematic spectacles will vie with streaming favourites in a diverse race for Hollywood's biggest prize — the Oscars. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Blockbusters, arthouse films vie for Oscar nods in crowded race

A crowded field including "Dune", "Belfast", "West Side Story" and "The Power of the Dog" will compete for Oscars nominations Tuesday, as Academy voters handpick the best films from a year in which Covid-weary audiences slowly headed back into movie theaters.

Giant cinematic spectacles — many of which were pushed back into 2021 during the first year of the coronavirus pandemic — will vie with auteur films that gained tractions on streaming sites in a diverse race for Hollywood's biggest awards, to be handed out in late March.

"Last year we had a much more indie Oscars... This year was the return of big cinema, big movies and studio films," said one Academy voter, who asked not to be named.

"The race is wide open this year," said Deadline award columnist Pete Hammond.

Sprawling sci-fi epic "Dune" — which premiered simultaneously in theaters and online — is expected to land best picture and director nominations, and to sweep nods in technical categories including visual effects, cinematography and sound.—AFP ■

Japanese, Canadian leaders agree to back Ukraine's sovereignty

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Wednesday agreed with his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau to support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, amid rising tensions over Russia's possible invasion of the Eastern European nation.

The leaders agreed to closely watch the situation surrounding Ukraine with "grave concerns" and cooperate on this and other major global issues, when they spoke by phone for about 30 minutes, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

The conversation came a day after Japan's House of Representatives adopted a resolution voicing solidarity with Ukraine. It also explained that Tokyo has been working together with other Group of Seven members, which include Canada, to ease the Ukraine crisis.

A Ukrainian border guard patrols the frontier with Russia, as tensions mount over fears Moscow could invade. **PHOTO: AFP**

Kishida and Trudeau also shared "serious concerns" over North Korea following its repeated test-firing of ballistic missiles since the beginning of this year, according to the ministry.

It added that the two discussed China as well, without specifying what they addressed.

As for the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade deal, they vowed to maintain its high standards for market access and rules, it said. Japan and Canada are part of the 11-member TPP, which the United Kingdom, China and Taiwan made a bid to join last year.— Kyodo ■

Peru's president swears in new cabinet, his fourth in six months

PERU'S leftist President Pedro Castillo on Tuesday appointed a new cabinet, the fourth since he came to power six months ago, including replacing a prime minister who lasted just three days in office.

"Yes, I swear," Anibal Torres, a lawyer taking over the role of prime minister, declared as he was sworn in by Castillo in a brief ceremony at the government palace in Lima.

Torres, 79, has been the head of the Justice Ministry since the current government took power in July.

Castillo's six months in office have been characterized by setbacks and internal struggles within the government, as well as attacks from the radical right, which launched a failed attempt to impeach him.

A week ago, Castillo appointed his third cabinet after the surprise resignation of Prime Minister Mirtha Vasquez due to disagreements over promotions in the police force.

In his place, the president appointed lawyer and parliamentarian Hector Valer Pinto, who was left in the hot seat after Lima media reported that his wife and university-educated daughter had denounced him in 2016 for alleged domestic violence.

Three days later, Castillo announced that he was going to "reshuffle" the cabinet again, marking the departure of the questioned Valer.

He was widely criticised for appointing Valer and for taking so long to put together a new cabinet after removing him from office.—AFP ■

A week ago, Castillo appointed his third Cabinet after the surprise resignation of Prime Minister Mirtha Vasquez due to disagreements over promotions in the police force. **PHOTO: PERUVIAN PRESIDENCY/AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boris Johnson under fire over "Trumpian" attack on rival

BRITAIN'S embattled Prime Minister Boris Johnson faced renewed pressure Tuesday to apologize to opposition leader Keir Starmer for what critics have called a misleading "Trumpian" attack on him last week.

Johnson — already facing calls to step down after months of scandals — accused Starmer of failing in 2013 as head of the country's prosecution service to take action against notorious celebrity paedophile Jimmy Savile.

Labour leader Starmer, who led the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) from 2008 to 2013, was not personally involved in the case but has previously apologised on behalf of the CPS for its failures.—AFP ■

Belgium detains 13 suspects in anti-terror operation

MORE than 100 Belgian police raided multiple addresses around the port city of Antwerp on Tuesday and detained 13 people suspected of links to a jihadist group.

The operation was launched under the authority of anti-terror magistrates as part of a broader investigation, federal prosecutors said in a statement. "An Antwerp group within the Salafist jihadist milieu has come under scrutiny and the aim of this operation was to further map out the group's activities," it said. —AFP ■

Cautious Macron holds advantage in French election

Recent polls suggest that support for conservative candidate Valerie Pecresse is beginning to wane. **PHOTO: AFP**

A relatively flat campaign in which opponents have failed to score points is playing into the hands of French President Emmanuel Macron as he bids for a second term, even if much can still change ahead of the April elections.

A cautious Macron, saying he is preoccupied with the Covid pandemic and averting war between Russia and Ukraine, has kept his powder dry by refraining from officially declaring himself a candidate ahead of the first round of voting on 10 April.

This has so far done Macron no harm, with opinion polls showing him rock solid in the first round, coming out on top at around 25 percent, and then beating any rival in the run-off two weeks later.

Opposing forces remain sometimes hopelessly divided.

Far-right candidates Marine Le Pen and Eric Zemmour have spent more time trading barbs with each other than firing them at Macron, while the left's chances are stymied by no fewer than five major left-wing candidates ranging from communists to the greens.—AFP ■

Officials open the Inter-Region/State Golf Tournament in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary Union Day in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR GOLF FEDERATION**

Region & State Cup Golf Tournament commemorates 75th Anniversary Union Day

THE opening ceremony of the Region and State Golf Tournament in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary Union Day was held at the City Golf Course (Ngwe Thawdar) in Yangon yesterday morning.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe, Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay and Yangon Region Cabinet Ministers, officials, Director-General of the Department of Sports and Physical Education U Tun Myint Oo, President of Myanmar Golf Federation U Ko Ko Aye, invitees and athletes from participating teams attended the ceremony.

At the opening ceremony, the athletes first took their positions at the designated places and recited the four sports vows.

After that, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Major General Nyunt Win Swe, Commander of Yangon Command and officials cordially greeted the athlete.

Then, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe, Director-General of the Department of Sports and Physical Education U Tun Myint Oo and President of the Myanmar Golf Federation U Ko Ko Aye teed off the tournament.

The 18-hole competition started on the first round with men's and women's singles competitions.

A total of 108 male and 21 female golfers from 15 teams from 15 regions and states participated in the tournament. The tourney will run until 11 February. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

No slip-ups as snowboarder wins first US gold of Beijing Games

Lindsey Jacobellis won the United States' first gold medal of the Beijing Olympics. **PHOTO: AFP**

SNOWBOARD cross rider Lindsey Jacobellis said her infamous fall that cost her a title in 2006 had "kept her hungry" as she won the United States' first gold medal of the Beijing Olympics on Wednesday.

Jacobellis was comfortably in the lead in the final at the 2006 Turin Olympics when she attempted to 'style out' her last jump -- and fell just before the finish line, finishing second.

The 36-year-old avoided that problem on Wednesday, leading from the front and crossing the finish line with a big smile on her face.

"(People) can keep talking about (2006) all they want because it really shaped me into the individual that I am and kept me hungry and really helped me keep fighting in the sport," she said.

Jacobellis has won six world championship golds, but she had never won gold at the Olympics before, not even making the finals at the Vancouver and Sochi Games.

It is unusual for the United States to have to wait for the fifth full competition day of a Winter Olympics to claim a gold.

With Jacobellis' gold, the Americans sit 10th in the medal table, behind Slovenia but ahead of France and Canada. — 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.

ASEAN-level youth football tournaments to be held this year

THE ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) will resume the ASEAN Youth Football Championship this year, which has been postponed for two consecutive years due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

The ASEAN Football Federation is hosting the U-16 and U-15 Women's competitions this year but no tourneys were held in 2020 and 2021, due to the pandemic.

Therefore, the ASEAN Football Federation is trying to get all the matches back this year and is planning to hold youth football matches as usual.

The U-16/U-15 youth football tournaments is scheduled to resume later this year, and if it is resumed, Myanmar youth teams will compete, football authorities said. Myanmar youth teams have been away from international competitions for two years in a row and will be rehearsed depending on the conditions of the competition.

Myanmar National Men's Football Team, Women's Football Team, and U-23 national team got a chance to compete in international competitions amidst the COVID-19 outbreak and the remaining Myanmar teams have yet to compete. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM