HARNESS NATURAL FACILITIES TO ENJOY BENEFITS IN THE DRY ZONE

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 302, Fullmoon of Tabodwe 1383 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Tuesday, 15 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.

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays homage to Maha Muni Buddha Image in Kengtung of Shan State (East), Saturathta Thumingala Pagoda on Loimwe hill station, views development of Loimwe region

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing kowtows Maha Muni Buddha Image in Kentung in Shan State (East) on 14 February.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Council members and Union ministers, yesterday morning paid homage to Maha Muni Buddha Image in Kengtung of Shan State (East) and Saturathta Thumingala Pagoda on the Loimwe hill station and viewed development tasks in Loimwe region.

The Senior General and party under the auspices of Presiding Nayaka of the Thiladhamma Kontha Tawya monastery (Wasipeik) Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kovida paid homage to the Maha Muni Buddha Image of Kengtung and offered flowers, water and oil lights. Then, the Senior General presented K77.1 million donated by well-wishers to Chairman U Sai Haung Kham Nwam of the pagoda board of trustees and party.

At Saturathta Thumingala Pagoda on the Loimwe hill station, the pagoda board of trustees' chairman and party welcomed the Senior General and party. The Senior General and party paid homage to the Pagoda and then donated flowers, water and oil lights to the pagoda and donated cash to

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Multi-Modal Transport Law (Second Amendment)
State Administration Council Law 3/2022

14th Waxing of Tabodwe 1383 ME
14 February 2022

THE State Administration Council hereby enacted this law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

1. This law shall be called the Law amending the Multi-Modal Transport Law for the second time.
2. Sub-Section (q) of Section 2 of the Multi-Modal Transport Law shall be substituted as follow: -
   "(r) The Ministry means the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Union Government."
3. The word "Directorate of Marine Administration" mentioned in Sub-section (r) of Section 2, Sub-section (a) of Section 7 and Sub-section (c) of Section 59 of the Multi-Modal Transport Law shall be substituted with the word "Transport Planning Department".

I hereby signed this law under Section 419 of the Constitution.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Press Release

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar takes note that Cambodia will be hosting the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting Retreat (AMM Retreat) in Phnom Penh on 17 February 2022. Myanmar recognizes that Cambodia, as the ASEAN Chair for 2022, has endeavoured to ensure that all members of ASEAN comprising of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam participate in the AMM Retreat, which is the first meeting for the ASEAN Chair in 2022.

Despite numerous attempts by the ASEAN Chair to ensure all members of ASEAN participate in the AMM Retreat, some members are still holding on to the unilateral decision taken by the previous Chair at the Emergency ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting which was held on 15 October 2021 that only a non-political representative should be invited to participate. Since that decision was contrary to the principles of national sovereignty and equality as stipulated in the ASEAN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC), the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and the Charter of the United Nations, as well as Myanmar's Foreign Policy, Myanmar was not able to participate in the 38th and 39th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits, held in October last year.

Despite the efforts made by the ASEAN Chair and Myanmar to promote cooperation in ASEAN, it is regrettable to see the return of the decision made last year which Myanmar in principle is unable to accept. In this regard, Myanmar's inability to participate or even designate a non-political representative to the AMM Retreat which will be held on 17 February 2022 is inevitable since it contradicts the principles and practice of equal representation in ASEAN.

Myanmar, while upholding the principle of equality as stipulated in the ASEAN Charter, will continue to extend constructive engagement with the current ASEAN Chair, including with all ASEAN Member States.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Dated, 14 February 2022

UNESCO conducts field visit to MraukU for World Heritage listing

A pilot study was conducted by an Italian water expert Professor Massimo Sarti and party who arrived in MraukU on 8 February to inscribe MraukU, Rakhine State on the World Heritage List.

Chairperson of MraukU Ancient Heritage Preservation Committee Daw Khin Than, Daw Mya Sabei Nyunt from the Rakhine Community Association, Dr Tin Mar Aung from the Dr Saw Mra Aung Foundation and Director of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum U Kyi Khin are also coordinating the field study.

Italian water expert Professor Massimo Sarti conducted the field study at MraukU township waterways – Kyaukrizkay (Creek), Ngwe Taungpauk Creek, Taungphyu Moat, Minthamee Paung Creek, Pann Zaymyaung Creek, Letse Lake and Anuma Lake.

According to the field study, the previous water utilization systems plus water protection systems were satisfactory, officials said.

A proposal for the World Heritage List of MraukU was submitted to UNESCO on 30 December 2021, and UNESCO experts will visit the site in 2023.

MraukU was founded by Rakhine King Min Saw Mon in 1430 AD and ruled for 354 years by successive Rakhine kings.

The UNESCO field study is now underway to preserve its ancient heritage. — Myint Soe (IPRD)/GNLM

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays homage to Maha Muni Buddha Image in Kengtung of Shan State (East), Saturathta Thumingala Pagoda on Loimwe hill station, views development of Loimwe region

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays homage to the Saturathta Thumingala Pagoda on Loimwe hill station on 14 February 2022.

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the all-round renovation fund of the pagoda to members of the pagoda board of trustees. The Senior General signed the visitors' book and paid homage to hill missionary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vepulla and donated cash for nine prerequisites and offerings. The Senior General and party went round the pagoda clockwise and instructed officials to maintain the pagoda for long term existence.

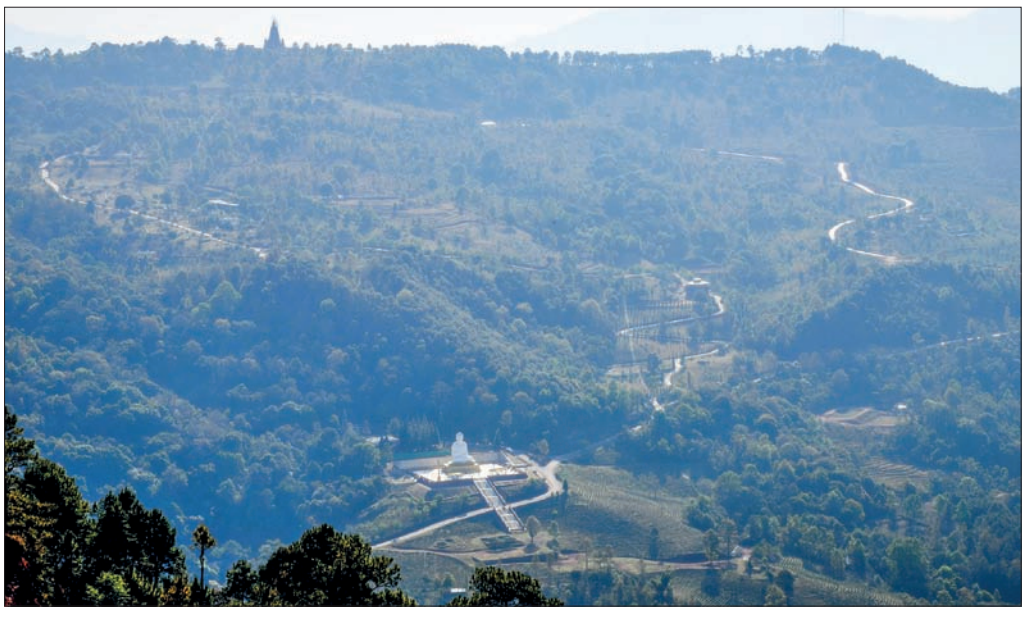
The Senior General and party arrived at the historic 100-year chamber where they viewed the history of Loimwe city and significant places with documentary photos. After inspecting maintenance of the 104-year chamber for its sustainability and the Senior General instructed officials to maintain utensils in the building in original works and left necessary instructions.

The Senior General and party inspected the dredging of the Loimwe Lake, maintenance and upgrade tasks, and storage of water at the Kaunghmutaw Dam.

The Senior General instructed officials to constantly maintain the Loimwe Lake as a natural gift for the Loimwe hill station for its sustainability, conserve forests in the watershed area, cleanse bushes in the areas for ensuring a beautiful environment and good ventilation, carry out thinning of trees and upgrade the uphill road to the Loimwe hill station.

The Senior General and party arrived at the site where the sky train station will be built from the Loimwe hill station to the Buddha Park in Pankwe Village for contribution to the regional development. In response to the reports of officials, the Senior General gave instructions for the construction of the car park and roads.

The Senior General and party viewed the site where the Kengtung Haw replica building will be built near the Nawngtong Lake and attended to the needs of officials. After inspecting maintenance of the Nawngtong Lake and upgrading of the bund road, the Senior General instructed officials to freely take physical exercises and upgrade the bund road for relaxation. — MNA



1,586 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 14 February, total figure rises to 548,357

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 548,357 after 1,586 new cases were reported on 14 February 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 518,076 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 19,311 after one died.—MNA

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

Objectives of 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

1. THE Tatmadaw to participate in the leading role of national politics for the emergence of the Union based on democracy and federalism while safeguarding the Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
2. The Tatmadaw to take responsibility for substantial contribution to measures of peace and prosperity of the country and food sufficiency as a national task the government primarily emphasizes
3. The Tatmadaw to join hands with all ethnic national people in the national reconciliation and peace processes
4. The Tatmadaw to provide necessary assistance for convening a free and fair multiparty democracy general election for ensuring the emergence of the Union based on democracy and federalism upon completion of endeavours in accord with the provisions of the State of Emergency
5. To build a powerful, capable and modern patriotic Tatmadaw to protect the national interest of the State

Closing, award-giving ceremony of Inter-Region/State traditional martial arts (Myanma Thaing) contest 2022 held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE closing and award-giving ceremony of Inter-Region/State traditional martial arts or Myanma Thaing Contest 2022 was organized at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium (B) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday following the COVID-19 health rules.

The male and female final matches of respective weight classes were held yesterday.

After the matches, the award-giving ceremony was held. Deputy Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Myo Hlaing, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung, Union Minister for Construction U Shwe Lay, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than, Union Minister at the Union Government Office (2) U Chitt Naing and Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan gave the first, second, third and joint third prizes to the winners of respective weight classes for the various Thaing events.

Dignitaries watch the Inter-Region/State traditional martial arts (Myanma Thaing) contest 2022 in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 February.

Then, SAC member U Moung Har awarded trophies to the best fighters while other SAC members Jeng Phang Naw Taung gave the National Championship trophy to the Mandalay Region team for winning six gold, six silver and one bronze, Women's Championship trophy to the Mandalay Region team that won seven gold, two silver and five bronze medals by Daw Aye Nu Sein, overall championship trophy to the Mandalay Region team for winning 13 gold, eight silver and six bronze by Mahn Nyein Maung.

The Myanma Thaing contest was organized to produce new young generations who are interested in martial arts and emerge young, strong and fit athletes to lift the dignity of the country. — MNA

Public Notification

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

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

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

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

Public Notification

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

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

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

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

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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.

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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.

To build strength within the country!

1. In the first, our economy will be developed by our internal strength. We have abundant natural resources and human resources. We have weakness in the socio-economic development of the people as we have been relying on external products or import rather than our domestic production.
2. Secondly, we will build our political strength internally. Building a Union and multiparty democratic system based on democracy and federalism will certainly enhance our political strength.
3. Thirdly, the defence capability of the country should be strengthened with the participation of all ethnic national people. With united strength both in weals and woes, we all will build the defence capability of our country with modern military prowess (Army, Navy and Air).

(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)

UEC initiates pilot project to verify ground population census for accurate basic voter lists

THE opening ceremony of the pilot project to verify the ground population census for the accuracy of the basic voter lists was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the ceremony, UEC Chairman U Thein Soe said the UEC carries out the proper work procedures including inspecting the voting, the first point of the Five-point Roadmap of the State Administration Council under the law and makes preparations to conduct a free and fair multiparty democratic general election in accord with the 2008 Constitution upon the accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency.

He then highlighted the rights of every citizen to cast vote according to the Constitution, compiling the voter lists based on Form (66/6) of the Ministry of Immigration and Population, completion of work procedures in Taninthayi Region, Mon State, Ayeyawady Region and Union Territory out of 15 regions/states, including the Union Territory.

He also talked about the Pilot Project to verify the ground population census for the accuracy of the basic voter lists to be conducted by the General Administration Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Immigration and Population, issuance of citizenship scritiny cards as per the Pankhinn project, the duties of respective ministries and departments in inspecting the accurate ground population in the wards and village-tracts and cooperation works of all government employees in serving national duties to ensure the coming multiparty democratic general election.

Staff officers of the UEC office, officials of the Ministry of Immigration and Population, ward administrators, 100-house elders, 10-house elders and ward/village-tract clerks will scrutinize the population data compiled as per Form (66/6) with the ground population living in the wards/village-tracts using a computer-based system according to the lists of regions, districts and townships. — MNA

MoI Union Minister inspects No 7 Textile Factory (Myittha)

UNION Minister Dr Charlie Than of the Ministry of Industry observed the No 7 Textile Factory (Myittha) in Mandalay Region on 13 February.

The Union minister addressed to prioritize the inventory of the raw materials and have spare parts of the machines to commercially produce the quality textile, maintain quality assurance in yarns or threads manufacturing and build capacity development and achieve harmony in the workplace to conduct equipment modification and machine refurbishment process, comply with the set rules and regulations to purchase cotton for the factory's operation, minimize the wastages, encourage the staff to stay committed to the assigned duties, prepare for fire safety measures and equip the factory with the fire extinguishers.

Later, the Union minister inspected the running process of textile production and the modifying the existing machinery for increased yield and trial run of the quality textile. — MNA

Union Information Minister meets YMBA, Interfaith Friendship Organization

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn received officials from the YMBA (Young Men's Buddhist Association) and the Interfaith Friendship Organization in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, the Union minister said that the government prioritizes the peace processes including the ways to ensure state stability and peaceful mindset of people for their keeps. Quick public participation will make success.

The Diamond Jubilee Union Day was successfully held through the cooperation works of people and relevant officials.

He then underscored the respect to the Interfaith Friendship Organization, efforts of officials of the organization for the awareness of basic concepts of religions for the people to be mature with the belief in religion and media related ways to provide true news to the people.

He also mentioned the Prime Minister for his efforts in improving the education sector as well as the state economy and urged the organization to cooperate for state stability.

U Ye Tun, chairman of the YMBA explained the activities of the association and online training for 38 Mingala Dhamma and Abhidhamma.

Then, the YMBA secretary, Vice chairman of Interfaith Friendship Organization and officials discussed their respective sectors and the Union Minister coordinated the discussion. — MNA

Pansodan-Dala ferries run 40 plies for convenience of passengers

CHERRY ferries are being operated along the Yangon River for the convenience of passengers from Dala, Twantay, Kawmhu, Kungyangon townships.

Currently, the ferry service is running 40 plies on weekdays and weekends. The ferries are running alternatively departing from Dala at 5:30 am and departing from Pansodan at 6 am.

The last ferry departs at 7 pm from Dala and 7:30 pm from Pansodan. The ferry plies have been rescheduled for the convenience of the passengers. Currently, the passengers are travelling peacefully and regularly.

The water ferry routes are being increased depending on the number of passengers from across the country, according to the Delta Division of the Inland Water Transport (IWT).

JICA donated three motor ferries called "Cherry" and they were handed over to the Dala jetty on 15 November 2014. These ferries have been offering service in an alternative way daily.

The jetty is one of the busiest ports in the Yangon region, providing the best service for commuters. —Thuta/GNLM

The Pansodan-Dala ferry "Cherry" is seen in the Yangon River against the background of Yangon city.

Palin Kanthaya elephant camp receives 340 times of food buffets online amid pandemic

ELEPHANT lovers from across the country are feeding the elephants in Palin Kanthaya elephant camp online during the pandemic period, said U Saw Wah Wah, the camp supervisor.

The Palin Kanthaya elephant camp is located near the west Palin village beside the Myingyan-Pakokku Road in NyaungU township, Mandalay region.

"The camp was opened by the Myanmar Timber Enterprise of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. The camp was temporarily shut down on 25 March 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak. During the pandemic period, elephant loves from across the country are buying elephant food buffets online and feeding the elephant. The number of people feeding the elephant buffet has increased to over 340 times. Some booked online to feed the elephant," he added.

Elephants enjoy their feedstuff buffets.

There are a total of 22 elephant camps in states and regions. The elephant feeding can be done by contacting the elephant camps' pages. The buffet includes sugarcane, grass, banana, pumpkin, watermelon, cucumber, mango, coconut and corn and seasonal crops. It costs K30,000 to K50,000 per meal, and K100,000 can be donated for seven elephants a day.

Those who would like to donate can contact the assistant manager via phone number: 09 793820532. The elephant camps set up for the development of town-based tourism are in short supply. Elephants in forest and mountain camps are not difficult to find feedstuffs and water, U Saw Wah Wah clarified.

The camp was reopened on 25 May 2021. — Ko Htein-KPD/GNLM

People visit decorated floats show in Nay Pyi Taw

A large group of people visited the Tabaung ground in front of Uppatasanti Pagoda where the parade floats which joined the Diamond Jubilee Union Day Ceremony from Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states were parked yesterday.

The floats display the culture, traditions, living styles and local products of ethnic people and the students, government employees and residents can study there.

The visitors also took commemorative photos with the parade floats and ethnic dance troupes.

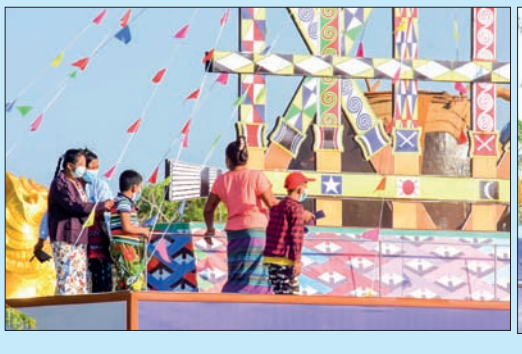
The ethnic cultural dance troupes also share their traditional and cultural related knowledge regarding their respective regions and states.

Mandalay and Sagaing regions dance troupes entertained the people with songs and dances including martial arts in front of the floats.

Moreover, the officials arranged traditional food fairs of ethnic people for the visitors.

A total of 46 floats and 20 booths of ethnic traditional foods were displayed between 8 am and 8 pm from 13 to 15 February. — Myo Set Thit/GNLM

Visitors throng at the floats display and booths in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 February 2022. **PHOTOS: KOGYI HTEIN**



Harness natural facilities to enjoy benefits in the dry zone

AS the Ayeyawady River flowing from the north to the south for a long time is a main artery of the country, it is necessary to systematically utilize it to irrigate cultivable lands located along its both banks.

Despite a dry region, more than 600,000 acres of farmlands are placed under paddy plantations and more than 2.2 million acres under other crops in Magway Region. Hence, the water from the Ayeyawady River should be supplied to farmlands.

Meanwhile, necessary dams and reservoirs should be improved with dredging silt for storing the water at the full brim to supply water to the people for agricultural and consumption purposes. Consequently, the water supply task can remedy the people to be free from the outbreak of diseases based on water and ease the impacts of climate change in the region.

Some parts of the Magway Region can control the current of the watercourse in the Ayeyawady River. The low head dams should be built at the sites to control the flow of water from the river in order to generate electricity while supplying water to the cultivable lands all year round as a Myanmar saying goes: there is a will, there is a way.

On the other hand, people from the Magway Region need to efficiently use solar energy. Indeed, there are some 70 rainy days on average in the region, so it is appropriate to generate electricity through solar energy with a plan to construct a ground where solar panels must be placed to absorb the sunray.

Thanks to solar energy, the electricity can be used to operate the river water pumping stations in pumping up water from the Ayeyawady River to the farmlands for the successful cultivation of crops by local growers. It is much beneficial for the local people.

Only when the functioning of irrigation and electrification is not separable in the Magway Region will both facilities contribute to each other for the development of the agriculture sector and the electric power sector while uplifting the living standard of the people.

Meanwhile, necessary dams and reservoirs should be improved with dredging silt for storing the water at the full brim to supply water to the people for agricultural and consumption purposes. Consequently, the water supply task can remedy the people to be free from the outbreak of diseases based on water and ease the impacts of climate change in the region.

The environment creates hotness and coldness, water, fire, soil and air for the lives of humans. Only when the people effectively harness these natural facilities will they enjoy benefits. Otherwise, these natural facilities will change themselves as natural disasters to harm the lives of the people.

How long does protection offered by COVID-19 booster shot last? US study answers

"Boosters remain safe and continue to be effective against severe disease over time."

THE efficacy of third doses of the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines wanes substantially by the fourth month after administration, a new study by the US Centres of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Friday.

Though it's now well documented that vaccine efficacy goes down after two doses, relatively little has been published on the duration of protection after a booster.

"COVID-19 vaccine boosters remain safe and continue to be highly effective against severe disease over time," said Kristen Nordlund, a CDC spokesperson.

More than 241,204 visits

The new study was based on more than 241,204 visits to the emergency department or an urgent care clinic, and 93,408 hospitalizations, which are more serious, among adults with COVID-19-like illness during 26 August 2021-22 January 2022.

Vaccine efficacy was estimated by comparing the odds of a positive COVID test between vaccinated and unvaccinated patients and using statistical methods to control for calendar week, geographic area, while adjusting for age, the level of local transmission, and patient characteristics like comorbidities.

During the Omicron-predominant period, vaccine efficacy against COVID-associated emergency department or urgent care visits was 87 per cent during the two months after a third dose, but fell to 66 per cent by the fourth month.

Vaccine efficacy against hospitalization was 91 per cent in the first two months, but fell to 78 per cent by the fourth month after a third dose.

"COVID-19 vaccine boosters remain safe and continue to be highly effective against severe disease over time," said Kristen Nordlund, a CDC spokesperson.

"The finding that protection conferred by mRNA vaccines waned in the months after receipt of a third vaccine dose reinforces the importance of further consideration of additional doses to sustain or improve protection," the authors concluded.

Speaking at a White House COVID briefing on Wednesday, President Joe Biden's top medical advisor Anthony Fauci said it was likely that fourth doses would more likely be needed for subsets of people who mount weaker immune responses, such as the elderly and immunocompromised.

Effectiveness after a booster

Effectiveness after a booster was higher last year, when the delta variant was causing most US cases, the study noted.

Health experts expect protection from the vaccines to wane. The US booster campaign was based on evidence that emerged last year that vaccine protection was fading six months after people got their initial vaccinations.

People wait for a COVID-19 booster shot at a mass vaccination centre in Osaka on 7 February 2022. **PHOTO: POOL / KYODO**

And from the beginning, vaccines have offered less protection against the omicron mutant than earlier versions of the virus. The study couldn't address how protection will hold up against the next variant to come along.

Still, the new study's finding was notable, said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University vaccines expert.

"I'm a little surprised, according to the data, that it's starting to wane already," he said, adding that he would have anticipated higher estimates of vaccine effectiveness at the four-month post-booster mark.

But Schaffner also said he'd like to see more research about the durability of booster protection, adding "let's take this with a grain of salt."

Dr Michael Saag, an infectious diseases physician at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, said 78 per cent effectiveness against hospitalisation "is still pretty effective."

"Anecdotally, I'm seeing very few people die who got boosted," he said, even among those with weakened immune systems. "The vaccines are still working."

New antibody authorised

In a separate development on Friday, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorised a new lab-grown antibody treatment by pharmaceutical company Lilly called bebtelovimab.

The drug is administered as an intravenous injection over at least 30 seconds and has been green lighted for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID among people 12 and over at high risk of severe disease. Data supporting the authorization came from a clinical trial that showed the drug has strong promise against Omicron. Lilly's previous antibody treatment was de-authorized by the FDA after it was found to be ineffective against this variant.

SOURCE: AFP

One-in-three adults develop new conditions after COVID infection, finds study

A recent study has found that almost a third (32 of every 100) of older adults infected with COVID-19 in 2020 developed at least one new condition that required medical attention in the months after initial infection, 11 more than those who did not have COVID-19.

The study was published in 'The BMJ'.

Conditions involved a range of major organs and systems, including the heart, kidneys, lungs and liver as well as mental health complications.

The Pentagon deploys more than 1,100 troops to five vaccination centres in what will be the first wave of increased military support for the White House campaign to get more Americans inoculated against COVID-19. As of 10 February 2022, the percentage of adults 65 years and older who were fully vaccinated against COVID-19 had reached 88.5 per cent. **PHOTO: KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/ AFP**

Frequency and severity

Studies examining the frequency and severity of new conditions (sequelae) after COVID-19 infection have started to emerge, but few have described the excess risk of new conditions triggered by COVID-19 infection in older adults (aged at least 65).

To address this, US researchers used health insurance plan records to identify 133,366 individuals aged 65 or older in 2020 who were diagnosed with COVID-19 before 1 April 2020.

These individuals were matched to three (non-covid) comparison groups from 2020, 2019, and a group diagnosed with viral lower respiratory tract illness.

The researchers then recorded any persistent or new conditions starting 21 days after a COVID-19 diagnosis (the post-acute period) and calculated the excess risk for conditions triggered by COVID-19 over several months based on age, race, sex, and whether patients were admitted to hospital for COVID-19.

The results showed that among individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 in 2020, 32 per cent sought medical attention in the post-acute period for one or more new or persistent conditions, which was 11 per cent higher than the 2020 comparison group.

Compared with the 2020 comparison group, COVID-19 patients were at increased risk of developing a range of conditions including respiratory failure (an extra 7.55 per 100 people), fatigue (an extra 5.66 per 100 people), high blood pressure (an extra 4.43 per 100 people), and mental health diagnoses (an extra 2.5 per 100 people). Similar findings were found for the 2019 comparison group.

However, compared with the group with viral lower respiratory tract illness, only respiratory failure, dementia, and fatigue showed increased risk differences of 2.39, 0.71, and 0.18 per 100 people with COVID-19, respectively.

Several conditions

Individuals admitted to hospital with COVID-19 had a markedly increased risk for most but not all conditions. The risk of several conditions was also increased for men, for those of black race, and for those aged 75 and older.

Since this was an observational study, so the cause couldn't be established and the researchers acknowledged some limitations, including the fact that some diagnoses might not truly represent a new condition triggered by COVID-19 infection. However, they warned that with more than 357 million people infected with coronavirus worldwide, "the number of survivors with sequelae after the acute infection will continue to grow." "These findings further highlight the wide range of important sequelae after acute infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus," they wrote. "Understanding the magnitude of risk for the most important clinical sequelae might enhance their diagnosis and the management of individuals with sequelae after acute SARS-CoV-2 infection."

"Also, our results can help providers and other key stakeholders anticipate the scale of future health complications and improve planning for the use of healthcare resources," they concluded.

SOURCE: ANI

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

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 14 February 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair over the North Bay and a few cloud over the 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 15 February 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi region and isolated in Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Shan, Kayah 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 (4-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi region, Scattered in Kayin, Mon states and isolated in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady regions.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 February 2022: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 February 2022: Partly cloudy.

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 17 tonnes of masks were imported by two vehicles of one company via the Lweje 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

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

Migratory birds settle in at Meiktila Lake (South)

The migratory birds such as Spoonbills, Black-winged stilt, Grey-headed swamphen and Eurasian coot can be seen in these areas of Meiktila.

MIGRATING birds start arriving in Meiktila Lake (South) this year.

The various species of migratory birds that spend winter in the Meiktila region yearly have been arriving at Meiktila Lake (North) by the end of December and early January. But they inhabited Meiktila Lake (South) recently. Most of the migratory birds to south lake mainly at the lake near Paukchaung Ward and also at the same place this year. We can see some migrating birds near the lake beside Luukhingyi and Nwasantaung villages at the southern part of Meiktila Lake in addition to Paukchaung Lake's bund Road, said Ko Yan Naing Hla, the bird watcher.

In Meiktila Lake (North), the migratory birds winter at the wetlands in the northern part of Nantawgon Ward, Kalamakyun, Oakhneboke, Innpatlet, Kyaukpyugon and Ywama villages this year. The Meiktila officials conduct educative programmes to prevent the killing of migratory birds. The migratory birds such as Spoonbills, Black-winged stilt, Grey-headed swamphen and Eurasian coot can be seen in these areas of Meiktila.— Chan Tha (Meiktila)/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal teak, utensils seized this week

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

A total of 1,140 hairdryers and 540 pairs of children's shoes (estimated value of K2,820,000) were seized during a combined inspection by the Customs Department and the responsible department of Mayanchaung on 13 February.

On 12 February, a combined team from the Yangon Region Forest Department seized 0.7048 tonne of illegal teak (estimated at K211,440) from Hlegu Township and action is taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, on 14 February, the Bago Region Forest Department and combined teams reportedly inspected forests in Thayawady, Toungoo and Pyay Districts, and 4.3298 tonnes of illegal timbers (estimated value of K675,360) was seized and action is taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, a total of three arrests (estimated value of K3,706,800) were made on three consecutive days, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. —MNA

Confiscated sawn timbers, teak logs and consumer goods.

Myawady border sees abundant corn supply to Thailand under zero tariff

MYANMAR has been delivering a large supply of corn to Thailand through the Myawady border under the preferential zero tariff. The price of corn is estimated at over K800 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), said corn traders.

Thailand gives the green light to corn imports through Mae Sot under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August.

Thailand has granted tax exemption on corn imports between February and August. However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn import to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

Thailand gives the green light to corn imports through Mae Sot under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August.

From 1 February 2022, more than 100 trucks carrying corn have been conveyed to Thailand.

The corn traders have a full inventory in the warehouses in Myawady border city, U Min Khaing, Chair of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association said.

Myanmar is targeted to deliver 1.5 million tonnes of corn to the external market in the current 2021-2022 corn season.

Last 2020-2021 financial year, the country shipped more than 1.7 million tonnes of corn to Thailand, U Min Khaing was quoted as saying.

The price is on the rise on the back of strong foreign demand and Kyat depreciation on a US dollar in the local exchange market.

The prevailing price of corn is K820-840 per viss in the Yangon market, the Yangon Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Myanmar exported 2.3 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the previous FY. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to China, India and Viet Nam.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons – winter, summer and monsoon. The country yearly produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn. — NN/GNLM

Precious yellow metal price regains to approximately K1.9 mln per tical

THE price of precious yellow metal increases again to nearly K1.9 million (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme), according to the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

The global gold price stands at US$1,853 per ounce. The US dollar exchange rate is approximately at K1,990 in the local forex market at present. Meanwhile, the pure gold fetches up to K1,893,000 per tical.

Tracking the Kyat depreciation against the US dollar and rise in the global gold market, the gold prices in the domestic market remains on an upward trend, YGEA Chair U Myo Myint stated.

Only when Kyat strengthens against the US dollar in the local forex market and the global gold price slides can the domestic gold price fall, U Myo Myint was quoted as saying.

The domestic gold price is highly correlated with the global gold price and the local currency value.

Last 28 September 2021, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K3,000 in the black market and consequently, the pure gold reached a record high of K2.22 million per tical in history.

Under the guidance of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, the Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market was formed on 17 December 2021 as gold and currency market stability play a crucial role in trade facilitation.

The objectives of the committee are inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation, checking if there is compliance to payment rules or not, proceeding against those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere with the free and fair operation of the market under the existing laws, by-laws and regulations in line with the official directives, illegal procurement of foreign currency, illegal trade and taking legal actions against price manipulators.

Furthermore, the officials concerned will crack down on those people involved in charging a percentage for money withdrawals at banks as shadow money.

The prices of gold elevated to K1,885,000 per tical (25 January 2022) and plunged to the lowest of K1,824,500 (6 January) this year.

In January 2021, the gold price was ranged between the minimum of K1,316,000 per tical (28 January) and the maximum of K1,336,000 per tical (6 January). It reached an all-time high of K1,410,000 per tical on 3 February and hit the minimum of K1,340,000 per tical on 2 February. In March, the rate fluctuated between the highest of K1,391,000 (25 March) and the lowest of K1,302,000 (4 March). The price was registered the highest of K1,455,000 (30 April) and the lowest of K1,389,000 (1 April). The price reached an all-time highest of K1,709,000 (12 May) and the lowest of K1,447,000 in May. The price moved in the maximum of K1,575,500 (11 June) and the minimum of K1,543,000 (19 June). It fluctuated between K1,562,300 (26 July) and K1,587,000 (K1,587,000). The price of gold reached the lowest of K1,572,800 (3 August) and the highest of K1,698,000 (31 August). It was recorded the lowest of K1,703,500 (1 September) and edged up to K2,220,000 (28 September). The price was ranged between K1,768,500 (27 October) and K2,030,000 (1 October). It elevated to K1,810,000 (6 November) and plunged to K1,768,500 (24 November). It was traded between K1,768,500 (6 December) and K1,823,000 (29 December), the gold traders said. — NN/GNLM

Muse border trade down by 78 per cent over past four months

MYANMAR Customs Department's statistics indicated that the value of trade between Myanmar and China via a major trading hub — the Muse border post — was seen a 78-per-cent drop as of 4 February 2022 of the current mini-budget period (October 2021- March 2022).

The value of Muse border trade touched a low of US$545.749 million over the past four months amid the COVID-19 impacts, reflecting a drastic drop of US$1.73 billion as against the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October 2021 and 4 February 2022, Myanmar's exports to China through the Muse land border were valued at $457 million, while imports are worth $21.56 million. The trade showed a slump in both exports and imports compared to the corresponding period of last year.

China shut down all the checkpoints linking to the Muse border amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The border posts next to Muse border are Nantaw, Sinphyu, Mang Wein, Kyinsankyawt-Wamting and Panseng-Wamting posts. Of the 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.

Additionally, China's new Customs regulation and mandatory quarantine process posed some hurdles in the border market. Traders cannot expect trade facilitation according to the changes in China's policy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Muse border post witnessed $4.057 billion worth of the Sino-Myanmar border trade last financial year 2020-2021, including exports worth $2.9 billion and imports worth $1.15 billion. — KK/GNLM

G20 finance ministers, central bank governors to meet in Jakarta despite Omicron wave

Workers are seen near ornamental signage promoting the upcoming 2022 G20 Summit, scheduled to be held 30-31 October on Bali island, at the landmark Bundaran HI roundabout in Jakarta on 13 February 2022. **PHOTO : AFP**

FINANCE ministers and central bank governors from G20 members will gather from 17 to 18 February for their first meeting this year under the Indonesian presidency in Jakarta, despite a steady increase in daily COVID-19 cases.

Perry Warjiyo, governor of Bank Indonesia, said on Monday that high-profile topics to be discussed in the first Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting would be about inflation, policy normalization and digitalization to help G20 members recover their economy from the pandemic situation.

"We'll also talk about the development and stability of the global financial market. However, digitalization could be our primary focus because that is what we need to recover our economy and expedite the economic transformation after we've suffered the pandemic for two years," Warjiyo said on the sidelines of the Casual Talks on Digital Payment Innovation of Banking in Jakarta.

The FMCBG meeting would be held at the Jakarta Convention Centre and the Gelora Bung Karno sports stadium in central Jakarta.

The meeting would be preceded by a meeting of finance ministry and central bank deputies from 15 to 16 February.

Both of the meetings were initially scheduled to take place in Nusa Dua in Indonesia's popular resort island of Bali, but moved to Jakarta as the Indonesian authorities are sure that the capital city is much safer due to its high COVID-19 vaccination rate.

The meetings would take place both offline and virtually, Indonesia's Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said recently, reminding that the meeting be held under tight health protocols and all participants be strongly required to follow the rule.

The high-level meetings are held amid increasing daily COVID-19 cases including those Omicron cases in Indonesia.

The Southeast Asia's largest economy on Monday confirmed 36,501 new COVID-19 cases, raising its tally of infections to 4,844,279. — Xinhua ■

Turkey's Erdogan arrives in UAE to boost long-strained ties

TURKEY'S President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was in the United Arab Emirates Monday for the first time in nearly a decade, to revive relations that were long strained by regional disputes.

Erdogan arrived in the capital Abu Dhabi, where he was greeted by Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, reported the official WAM news agency.

Turkey and the oil-rich Emirates have backed opposing sides in the Libyan civil war and in a Gulf diplomatic crisis, and they have sparred over issues such as gas exploration in the eastern Mediterranean.

But those tensions eased after Sheikh Mohammed, the de facto ruler of the UAE, travelled to Ankara in November, the first high-level visit to Turkey since 2012.

That trip "marked the beginning of a new era in relations," Erdogan told journalists at Istanbul airport before leaving for his two-day trip.

The Turkish president's visit to the UAE, meanwhile, is his first since 2013, when he was prime minister, and it is his first as head of state.

"We are planning to take steps that will bring relations back to the level they deserve," Erdogan said, adding that Turkey-UAE dialogue and cooperation are "important to the peace and stability in our region".

His trip comes as the Emirates face a growing threat from Yemen's Iran-backed Huthi rebels, who have launched several drone and missile attacks on the Gulf country, prompting stepped up UAE defence cooperation with the United States and France. — AFP ■

China builds 869 warehouses for supervision of imported cold-chain foods

CHINA has built 869 warehouses for the centralized supervision of imported cold-chain foods, the country's market regulator said on Monday.

The warehouses will conduct unified disinfection and testing procedures for imported cold-chain foods, which can enter the market only after certified at the warehouses, according to the State Administration for Market Regulation.

These warehouses will play an important role in cutting off potential COVID-19 transmission channels, facilitating the disposal of imported cold-chain foods in emergency cases and reducing costs, the administration said.

A national platform to trace imported cold-chain foods was put in operation in December 2020, involving key imported cold-chain foods such as livestock, poultry and aquatic products. — Xinhua ■

Photo taken on 22 January 2021 shows a view of a supervised warehouse for imported cold chain food in Zhengzhou, central China's Henan Province. **PHOTO : XINHUA**

Russian stocks, ruble fall on Ukraine conflict fears

RUSSIA'S main stock market and the ruble fell on Monday as Western countries fear Moscow is preparing for an imminent invasion of Ukraine. The RTS index was down more than four per cent in early afternoon trading, as other world markets also fell sharply. It has shed 12 per cent since the start of the year.

The Russian currency, meanwhile, traded at more than 77 rubles to the dollar. It had passed the 80 rubles to the dollar mark in January, a first since November 2020. The euro stood at about 87 rubles. The Russian central bank suspended purchases of foreign currency last month to limit the losses. Highlighting the growing market concerns, the ruble and stock market fell even though oil prices soared past $95 per barrel, a rise that usually helps shares and the currency of the top crude producing country. The G7 group of most developed countries warned Moscow on Monday that they stand ready to impose sanctions impacting Russia's economy if it pursues any further military aggression against Ukraine. Kyiv is se eking an urgent meeting with Russia to explain why it has deployed more than 100,000 soldiers to Ukraine's borders while arguing with NATO about its post-Soviet expansion into countries once under the Kremlin's domain. — AFP ■

Toshiba sets March date for vote on spin-off plan

JAPANESE conglomerate Toshiba said Monday it would hold an extraordinary meeting of shareholders on 24 March to vote on its plan to spin off its devices unit.

The ballot will not be legally binding but is intended to "confirm the views of our shareholders regarding moving forward", Toshiba said, with a binding resolution to be voted on some time in 2023. But the board will hope the vote produces solid enough support for its revised proposal, which also includes selling "non-core" business including Toshiba Tec and other units.

CEO Satoshi Tsunakawa said he would seek a majority mandate from shareholders at the meeting, rather than a more stringent two-thirds majority.

Toshiba last November announced a proposal to spin off two new businesses, one dealing with infrastructure and the other devices.

But last week it revised the plan, saying spinning off a single unit would be less costly and time-consuming and make it easier to list the new firm. Once a shining symbol of Japan's advanced technology and economic power, Toshiba more recently has faced a series of scandals and losses.

It had appeared to be staging a recovery early last year and rejoined the prestigious first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

But it was plunged into uncertainty in June when shareholders voted to oust the board's chairman after revelations the firm sought government help to influence a boardroom ballot proposed by activist shareholders.

The vote also came on the heels of an unexpected buyout offer from a private equity fund associated with then CEO Nobuaki Kurumatani, with allegations it was intended to blunt the influence of activist investors. — AFP ■

Markets tumble, oil rises on Ukraine conflict fears

People walk past a sign showing the numbers for the Hang Seng Index before it closes, as Hong Kong shares fell by the most in two weeks on 14 February 2022 as the fifth wave of Covid-19 infections in the city worsened. **PHOTO : AFP**

ASIAN and European markets sank and oil prices rallied Monday after the United States warned Russia could attack Ukraine within days as diplomatic efforts to prevent a war appeared to fail, while fears over inflation were also keeping traders on edge.

The losses matched a sell-off in New York and Europe on Friday as Western powers prepare for a conflict in eastern Europe after Russian President Vladimir Putin dismissed calls by US counterpart Joe Biden and others to pull back.

Governments have told their citizens to leave Ukraine and US national security adviser Jake Sullivan warned last week that an invasion could begin "any day now" and would likely start with "a significant barrage of missiles and bomb attacks".

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz was preparing to visit Kyiv and Moscow to try to head off the crisis.

The prospect of a conflict compounded the gloomy mood on trading floors after data Thursday showed US inflation hit a forecast-busting 7.5 per cent in January, ramping up pressure on the Federal Reserve to hike interest rates by more than expected.

After sharp Wall Street losses on Friday, the dip continued in Asia. Tokyo and Mumbai each shed more than two per cent, while Hong Kong, Shanghai, Seoul, Jakarta, Wellington and Taipei were at least one per cent down. Singapore and Bangkok were also off, though Sydney and Manila rose.

Paris and Frankfurt plunged more than three per cent in early trade, while London was 1.9 per cent off.

A "flight to safety for all markets will be the first order" if Russia invades, said Wai Ho Leong, a strategist with Modular Asset Management in Singapore.

"The impact on inflation will go beyond oil and gas," he warned. "For the rest of the world, it is potentially a massive food shock — as Ukraine is a major exporter of grain — mainly corn and wheat."

Wheat futures are up about eight per cent since the start of the month.

Eli Lee at Bank of Singapore added that the volatility that had characterised markets so far this year would probably continue. — AFP ■

US suspends avocado imports from Mexican state after threats

THE United States suspended avocado imports from the western Mexican state of Michoacan after a US inspector received phone threats, Mexican authorities reported Sunday.

Michoacan Governor Alfredo Ramirez Bedolla on Sunday contacted the US embassy in Mexico City to seek a solution and resume exports, a state government press release said.

The US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service had announced late Saturday it had "decided to pause, until further notice, avocado inspection activities in Michoacan," the federal government said in a statement.

The decision came after one of the agency's officials, who was inspecting export shipments in the city of Uruapan, "received a threatening call on his official cell phone," said the Mexican agency that oversees agricultural exports.

This weekend, federal and state authorities, along with US officials in Michoacan were in talks with police to reinforce security measures, according to the government.

Michoacan is the world's largest avocado producer, with 85 per cent of its crop exported to the United States.

But it is also one of the Mexican states hardest hit by violence linked to organized crime, which also targets avocado producers, who face theft, assault and extortion. — AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (239N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (239N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-2-2022** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

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Email: thirishwesinoo@mravilaw.org
Level 14, Junction City Tower, No 3/A, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Pabedan Township, Yangon.
Dated – February 15, 2022.

Servicemen of Ukrainian Military Forces examine the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) military trucks shipped from Lithuania to Boryspil airport in Kyiv on 13 February 2022. **PHOTO : AFP**

Ukraine demands meeting with Russia over troop buildup

UKRAINE has requested an urgent meeting with Russia and dozens of other European states to explain Moscow's buildup of troops along the ex-Soviet state's frontier.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said late Sunday that Russia had ignored Kyiv's formal request to explain why Moscow had positioned more than 100,000 troops and advanced weapons around Ukraine.

The 1990 Vienna Document requires the 57 members of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to share information about their military forces and notify each other about major activities.

"Ukraine is convening a meeting with Russia and all member states in the next 48 hours to discuss the reinforcement and movement of Russian forces along our border," he wrote on Facebook.

The United States fears that Russia's buildup of forces could lead to an invasion of Ukraine "any day".

On Monday, Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman did not comment on Kyiv's request but reiterated Russia's stance that Moscow was free to move troops across the country's territory.

"I would like to emphasize once again that we are talking about the movement of Russian troops on Russian territory," spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, once again accusing Ukraine of ramping up tensions.— AFP ■

The Brazil resort town disappearing into the sea

VULTURES roam the sand in the Brazilian resort town of Atafona amid the ruins of the latest houses destroyed by the sea, whose relentless rise has turned the local coastline into an apocalyptic landscape.

The Atlantic Ocean advances an average of six metres (nearly 20 feet) a year in this small town north of Rio de Janeiro, which has long been prone to extreme erosion — now exacerbated by climate change. The sea has already submerged more than 500 houses, turning the once idyllic coastline into an underwater graveyard of wrecked structures.

One of the next to lose his home will be Joao Waked Peixoto.

A boy remains sitting at Atafona beach, Atafona neighbourhood, in Sao Joao da Barra, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 7 February 2022. **PHOTO : AFP**

Walking through the jumbled rubble of what was once his neighbours' house, he looks at what is left: a fragment of a blue-painted room strewn with tattered magazines, a bicycle and other remnants of life.

"When will we have to leave? That's an unknown," he says. "The sea advanced three or four meters in 15 days. Our wall might not last until next week."

Waked Peixoto's grandfather built the house as a vacation home, a beachfront getaway with large rooms and a garden. During the coronavirus pandemic, Waked Peixoto and his family moved in full-time. — AFP ■

Most of Japan's embassy staff in Ukraine to leave as tensions grow

THE Japanese Embassy in Kiev said Sunday most of its staff will leave Ukraine as tensions have been rapidly mounting over a possible Russian invasion following Moscow's military buildup near the border.

Japanese nationals in Ukraine were advised on Friday to leave the country immediately and informed in an email sent by the embassy that its function will be further limited from Monday since "only a few" personnel will remain in the country.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi told reporters Saturday in Hawaii, after holding a three-way foreign ministerial talks with the United States and South Korea, that Japanese people in Ukraine have been asked to evacuate "immediately in the safest manner".

The number of embassy staff to stay in the nation is expected to be reduced to less than 10, including Japanese Ambassador to Ukraine Kuninori Matsuda, a Japanese government official said Monday in Tokyo.

The embassy referred to media reports that cited a comment from a senior US official that a Russian invasion could begin during the ongoing Beijing Winter Olympics through next Sunday. Washington has already ordered its citizens to evacuate. — Kyodo ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

US airline makes emergency landing after unruly passenger incident

AN "unruly passenger" forced an American Airlines plane to make an emergency landing in the US city of Kansas on Sunday after crew and others onboard subdued the person, the airline said.

Flight 1775 from Los Angeles to Washington diverted mid-journey to Kansas City where it was met by law enforcement.

"An unruly passenger displaying erratic behaviour ... was ultimately subdued by our crew and with the help of other passengers," the airline said in a statement. The Federal Bureau of Investigation confirmed the incident and said in a statement that the passenger had been taken into custody, with the matter "ongoing".

A fellow passenger, who said he saw the incident, told CNN that a man had tried to get into the cockpit and open a plane door. In response, a flight attendant hit the man over the head with a coffee pot, according to the witness. — AFP ■

Police kill knife-wielding man at Paris train station

FRENCH police shot dead a man who lunged at them early on Monday with a long-blade knife at Paris's busy Gare du Nord train station, police sources said.

The man attacked two police officers on patrol at the station, the terminus for trains from London, with a 30-centimetre (12-inch) knife with ACAB (All Cops Are Bastards) written on the blade, said a police source, who asked not be named.

"The police used their firearms, thus eliminating all danger, both for themselves and for travellers," Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin wrote in a tweet.

The attack occurred around 7:00 am (0600 GMT), he said.

A France Television journalist who was at the train station at the time posted a video of the incident on social media, in which two gunshots can be heard.

"It was an individual known to the police as someone who wandered around in the station," Transport Minister Jean-Baptiste Djebbari told RMC TV.

"He appears to have attacked the police with a knife, forcing them to use their weapon." — AFP ■

IAEA vows objective review on Fukushima treated water discharge

AN International Atomic Energy Agency mission to Japan pledged Monday to conduct an objective and science-based safety review on a Japanese plan to discharge treated low-level radioactive water into the sea from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

The IAEA task force made the pledge in a meeting with government officials in Tokyo, a day before visiting the plant severely damaged by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami for inspection as the discharge plan has drawn opposition from China and South Korea, as well as local fishing communities.

The task force will conduct the five-day review in Japan in an "objective, credible and science-based manner and help send a message of transparency and confidence to the people in Japan and beyond," said Gustavo Caruso, director and coordinator at the IAEA's Department of Nuclear Safety and Security.

Members of an International Atomic Energy Agency task force meet with officials from the Japanese government and Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc. in Tokyo on 14 February 2022. **PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY / KYODO**

The inspection is aimed at helping ensure the discharge plan proceeds in line with international safety standards and without harming public health or the environment, according to the Vienna-based agency.

Monday's meeting involved the IAEA team and officials from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Foreign Ministry, and plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc.

Caruso said the Japanese government needs to find the best way to handle the treated water from the standpoint of safety and sustainability, as Tokyo's efforts will be vital for further promoting international understanding on the issue.— Kyodo ■

Hong Kong leader says city 'overwhelmed' by Omicron wave

People are tested at a temporary testing site for Covid-19 in Hong Kong on 12 February 2022, as authorities scrambled to ramp up testing capacity following a record high of new infections. **PHOTO : AFP**

HONG Kong's health facilities have been overloaded by an "onslaught" of Covid-19 infections, its leader said, as a rise in Omicron cases threatens to bring down the city's "zero-Covid" policy.

Authorities have adhered to mainland China's policy of stamping out the smallest outbreak with mass quarantine, widespread tracking, and prolonged social distancing measures since the start of the pandemic.

But the extremely contagious Omicron variant breached the Chinese territory's defences in late December, piling up more than 8,000 infections in a few weeks with researchers warning that daily cases could exceed 25,000 by next month.

While the infection rate remains low compared to major cities around the world, Hong Kong's policy of sending even asymptomatic cases to hospitals and quarantine facilities has filled up beds and amplified wait times.

"The onslaught of the fifth wave of the epidemic has dealt a heavy blow to Hong Kong and overwhelmed the city's capacity of handling," leader Carrie Lam said in a statement issued Sunday night. The surge in cases has increased wait times "for admitting people who test positive to isolation facilities," she added.

Surrounded by patients queuing for tests all of last week, the city's hospitals on Sunday told people who have "stable or have mild symptoms" to stay at home. — AFP ■

Bodies of 2 pilots of crashed F-15 found in Sea of Japan

THE Japan Air Self-Defence Force said it has found the bodies of two pilots who were aboard an F-15 fighter that crashed into the Sea of Japan in late January.

The first body was discovered last Friday and the other one on Sunday in waters near the crash site about 5 kilometres west-northwest of the Komatsu Air Base in Ishikawa Prefecture, central Japan, according to the ASDF.

The two pilots were identified as ASDF Col Koji Tanaka, 52, and Capt Ryusei Ueta, 33.

After Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force divers found the bodies, MSDF vessels transported them separately to the base.

The MSDF, the ASDF and a local unit of the Japan Coast Guard had been conducting search and rescue operations around the site of the 31 January crash, which occurred soon after takeoff around 5:30 pm as the plane was on its way for training with three other fighter jets. — Kyodo ■

Vietnam to lift Covid-19 restrictions on international flights

VIETNAM will lift coronavirus restrictions on international flights for fully vaccinated passengers from Tuesday, the country's aviation authority said in a statement.

The communist nation has virtually closed itself to the world since March 2020 due to the pandemic, dealing a severe blow to its vital tourism sector.

Authorities have slowly eased the curbs in recent months, with visitors trickling in under a bubble arrangement since November.

Starting Tuesday (1700 GMT Monday), "Vietnam will lift restrictions on passenger carriage on scheduled flights and non-scheduled flights," the civil aviation authority said.

The statement, released Sunday, did not say how many flights would be allowed to enter, but indicated arrivals could be permitted to return to pre-pandemic levels.

Anyone wanting to enter Vietnam must be fully vaccinated and will have to observe a three-day quarantine, either at home or in a hotel, according to regulations.

Travellers must still abide by existing entry-exit regulations and pre-pandemic healthcare requirements, the authority said.

More than 90 per cent of adults in the country have received two Covid-19 vaccine doses. The government is considering inoculating young teenagers as it accelerates the rollout of booster shots.

Vietnam is currently reporting around 20,000 new daily cases, and has recorded more than 2.5 million infections with nearly 39,000 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic.— 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 inves tment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.

(c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

(a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.

(b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.

(c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Myanmar to play Malaysia today in Group B of ASEAN U-23 Championship

THE first day of Group B of the 2022 ASEAN U-23 Championship will be held today and the Myanmar team will take on the Malaysia team at 3:30 pm (Myanmar Standard Time).

Myanmar, Malaysia and Laos teams are involved in Group B and both matches for team Myanmar are important for the next round.

The Indonesian team in the group withdrew from the competition, giving every team a chance to advance to the next round.

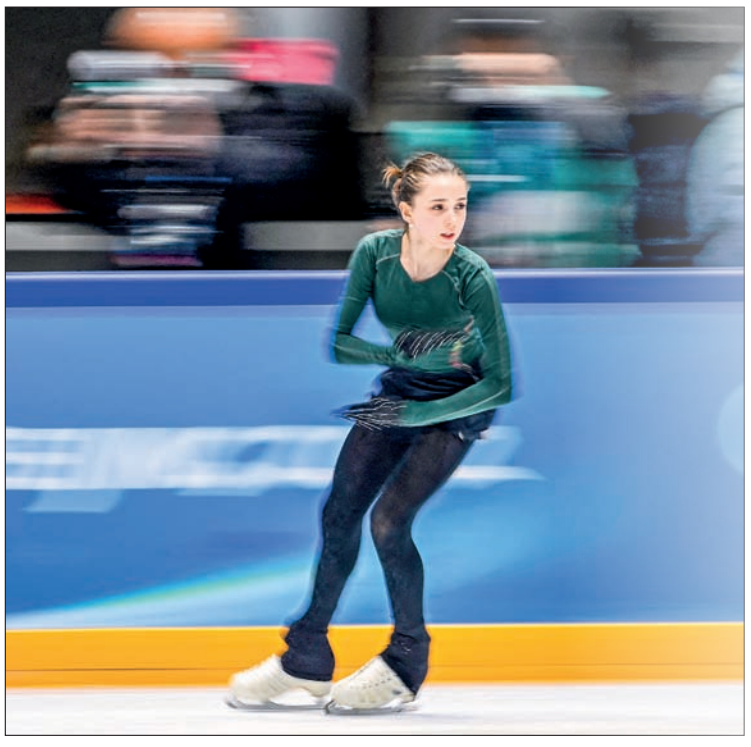
According to the format of the tournament, only the top three teams and the top two runners-up from the three groups will advance to the semi-finals, so Myanmar needs to get a good result in the opening match against Malaysia.

Myanmar will play against Laos next on 21 February, so if they have a good result against Malaysia, team Myanmar will have a bigger chance to advance to the semi-finals.

On the other hand, Timor-Leste and the Philippines drew twice in the opening match of Group A on 14 February.

The Myanmar team is made up of most of the players who competed in the 2022 AFC U-23 Championship and is headed by Bulgarian Popov. Cambodia is hosting the ASEAN U-23 Championship. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Russian teen Valieva allowed to skate again at Beijing Olympics



Russia's Kamila Valieva attends a training session on 14 February 2022 prior the figure skating event at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games. **PHOTO : AFP**

RUSSIAN teenage figure skater Kamila Valieva can compete again at the Beijing Olympics after sport's top court said on Monday that she should not be suspended for failing a drugs test.

In a case that has rocked the Games, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruled that the 15-year-old could take part in the women's singles event that begins on Tuesday.

The young Russian will be favourite to win but she has not been cleared of doping and could still face punishment at a later date.

The International Olympic Committee said that if Valieva finished in the top three, it will not hold a medal ceremony until the doping issue was resolved.

CAS said it had rejected appeals by the IOC, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the International Skating Union to have Valieva's suspension reinstated after it was lifted by Russian anti-doping authorities.

The court cited "exceptional circumstances", including Valieva's age.

Matthieu Reeb, CAS director general, said that preventing Valieva from competing would have caused her "irreparable harm".

CAS also emphasised that "there were serious issues of untimely notification" of the test result.

Valieva gave a sample on 25 December but the result was only produced last week, after she led Russia to team gold.

"Such late notification was not her fault, in the middle of the Olympic Winter Games," the ruling said.

The Russian Olympic Committee hailed the decision, saying: "Tomorrow the whole country will support her." — AFP ■

Austria win men's ski jumping team Olympic gold

AUSTRIA claimed the men's ski jumping team title at the Beijing Olympics on Monday, coming from behind to edge out Slovenia.

The Austrians trailed Slovenia, who have enjoyed unprecedented ski jumping success at the Beijing Games, until the penultimate jump when Jan Hoerl put them in the lead with a 137.5 metre effort.

Manuel Fettner, who claimed silver on the men's normal hill last week, clinched the gold with the Austrians' final jump.

The Austrian team, which also included Stefan Kraft and Daniel Huber, finished top with 942.7 points. Slovenia had never won an Olympic ski jumping gold medal before the Beijing Games, but Ursa Bogataj won the women's individual competition and they also claimed another in the new mixed team event.

The men's team of Lovro Kos, Cene Prevc, Timi Zajc and Peter Prevc could not complete the hat-trick but took silver on 934.4.— AFP ■

Team Austria's, from left, Austria's Stefan Kraft (L) and Austria's Daniel Huber celebrate winning after their final jump during the Ski Jumping Men's Team Final, on 14 February 2022 at the Zhangjiakou National Ski Jumping Centre, during the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games. **PHOTO : AFP**