

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.

The Message of Greetings sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark the Peasants Day

2 March 2022

Esteemed peasants,
On the significant **Peasants Day** in deep honour of peasants engaging in agricultural business across the nation, I wish you all health and happiness and auspiciousness and also pray for success in your agricultural businesses. Myanmar has been standing as an agro-based country today since the pre-Bagan era for thousands of years, and the majority of Myanmar people have been engaging in agricultural undertakings as their livelihoods. As some 70 per cent of the population are residing in the rural area to work agricultural tasks, they are important persons for Myanmar.

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Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister assigned duties to deeply and significantly hold Diamond Jubilee Union Day ceremony: Vice-Senior General

THE Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister assigned the duties to successfully observe the Diamond Jubilee Union Day with the aim of holding a better Diamond Jubilee Independence Day based on experiences from the Diamond Jubilee Union Day as the Independence Day which falls on 4 January 2023 is the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day, said Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the Diamond Jubilee Union Day 2022 SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the coordination meeting to review the holding of the ceremony to mark the Diamond Jubilee Union Day

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State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the coordination meeting to review the holding of the Diamond Jubilee Union Day, in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 March 2022.

Honouring the Peasants Day

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

Announcement on Extension of the Precautionary Restriction Measures Relating to Control of the COVID-19 Pandemic until 31 March 2022

1. With a view to the further strengthening of measures to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has issued the following announcements regarding temporary entry restrictions for visitors from all countries. All those restrictions were extended until 28 February 2022 by the Ministry’s announcement dated 31 January 2022.
 - (a) Announcement dated 15 March 2020 regarding precautionary measures for all travellers visiting Myanmar;
 - (b) Announcement dated 20 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers visiting Myanmar and temporary suspension of issuance of visa on arrival and e-visa;
 - (c) Announcement dated 24 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers from all countries visiting Myanmar;
 - (d) Announcement dated 28 March 2020 regarding temporary suspension of all types of visas (including social visit visas) and visa exemption services.
2. In order to continue its effective response measures to protect the population of the country from the risks of importation and spread of the COVID-19, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has decided to extend the afore-mentioned entry restriction measures until 31 March 2022.
3. In case of urgent official missions or compelling reasons, foreign nationals, including diplomats and United Nations officials, who wish to travel to Myanmar by available relief or special flights, may contact the nearest Myanmar Mission for possible exceptions with regard to certain visa restrictions. However, all visitors must abide by existing directives issued by the Ministry of Health relating to the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated. 1 March 2022

Statement to appreciate teachers’ efforts

TEACHERS are honoured as part of the Five Infinite Venerables, and the manner of paying respect to the teachers can be only seen in Myanmar as a tradition. The teachers teach their pupils based on their goodwill like their own children and dutifully serve a teacher’s duties. They must train their pupils and students in the best discipline. They see that they grasp their lessons well. They instruct them in the arts and sciences, they provide for their safety in every quarter, and they introduce them to their friends and associates.

As the COVID-19 infection rate is controlled to a certain extent, the basic education high, middle and primary schools under the Department of Basic Education have reopened across nation for the 2021-2022 academic year starting 1 June.

Those who want to seek good sake of one party, political extremist NLD members and supporters, NUG, CRPH and PDF committed arson attacks at the schools using mines, homemade bombs and grenades to fail the teaching processes, and threatened the teachers in addition to the incitements, social punishment and threats against education staff to join CDM while the officials made preparations for the reopening of schools and during the current teaching period. Their doings left some casualties, and the State Administration Council has expressed its deepest condolences and sympathy to the victims’ families.

The SAC also appreciates the concerted efforts of teachers, who understand two virtues, Hiri — shame at doing evil —and Otappa—fear of the results of doing evil—for teaching the new generations of the country amid such difficulties and challenges.

The security forces will take extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of teachers who are making efforts in the academic sector for the next generations in order to promote the education qualification. The people should keep security awareness and cooperate with the security members in community peace and peaceful learning of children.

Information Team
State Administration Council

2,346 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 March, total figure rises to 590,237

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 590,237 after 2,346 new cases were reported on 1 March 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 536,477 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 19,372 after 4 died.—MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Promote education as a priority for strengthening democracy

As a larger number of educated persons is designed to own the future of the country for democratization, ...

(Excerpt from the speech made by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at meeting with departmental officials and town elders from Kengtung and Mongpyin townships of Shan State (East), Namsang Township and Kholan of Loilem District in Shan State (South) on 18-2-2022)

The Message of Greetings sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council ...

FROM PAGE-1

On the other hand, all Myanmar people dub those peasants as benefactors of the country as they are primarily working for the food sufficiency of Myanmar and earning income for the nation. As such, the 2nd March of every year is set as the Peasants Day in their honour.

Currently, the State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is prioritizing food sufficiency and full nutrition to ensure the prosperity of the State and plentiful food supplies for all citizens. Encouragement is being given to food sufficiency, full nutrition and food safety in the agriculture sector which is basic business of the State whereas efforts are being made for the socio-economic lives of peasants engaging the agriculture and livestock farming, who are taking responsibility for the production of foods for the people on a daily basis.

In 2020-2021 years, the outbreak of COVID-19 causes many hindrances to the production of all businesses but the country maintains one per cent of growth rate in the agriculture and livestock sector as primary foods could be manufactured as schedules.

The agriculture and livestock sector contributed 22.7 per cent to the Gross Domestic Product-GDP and 35.1 per cent to the value of export volume.

In the cultivation and production of paddy, a total of 15.01 million acres of farmlands were put under monsoon paddy to yield 1,053.73 million baskets of paddy. This year's production of paddy exceeded 81,343 acres of paddy and 2.68 million baskets of paddy rather than that of the corresponding period of last year. A total of 9.63 million acres of pulses and beans were grown to produce 24.16 million baskets, 7.37 million acres of edible oil crops to yield 96.22 million baskets and 1.49 million acres of maize to 79.65 million baskets.

With regard to livestock/egg and milk production, Myanmar produces 624.12 million vissees of meat, 3,061.44 million eggs and 1,172.22 million vissees of milk. In comparison with the products of last year's same period, the production exceeded with 52.25 million vissees of meat, 387.01 million eggs and 24.53 million vissees of milk. Regarding marine products, freshwater fish and prawn production reached 2.7 million tonnes and seawater fish and prawn production 3.2 million tonnes, totalling 5.9 million tonnes.

In exporting primary products of the agriculture and livestock sector, export of 1.66 million tonnes of rice and broken rice earned US\$578.94 million, 1.75 million

tonnes of pulses and beans US\$1,324.27 million, 2.54 million tonnes of maize US\$540.1 million, 0.18 million tonnes of sesame US\$236.33 million, 0.24 million tonnes of raw rubber US\$358.11 million and 0.51 million tonnes of marine products US\$705.63 million.

As the COVID-19 pandemic causes restrictions in local and external trading, the exportation of agricultural products earned US\$3,650.28 million, animal products US\$5.51 million and marine products US\$705.63 million, totalling US\$4,361.42 million.

I deeply honour all peasants and those involved in the production chains in the agriculture and livestock sector with might and main for their efforts not to lessen production during the infection of COVID-19, ensure food sufficiency for the people and not to drop the export volume amid the difficulties, especially with the spirit of the businessperson.

Esteemed peasants,

The government is carrying out the change of growing the crops with the resilience of thirst, flooding and plant disease and pests, use of crops suitable for relevant regions and implementation of modern irrigation systems in order to effectively utilize the water and climate chain. Moreover, efforts are being made to reclaim advanced farmlands, dykes and drain systems for transforming the farming system into mechanized farming, implement solar pumping systems in the dry zones and build water collecting tanks and lakes in order to develop socio-economic development of peasants in all aspects.

Likewise, the government is producing quality seeds of crops for peasants to use so as to increase incomes and organizing the seeds fair on a yearly basis since 2019 for broadening the horizon of peasants. Moreover, arrangements are being made to organize the seed fairs in regions and states yearly and the year-wise cattle and animal show and contest as well.

In order to sustain the fish sources and develop fish farming industries, a total of two-inch 140.65 million fingerlings were released into water sources in regions and states. The private sector also produced 966.87 million hatchlings.

For having the smooth and swift flow of agriculture and livestock products, a total of 1,186/0.2 miles long rural production roads and 1,720 production bridges were built in rural areas, benefiting 1,469 villages and 0.786 million acres of agriculture and livestock farms. A total of 10,278 households from 101 villages were electrified through a solar energy system as part

of implementing the rural electrification programme. Moreover, 5,268 waterworks such as tube-wells, artesian wells, earthen lakes, springs and rainwater tanks were undertaken for supplying sufficient drinking water to 3.5 million people from 0.72 million households.

In order to prevent the damage of crops of peasants in the climate change, the government is coordinating with those from various sectors for conservation of natural resources and environmental conservation as well as risk reduction of climate change.

On the other hand, it is necessary to prevent deforestation and maintain the soil, and peasants need to apply modern crop cultivation techniques including the use of a larger volume of natural fertilizers which can improve the soil quality for ensuring long term cultivation of crops.

The government cooperates with private organizations to be readiness in all aspects by storing the reserve seeds, earmarking the funds, making preparations and undertaking rehabilitation in the damaged crop areas in order to overcome challenges of food deficiency and capacity of response if the country faces the natural disasters in the climate change.

In implementing the mutual benefit contracting farming system to contribute towards the protection of peasant rights and enhancement of their interests, relevant administrative bodies and departments concerned need to coordinate measures among them to give a helping hand to local peasants to be conformity with the rules prescribed by the State and organize cooperation strength of businesspersons who can give guarantee for market and prices of agricultural products.

Those involved in the supply chain from the cultivation to the exportation are to build trust among them and accelerate their concerted efforts for the improvement of the socio-economic life of peasants.

According to the Law of Protection of the Farmer Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits, the government takes responsibility for setting the reference price of paddy yearly as of 2019, arranging for peasants to purchase agricultural machinery at fair prices in instalment and disbursing the agricultural loans to peasants. In order to remedy the damaged businesses in the COVID-19 pandemic, K1,926.61 billion of agricultural loan to peasants, K182.19 billion of two-step loan from JICA and Myanma Economic Bank and K421.29 billion of Special COVID-19 Loans, totalling

K2,530.09 billion.

Esteemed peasants,

With a view to producing safe foods with the capacity of competing in both domestic and international markets, the government educates peasants to have knowledge and expertise for agriculture and livestock production in accord with the Good Agricultural Practices-GAP, the Good Animal Husbandry Practices-GAHP and the Good Aquaculture Practices-GAqP.

It is building the sound foundations for peasants to have the knowledge not only about techniques for increased production of crops and livestock but also for food safety of the people and to have the capability of competing in the international market with agricultural products.

At present, the Farmer Channel is being broadcast with various sectors such as dissemination of digital technology for enabling peasants to apply modern agricultural techniques, weather information and market data which is basic for rising the crop cultivation and production through mobile phones in time, publishing pamphlets and journals and disseminating information, news on the agricultural sector, educative works and entertainment programmes. Moreover, arrangements are being made for farmers to seek the information about agriculture sector in time.

In conclusion, I'd like to express my appreciation to peasants engaging in agriculture and livestock farms for their utmost efforts and perseverance with the spirit of agricultural businessperson to stabilize the production during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As peasants carry out farming works with investments, machinery and technologies on the lands with the abundant ground and water resources in Myanmar combined with their experiences and perseverance, they will be able to enjoy the fruits of the socio-economic sector. if so, the word "doing farming works for poor-ness" can be cancelled.

As such, I'd like to deeply urge all to harmoniously join hands in building a prosperous democratic nation while collectively solving the possible challenges, hindrances and difficulties in order to accelerate multiple developments for national interests of the State, including the agriculture sector through the collected efforts of peasants.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing
Prime Minister
Chairman, State Administration Council

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses coordination meeting to review 74th Independence Day celebration

THE Office of the State Administration Council organized a coordination meeting yesterday afternoon to review the celebration of 74th Independence Day in January 2022.

The meeting was attended and addressed by Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Central Committee for the 74th Independence Day Celebration.

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, Union Minister U Min Thein Zan, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Maung Maung Naing, Commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Zaw Hein, and Deputy Ministers, and invitees attended the meeting through videoconferencing.

At first, the Vice-Senior General said both the 74th Independence Day and the Diamond Jubilee Union Day were held successfully, adding that preparation and coordination were made to hold ceremonies



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win presides over the coordination meeting to review the 74th Independence Day celebration, in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 March 2022.

and there are advantages and disadvantages in doing so.

We must learn from the advantages and improve in holding similar ceremonies, correct the weaknesses and coordinate them, he said. The

meeting was held to find out the difficulties encountered by the respective sub-committees and the need for coordination for future events.

He said that the 75th Independence Day to be celebrated

in 2023 is Diamond Jubilee Independence Day. As it is a special day, preparations must be made to celebrate the day based on the strong and weaknesses of this year's celebration, he urged.

Afterwards, officials from the respective sub-committees presented the relevant sectors, and the Vice-Senior General discussed the necessary matter and concluded the meeting. — MNA

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister assigned duties to deeply and significantly hold ...

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in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General said strong and weak points could be seen although work procedures were made under preparations to successfully hold the ceremony. It is necessary to improve the strong points better and revise the weak points to be strong ones in similar ceremonies.

Although it was a short

time to make preparations for the ceremony, it was successfully held. Likewise, the Union flag which has been staying at the Yangon City Hall since 2016 was successfully conveyed to the Nay Pyi Taw Capital Hall. Such successful results were based on cooperation and unity among Union level organizations, relevant government organizations, State service personnel and people as a fine tradition.

The Chairman of the State

Administration Council Prime Minister assigned the duties to successfully observe the Diamond Jubilee Union Day with the aim of holding a better Diamond Jubilee Independence Day based on experiences from the Diamond Jubilee Union Day as the Independence Day which falls on 4 January 2023 is the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day.

Some strong and weak points happened in the Diamond Jubilee Union Day de-

spite successful holding. It is necessary to openly discuss sector-wise strong and weak points in order to successfully observe the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day with grander military parades and exhibitions by developing the strong points and improving the weak points from the Diamond Jubilee Union Day ceremony.

Chairman of the Organizing Committee Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and Chairman

of Management Committee Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Maung Maung Naing reported on successful holding the Diamond Jubilee Union Day ceremony for 2022.

Officials from subcommittees and Central Committee member Union Ministers discussed the strong and weak points in the previous ceremony, and the Vice-Senior General added necessary discussions before concluding the meeting. — MNA

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SPEECH OF PROFESSOR KOLB: THIRD PRELIMINARY OBJECTION COUNSEL FOR MYANMAR

Madam President, Members of the Court,

1. I return to my line of argument relating to the third preliminary objection. I listened carefully to my opponent. But I must confess that I am not appeased by his interpretation of Article VIII.

Effectiveness and questions of interpretation relating to the reservation

2. Let's face it. I will start by looking at our question under Article VIII; then I will take it up again from the angle of reservation. The two lenses are not identical. The universe which opens in front of us differs according to the chosen reference point.

3. If Article VIII does not concern referral to United Nations bodies, what is the meaning of Myanmar's reservation? Let's face it bluntly: the reserve falls into legal nothingness. Burma would have made a reservation that has no legal effect. Isn't this an absurd and unreasonable result? A State takes care to attach a reservation to a provision in an important treaty. It is certainly intended to achieve the legal effect. But he is told that his act was gratuitous, insane, Kafkaesque. I can't resolve it.

4. Let us assume that Article VIII concerns only the political organs of the World Organization. Assuming that he affects their referral, we are still faced with the same legal situation. Political bodies can be seized on the basis of the relevant provisions of the Charter, such as Articles 35 and 39. It would be presumptuous to claim that the reservation to Article VIII of the 1948 Convention could affect the competence of these bodies in under the Charter. If necessary, it would still be possible to affirm that their referral for questions of interpretation or application of the Convention would be rendered impossible. But such a limitation would have no tangible weight. The referral could relate to genocide as a threat to peace or as a violation of human rights. The reservation would not apply there. Therefore, it has no useful effect in the field of political bodies. This is all the more the case if Article VIII does not concern seisin. In this eventuality, the reserve floats entirely in legal weightlessness.

5. Let us now assume that Article VIII also concerns the Court. While it does not govern the seisin of this Court but leaves this aspect to Article IX, Myanmar's reservation once again has no effect whatsoever. The Court is seized on the basis of Article IX and has jurisdiction.

6. I draw the sum of what I have just exposed. First hypothesis: Article VIII does not cover the referral of the organs concerned but merely recalls that they can be seized on the basis of other texts. Why make a reservation to such a provision? It is of no use. It is therefore impossible that Burma did understand it that way when it formulated it. I recall



that the intention and the aim sought by the reserving State are decisive in the interpretation of reservations.

7. Second hypothesis: Article VIII only concerns the seisin of political bodies. However, this seisin cannot be prevented by the reservation. The latter does not extend to the relevant provisions of the Charter. Once again the reservation has no effect.

8. Third hypothesis: Article VIII concerns both the seisin of political bodies and the judiciary, but referral to the Court is regulated solely by Article IX. The reservation on Article VIII has for the umpteenth time no consistency, no effect, no reality. Political bodies can be seized on the basis of the provisions of the Charter. The Court can be seized on the basis of Article IX.

9. Therefore, I dare to formulate a fourth hypothesis: Article VIII concerns the seisin of the Court. The reserve is then reborn from these ashes. It has the effect of not allowing referral to the Court. This is the only way to give a useful effect to this pool. This is the only way to respect the will of the reserving State.

10. Let us now reverse the perspective and place ourselves in the optical field of Burma. It is this shift in relativity that I announced to you at the beginning of my speech. If that State had had doubts about the fact that its reservation could prevent the seisin of the Court, can one imagine that it would not have inserted a reservation in Article IX, in the same way as a whole series of other states? However, if Burma believed that its reservation to Article VIII prevented referral to any United Nations body, it is easy to understand its omission with regard to Article IX. Otherwise, we do not understand it. We hesitate, we slip more or less discreetly: why didn't you do that? with the fleeting undertone of a reproach. The simpler and more coherent explanation is to realize that in their view a reservation to Article IX was no longer necessary. Burma thought it had already ruled out any seisin of a United Nations body that

could interfere in its internal affairs.

11. There is a very important aspect to which I want to draw your attention. The essential effort in our species is to make sense of the Burmese reservation. What can she mean? How should it be interpreted? Optics is decidedly subjective. It is the intent and purpose that Burma had in mind that must be scrutinized to give reliable meaning to its reservation. If so, the objective interpretation of the relationship between Articles VIII and IX of the Genocide Convention is not decisive. Even if our opponents were right and Article VIII objectively did not concern the Court, the fact remains that we must focus on Burma's representations to understand the meaning of its reservation. It is necessary to probe the way in which she understood these provisions as well as their mutual relation. In this regard, there is no room for doubt. If Burma had not conceived of Article VIII as relating to seisin, its reservation cannot be given any useful meaning.

12. I change the perspective again. Here is a State attaching a reservation to which it is committed to a provision that it considers important in a treaty of significant scope. Members of the Court, you are nationals of very different States. You are aware of the reservations that your States have deemed necessary to insert in such and such a treaty deemed to be important. You know how much they can hold on to it. And now our opponents are asking the Court to ignore such a reservation. That they enjoin him to act as if this reservation did not exist. What message would you give to States, which closely follow your case law? That the Court does not take their reservations seriously? That she allows herself to gloss over them as a negligible quantity? Those carefully formulated reservations can suddenly be thrown into the abyss of non-existence? We can all regret, from an ideal point of view, that reservations undermine the integrity of the texts. But it is not in our mission to ignore them because they do not suit us.

13. Finally, I draw the Court's attention to a paradox in the adverse interpretation. If Article VIII indeed concerns referral to political bodies and the reservation had an effect in this respect, this would mean that referral to political bodies would be barred but not a referral to the Court, preserved by Article IX. Result: Myanmar would be protected against the seisin of bodies that usually only issue recommendations, but it would not be protected against a body that decides in a binding manner. Curious effect for a State seeking to protect itself from third-party interference. Minor interference would be hindered, major interference would be allowed. I find it hard to believe that such an effect is easily reconciled with the intention of the reserving State in the present case. Therefore, the interpretation that Article VIII covers the Court seems more consistent if one takes into account the purpose of the reservation.

14. I have just set out the main problem I have come up against: can we really, with the stroke of a pen, deny any useful effect to Burma's reservation and transform it into a legal zombie, even more: annihilate it? Madam President, honourable Judges, I cannot speculate on your feelings. But I confess that I, for my part, have difficulty in concluding in this sense. Nothingness is an interesting concept in philosophy; I do not believe that it is so in the matter of reservations to treaties. We cannot adopt a solution that would amount to completely ignoring the reservation that Burma had attached to Article VIII. This reserve is there; you have to give it a meaning.

Answers to certain arguments of our opponents

15. I now turn to three arguments put forward by our opponents. I don't have time to list them all. I do not think it is useful to keep you spellbound with detailed explanations, tedious in their technicality and useless in view of the information already amassed in our debates.

16. First argument: the distinction between injured and non-injured States would not fit with the texts. Our opponents point out that Article VIII would not support it. The same would apply to the preparatory work for this provision. I concur. As for me, I was referring not to Article VIII, but to the reservation. Does the text of the reservation justify such a distinction? At the risk of surprising you: my answer is negative. The reservation excludes any application of Article VIII from Burma's scope of acceptance. It makes no distinction between injured and non-injured States. But then, where does this bipartition come from? It stems from a gracious gesture from Myanmar. The latter would be justified in counting on the exclusion of any referral based on the implacable text of its reservation. But he didn't want to go that far.

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He preferred to limit the projection of his reservation only to referrals from non-injured States. No doubt it would have been easier if he hadn't. But can we blame Myanmar for wanting to soften the rigour of its reservation? If our opponents prefer to stick to the sole text of this reservation, the legal response, from the perspective of Burmese intentions, is simple: any seisin whatsoever is excluded, whether it comes from an injured State or from a non-injured State. I leave it at that because this distinction does not seem to me to be important for resolving our case. The essential point is elsewhere. It concerns the object and purpose of the reservation: to exclude a seisin leading to interference in internal affairs.¹ Referral to the Court is clearly such "interference". It is all the more so as it results in a binding decision.

17. If the reservation-related only to issues related to Article 2, § 7, of the Charter, it is difficult to understand the content of its text. Why then radically exclude the application of Article VIII and not limit oneself to reproducing the usual formulas on internal affairs?

18. Second argument: you have been told at length about the preparatory work of Articles VIII and IX. This is a series of convoluted facts in a long chain of positions that are sometimes changing and whose interpretation is not easy. They do not lend themselves to an oral presentation highlighting the most salient aspects. I, therefore, take the liberty of referring you in this respect to the written documents². My objective was to draw your attention to the fact that the limitation of Article VIII to the only political organs, namely the General Assembly and the Security Council, was rejected in favour of a broad-

er approach, encapsulated in the formula "organs United Nations".

19. There is another reason why I have not insisted on the preparatory work. The Genocide Convention is a multilateral treaty. The interpretation of such treaties is primarily based on the text and other objective elements. The works only form a subsidiary element, with the mission of confirming or clarifying an interpretative result or invalidating such a result when it is absurd or unreasonable. Is it unreasonable here to suggest that the Court is a competent organ of the United Nations? The case law is established on this subsidiary role of the travaux. If so-called objective methods of interpretation prevail, they should be applied to all provisions. Arbitrary choices cannot be made, using them only for "civilizing" dispositions while excluding them for more technical dispositions. A convention is not a menu à la carte in which the interpreter behaves as he pleases.

20. There is one more reason for not having placed much emphasis on the preparatory work. They are secondary in interpreting the meaning of Burma's reservation. Subjective representations count here. Therefore, the intention of Burma is capital.

21. I will however say a word about the travaux so that you do not think that I want to evade them because they would not bring enough grist to the mill. I mention two significant facts. Articles VIII and IX were negotiated together. They were even merged in a phase of the negotiations, before being separated again.³ Article VIII appeared as the general provision, the gateway, while Article IX specified the aspects of jurisdiction-specific to the Court. We do not note this tight separation between the political and judicial domains

that our opponents exalt.

22. Moreover, in November 1948, at a very advanced stage of the negotiations, the text of Article X (now Article VIII) used the term "any competent organ of the United Nations".⁴ Any competent body! Except for the Court?

23. The opposing party has analyzed the meaning of the terms 'saisir' and 'recurrir', emphasizing their inclusive nature. My opponent used the word 'also' to say that these terms are suitable for both judicial and political organs.⁵ This was to bolster its argument that Article VIII is about political bodies – because such bodies would not be excluded by the term 'seize'. But she may not have realized that she admitted through her formula that those terms include the courts. The preparatory works contain a few scattered elements attesting to this inclusive meaning. See the position taken by Sir Hartley Shawcross on behalf of the United Kingdom. It is included in the bodies referred to in Article VIII the international criminal tribunal to be established to punish the crime of genocide.⁶

24. Third argument: our opponents thought it right to try to put me in difficulty by producing my own writings. It's a risky bet because who better than the author knows what he said. A Commentary I contributed to has been quoted to my detriment. It relates to Article IX of the Convention. It thus affects the jurisdiction of the Court on the basis of the arbitration clause. I do not take back a word of what I wrote at the time. If there were no reservation applicable in the present case and if we were exclusively within the purified spheres of Article IX, the Court would have this extended jurisdiction which I mention in the commentary. However, I did not deal there with Article VIII and

even less with the reservation of Burma. These questions were out of the scope.

25. The academics among you, ladies and gentlemen, understand me easily; I am sure the same is true of Judges deprived of the rather relative privilege of having been a teacher. The doctrinal writings start from a clean slate and have no fixed benchmarks. On the contrary, in litigation, you are immediately seized of particular or idiosyncratic circumstances. They impose the weight of their gravitation on you. I don't see anything resembling a contradiction or an about-face here. The context and the underlying reasoning are not identical. All this is not decisive for our species. I didn't even want to bring that up. I feared, however, that my silence might arouse the suspicion of embarrassment. I preferred to dissipate it.

Conclusion

26. What would I especially like you to keep in mind from my two pleadings? This: whatever the objectively correct interpretation of the relationship between Articles VIII and IX, can we in the circumstances of the case adopt an exegesis the result of which is to deprive the Burmese reservation of any useful effect? Can your Court afford to ignore entirely a reservation which a State took care to attach to a convention when it became a party to it? Such a proposal makes me uncomfortable. I am sure you will give it careful thought, and I am in no way afraid of the results to which the paths of your wisdom will bring you.

27. These thoughts bring my presentation to an end today. I thank the Court for paying attention to me. May I ask you, Madam President, to call the Agent of Myanmar to make its closing remarks?

1	Myanmar, Pyithu Hluttaw, Motion for the Union Government to ratify, with two reservations, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948, 2 September 1955, Unofficial Translation, p. 2, POM, Annex 127	
2	POM, para. 402-435, pp. 122-132.	
3	POM, para. 428, pp. 130-131.	
4	UNGA, Sixth Committee, Genocide – Draft Convention and Report of the Economic and Social Council, Text as adopted by the Sixth Committee for articles VII to XIII of the draft Convention (E/794), UN doc. A/C.6/269, 15 November 1948, draft article X (emphasis added), POM, Annex 54.	
5	CR 2022/2, p.42, para.13 (Pasipanodya).	
6	Abtahi et Webb, The Genocide Convention : The Travaux Préparatoires, Martinus Nijhoff, 2008, vol.1, pp. 403-404.	

SSIC nods \$11 mln worth five foreign enterprises, K31 bln worth 13 projects so far

THE Shan State Investment Committee (SSIC) has endorsed five foreign enterprises and 13 domestic projects made by Myanmar citizens so far, with an estimated capital of US\$11 million and K31.6 billion, according to the SSIC's meeting (1/2022) held on 28 February.

Those businesses are to execute manufacturing and real estate development. They are expected to create 994 local job opportunities and hire 53

expatriates.

At the meeting held by SSIC on 28 February 2022, Shan State chief minister Dr Kyaw Tun, in his capacity of chair of SSIC, discussed investment matters and he directed the committee members to endorse the businesses under the existing laws and regulations.

The committee gave the green light to Oh si Mountain Public Co., Ltd at the meeting to execute the real estate de-

velopment business with an estimated capital of US\$0.48 million and K3.1 billion.

The chief minister instructed the committee members to fulfil the needs in investment-related matters and delivered the closing remark.

Shan State is strategically located in terms of business and investment as it shares borders with Laos, Thailand, and China. The state is the largest in Myanmar, accounting for 23

per cent of the land area of the country.

Shan State has good potential for investment in agriculture and food processing industries. Also, with its highland climate, Shan State is the main producer of some fruits, vegetables, and crops such as rice, corn, maize, wheat, garlic, potato, ginger, sweet potato, coffee, herbs, and spices. The state also possesses a young labour force, along with rich

natural resources and fertile agricultural land.

Under the Myanmar Investment Law, those investing in undeveloped regions will be given tax exemptions as an incentive. The new law has also authorized Investment Committees of regions and states to approve local and foreign projects where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or US\$5 million. — Maung Maung Than, KK/GNLM

Village electrification ceremony conducted marking Peasants Day

IN commemoration of the Peasants Day, a ceremony to electrify Konshan Village in Shanywa Village-tract of Kyaunggon Township of Patheingyi District was held.

Ayeyawady Region Natural Resources Minister U Ohn Myint, region's Electrical Engineer U Gyi Zeya, Village Electrification Committee Chairman U Khin Maung Than cut the ribbon to launch the ceremony.

After pressing the electric button, the minister inspected the fully electrified homes and instructed the effective use of electricity.

At noon, Natural Resources

Minister U Ohn Myint and party arrived at Yonbin Village of Yonbin Village-tract and in-launched the electrification ceremony together with the region's Electrical Engineer U Gyi Zeya and Township Administrator U Soe Win.

There are 154 houses in Konshan Village of Shanywa Village-tract of Kyaunggon Township and are located about 0.91 mile from the 11-kV power grid and 45-metre boxes are installed. There are 101 houses in Yonbin Village of Yonbin Village-tract and are located about 1.37 miles from the 11-kV power grid and 64-metre boxes are installed. The



The village electrification ceremony in progress in Kyaunggon Township yesterday.

electrification processes were carried out under the National Electrification Plan Phase II, said the township electrical engineer.— Win Kyaing (IPRD)/GNLM

Indaw farmers provided with supplies marking Peasants Day



Indaw farmers receive agricultural supplies to mark Peasants Day.

THE Department of Agriculture in Indaw Township organized an exhibition and a handover ceremony of supplies commemorating Peasants Day, which falls on 2 March, yesterday

morning.

The ceremony was held with the aim to have successful crops grown on farmland of the farmers, to develop good practices of using natural fer-

tilizers on farmland, to be able to make and use natural fertilizers by farmers, and to pass on natural fertilizer production methods, said Head of the Township Department of Agriculture U Thein Khine at the ceremony.

The deputy head of the department explained EM Bokashi composting methods, and local farmers were provided with high-quality organic chicken manure and gypsum natural rock fertilizer supplies.

It is reported that the ceremony was attended by heads and staff of the township Department of Agriculture, departmental officials and local farmers. — Kyaw Thiha (IPRD)/GNLM

Irrigation water from Mezali Diversion Weir to be distributed from 1 to 31 March

LOCAL farmers in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region, will be able to plant summer crops on time as irrigation water from the Mezali Diversion Weir has been distributed since yesterday morning, according to the Township Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department.

The department is systematically distributing irrigation water from the weir every year to enable local farmers in the township to grow seasonal crops on time and ensure water supply.

Due to high irrigation water in recent years, the supply water was distributed to grow summer paddy, sesame and other summer crops. This year, due to the low irrigation water, it is distributed only for summer sesame and other summer crops,

according to U Ye Htut Aung, staff officer from the Township Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management.

The irrigation water will be provided from 1 to 31 March, for a month due to the low water level in the weir. In addition, local farmers are notified and urged to use the irrigation water effectively and systematically.

During the 2022-2023 summer planting season in Pwintbyu Township, 60,428 acres of summer sesame will be irrigated by the Mezali Diversion Weir; 500 acres of summer sesame will be irrigated by Aiema Diversion Weir in Minbu (Sagu) Township; a total of 60,928 acres of summer sesame will be planted, according to the Pwintbyu Township Department of Agriculture. — Ye Win Naing (NyaungU)/GNLM



Photo shows the view of the Mezali Diversion Weir.

YR ex-minister Daw Nilar Kyaw gets jailed under anti-corruption law

THE Anti-Corruption Commission inspected the complaints against Yangon Region Electricity, Industry, Transport and Construction ex-minister Daw Nilar Kyaw.

According to the inspections, ex-minister Daw Nilar Kyaw misused her authority to grant a certificate of the quality control company to her close company and permitted the worksites for quality checking processes when she served as chairperson of selecting a team

for the quality control company. Between March 2017 and January 2021, a total of 1,577 sites earned more than K1,660 million from quality checks and she received K91.824 million from that company and K59.536 million via her housemaid. She paid a dept of K213 million to a person. Therefore, she received a total of K364.36 million. Ex-minister Daw Nilar Kyaw was prosecuted under Section 55 of the Anti-Corruption Law at the High Court of Yangon Region on 7 May 2021

and examined under 16 criminal cases from 8/2021 to 23/2021.

She was found guilty and the Yangon Region High Court sentenced 16-year jail with labour for 16 cases – four-year jail with labour for three cases from 8/2021 and 10/2021, another four-year jail with labour for cases from 11/2021 and 13/2021, four-year jail with labour for cases from 14/2021 to 19/2021 and four-year jail with labour for 20/2021 to 23/2021, on 28 February. — MNA

Modernize life and livelihoods of farmers, farming products

MYANMAR is home to more than 130 kinds of ethnicities, some 70 per cent of whom are residing in the rural area and the rest in the urban area.

Most of the people residing in rural areas are engaging in agriculture and livestock farming businesses as their primary livelihoods. But they can enjoy lesser fruits from their works as they do not have modern techniques to operate their livelihoods.

At first, it is necessary to disseminate agricultural techniques to farmers for the enhancement of their socio-economic life. Modern technology can help their living standard improve. Only when farmers themselves develop agricultural and livestock businesses will they get increased incomes for their families. Consequently, they can build their lives with advanced daily utensils.

Farmers are the food providers and benefactors of the country as products from daily farming works help ensure food supplies for the people, generate employment opportunities and earn foreign exchange income from the export of agricultural and livestock products. As such, the government is providing modern agricultural techniques and expertise directly to them under the Law of Protection of the Farmer Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits.

necessary to enhance the life of farmers to be farming businesspersons who operate both agriculture and livestock businesses on a commercial scale.

Farmers are the food providers and benefactors of the country as products from daily farming works help ensure food supplies for the people, generate employment opportunities and earn foreign exchange income from the export of agricultural and livestock products. As such, the government is providing modern agricultural techniques and expertise directly to them under the Law of Protection of the Farmer Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits.

Farmers are responsible for the production of safe foods for the people. These foodstuffs must be free from chemical and pesticide residues. If so, they will have the chance to taste the reflection of their good deeds.



Study finds adverse health effects of Vitamin D2

NEW research has found significant differences between the two types of vitamin D, with vitamin D2 having a questionable impact on human health. However, the study found that vitamin D3 could balance people's immune systems and help strengthen defences against viral infections such as Covid-19.

A recent study suggested that while vitamin D2 has a questionable impact on human health, vitamin D3 could balance people's immune systems and help to fight against viral infections such as COVID-19.

A collaborative study was done by the Universities of Surrey and Brighton in which researchers investigated the impact of vitamin D supplements D2 and D3. The study was published in the journal

'Frontiers in Immunology'.

Activity of genes

The research has taken on the activity of genes in people's blood for over a 12 week period. Contrary to widely held views, the research team discovered that both types of vitamin D did not have the same effect. They found evidence that vitamin D3 had a modifying effect on the immune system that could fortify the body against viral and bacterial diseases.

Professor Colin Smith, lead author of the study from the University of Surrey, who began this work while at the University of Brighton said, "We have shown that vitamin D3 appears to stimulate the type I interferon signalling system in the body — a key part of the immune system that

provides the first line of defence against bacteria and viruses. Thus, a healthy vitamin D3 status may help prevent viruses and bacteria from gaining a foothold in the body." "Our study suggests that it is important that people take a vitamin D3 supplement, or suitably fortified foods, especially in the winter months," he added.

Although some foods are fortified with vitamin D, like some breakfast cereals, yoghurts, and bread, few naturally contain the vitamin. Vitamin D3 is produced naturally in the skin from exposure to sunlight or artificial ultraviolet UVB light, while some plants and fungi produce vitamin D2.

Insufficient levels of vitamin D3

Many people have insufficient

levels of vitamin D3 because they live in locations where sunlight is limited in the winter, like the UK. The Covid-19 pandemic has also limited people's natural exposure to the sun due to people spending more time in their homes. Professor Susan Lanham-New, co-author of the study and Head of the Department of Nutritional Sciences at the University of Surrey said, "While we found that vitamin D2 and vitamin D3 do not have the same effect on gene activity within humans, the lack of impact we found when looking at vitamin D2 means that a larger study is urgently required to clarify the differences in the effects. However, these results show that vitamin D3 should be the favoured form for fortified foods and supplements."

SOURCE: ANI



Contrary to widely held views, the research team discovered that both types of vitamin D did not have the same effect. They found evidence that vitamin D3 had a modifying effect on the immune system that could fortify the body against viral and bacterial diseases. **PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY/ANI**

Gene that allows humans to feel touch plays role in sense of smell: Study

THE gene that makes us get drawn to the wonderful smell of rose is also responsible for the sense of prick we feel when we accidentally touch the thorns. Researchers from SMU (Southern Methodist University) have determined that a gene linked to feeling touch may moonlight as an olfactory gene.

The conclusion was drawn from studying a very small, transparent worm that shares many similarities with the human nervous system. The study was published in the journal, 'Nucleic Acids Research'.

"This gene has previously been identified as a potential therapeutic target for chronic pain. Now that we know the gene is also involved in olfaction, it might present an opportunity for treating or understanding olfactory defects, such as the mysterious loss of smell that many COVID-19 patients have reported," said SMU's Adam D. Norris, co-author of the study.

Norris is the Floyd B. James Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at SMU. He worked with SMU graduate students Xiaoyu Liang and Canyon Calovich-Benne, who are the lead authors of the study.

Human body's most important senses

Touch is one of the human



Representative image : Researchers found almost 55 per cent of patients with a mild form of COVID-19 experienced some degree of smell loss (anosmia). **PHOTO: GARDENINGKNOHW/ANI**

body's most important senses, yet there is a lot we still don't understand, Norris said.

Scientists know that when we touch something, our nervous system takes the mechanical input it gets from touch receptors in our skin and converts it into electrical signals to the brain. This is known as mechanosensation and it's what allows the brain to tell us a variety of things about that touch, such

as whether the object we touched was hot or cold or — in the case of a rose's thorns — sharp.

But the exact mechanics of "what's going on beneath the hood" during this electrical response to touch is poorly understood because the human nervous system is so complex.

Scientists frequently study the nervous system of the worm Caenorhabditis elegans because

it is a much simpler species. This worm has 302 nerve cells in its nervous system compared to the billions of nerve cells found in the human brain, yet many of the genes that create these neurons in C. elegans have functional counterparts in humans.

A gene called mec-2

The SMU research team started with established knowl-

edge — that a gene called mec-2 was crucial to activating touch neurons in C. elegans. What the SMU research team found, though, is that activating touch isn't its only role.

"In addition to turning genes on and off, another way to control a neuron's function is to generate different (but functionally similar) versions of a single gene called isoforms. We looked for different neurons that contain different isoforms of important genes," Norris said. "This led us to the fundamental discovery outlined in this paper; which is that different isoforms of a single gene (mec-2) work to enable both mechanosensation and olfaction."

Mec-2 isoform

Specifically, they learned that the mec-2 isoform responsible for mechanosensation requires the activity of a gene called mec-8 to be turned on, Norris explained. Neurons have the ability to express multiple genes inside of them. Those that express the mec-8 gene produce the olfactory isoform of mec-2 instead.

"Mec-8 makes sure that mec-2 is made in the mechanosensory isoform," he said.

Without it, mec-2 genes instead produce isoforms that are necessary for smell in C. elegans, SMU researchers found using cutting-edge techniques called "deep

single cell sequencing".

"Single-cell sequencing allows researchers to look at all of the genes turned on in a single cell. Deep single-cell sequencing allows them to see the entirety of each gene, rather than just a small fragment from the end of the gene," Norris explained. "Together, deep single-cell sequencing reveals all of the genes and all of the isoforms of those genes expressed in a single cell.

"Our use of this technology allowed us to determine isoforms in single sensory neurons with unprecedented sensitivity, directly leading to these discoveries," he said.

Norris Lab's next step

Now that they know mec-2's role in the sense of smell, Norris Lab's next step is to investigate whether a human gene called stomatin can do the same thing.

The mec-2 gene is found in worms, not humans. But stomatin is a gene produced by humans and has been proven to be highly similar to mec-2 with regard to touch sensation in humans.

If that is found to be true for smell as well, Norris said perhaps similar methods that are currently being studied to treat chronic pain could also be used to address the loss of smell for people who have had COVID-19.

SOURCE: ANI

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 1 March 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30) hrs M.S.T today, the lowpressure area over southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean still persists. It is forecast continue to move West-Northwestwards. Weather is cloudy over the south Bay, a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and central Bay of Bengal and generally fair elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 2 March 2022: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Taninthayi region and isolated in Yangon, Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Mon states. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in upper Sagaing, Bago regions and southern Shan, Chin, Kayah, Kayin 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 rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi region.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 March 2022: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 March 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 March 2022: Generally fair weather.

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More than 5,000 acres of summer paddy to be expanded with irrigation water from Moeyungyi Lake



Once the construction is completed, sufficient irrigation water will be supplied to Thayawady and other towns where most of the summer paddy is grown, making the paddy fields golden and money for farmers. **PHOTO: KANU**

IN addition to about 44,000 acres of paddy fields in the Bago Region, more than 5,000 acres of summer paddy fields will be planted by pumping water from

11 spillways of Moeyungyi Lake, according to the Bago Region Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department. The government is accel-

erating the development of the agriculture and livestock sector and is working to ensure that farmers do not have problems in the summer paddy sector. The

Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, is providing irrigation water to summer paddy fields in the respective regions and states.

Many benefits for farmers

The Moeyungyi Lake has three spillways. Due to its inability to store enough water, it is difficult to supply water for summer paddy every year. At present, the Department is implementing the plan to expand irrigation canals from 30 upstream dams to fully supply water and build 11 spillways to convey the water from the lake, and once the construction is completed, there will be many benefits for summer paddy farmers in the agriculture sector.

Golden Paddy Fields

“Moeyungyi Lake has not

been able to fully store rainwater since the late monsoon. As the current three spillways are not enough, 11 spillways are under construction since the beginning of the year,” said Assistant Director of the Department U Thiha Aung. There are many benefits for summer paddy farmers if water can be pumped at a specified water level. It will provide full irrigation water on 44,000 acres of land, as well as 5,000 acres of expanded summer paddy. We will be able to see the golden paddy fields, he said.

Making money for farmers

Once the construction is completed, sufficient irrigation water will be supplied to Thayawady and other towns where most of the summer paddy is grown, making the paddy fields golden and money for farmers.— Nyein Thu(MNA)/GNLM

CRIME NEWS



Confiscated consumer goods.

Illegal cosmetics, consumer goods confiscated

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, action is being taken effectively against illegal trades under the law, and a total of two arrests (estimated value of K10,800,000) were made yesterday, according to the committee.

Yesterday, a combined inspection team led by the Customs Department conducted an inspection at the 16th-mile Kyauk Chaw Checkpoint in Mandalay

and seized undocumented cosmetic products (estimated value of K8,640,000) under the Customs Law.

A combined inspection team, under the management of the Kay-in State Anti-Illegal Trade Special Task Force, also conducted inspections at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint and confiscated 33 water heater devices (estimated value of K2,160,000) under the Customs Law. — MNA

Men jailed for human trafficking, prostitution case

TWO men named Nyi Nyi San (alias) Thar Nyi and Zaw Min Naing have been jailed for human trafficking and forcing a girl into prostitution, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

Nyi Nyi San (alias) Thar Nyi and Zaw Min Naing from Myeiktaung Quarter, Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region took Ma ..., 24-year-old to KTV and persuaded her to get K1,000 and more money for a session if she worked at a KTV shop in Myeik.

When she was there, Ma ... was not allowed to travel freely, was locked up and forced into prostitution and the two men attempted to extort their financial gain.

The case was filed under (Pa) 1142/2020 and Section 24 of the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Law at the Myeik Myoma Police Station and filed at the Myeik District Court.

On 28 February, the accused Nyi Nyi San (alias) Thar Nyi and Zaw Min Naing were sentenced to 10-year imprisonment under Section 24 of the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Law, according to the police force. — MNA

Stimulants seized in Myitkyina, Myawady, Myeik townships

THE anti-narcotics task force conducted a check on a Crown car driven by Soe Sai and Ma Yone Koh (aka) San San Aye in Rampu Ward of Myitkyina on 28 February and seized 1,800 stimulant tablets.

Similarly, the anti-narcotics agents examined the motorcycle driven by Aung Phyo Oo (aka) Athay Lay (aka) Akyi Kau- ng in No (4) Ward of Myawady on the same evening and found

1,950 stimulant pills from him.

Then, the police arrested Nay Min (aka) Shan Lay and Kyaw Min in Yan Kin street of No (4) Ward of Myawady, Pha Saing Hat at Room No (118) of the hotel in No (4) Ward of Myawady together with 0.11 kilogramme of Ketamine, Ko Pyae (aka) Aung Pyae Phyo Kyaw at Room No (113) of the hotel in No (4) Ward of Myawady together with 0.1



Five arrestees are seen along with seized stimulant pills.

kilogramme of Ketamine on the same day.

Similarly, Taninthayi Region Police Force also raided the house of Sai Nyi Nyi located at Myawayon street in

Myeiktaung (middle) Ward of Myeik and seized 1,649 stimulant pills. The suspects were charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

Approximately 40,000 rice bags daily enter Bayintnaung rice wholesale centre

BAYINTNAUNG rice wholesale centre sees a low influx of rice and broken rice at present, with about 40,000 bags entering the market, said U Than Oo, secretary of the Bayintnaung rice wholesale centre.

Earlier, more than 100,000 bags were daily supplied to the market. The Bayintnaung market receives 40,000 bags at most.

“Normally, around 120,000-130,000 bags enter the market during the monsoon rice season. It’s an interval time between monsoon and summer rice seasons. That is why the rice supply is 40,000 bags in maximum,” he

was quoted as saying. The inventory of monsoon paddy is low at present. The summer paddy is going to flood the market soon.

The prices of rice are increasing both in domestic and export markets.

The prices of low-grade rice varieties (long-grain rice) remain over K30,000 in the domestic market. Furthermore, the prices of Pawsan high-grade rice varieties are worth over K40,000-50,000 per bag. Highly consumed Pawsan rice varieties produced in the Shwebo area are valued at over K50,000 per bag.



One of the rice retail outlets.

Next, the prices of low-grade rice varieties are relatively high in the export market as well,

ranging from K25,000 to K27,500 per 108-pound bag. Myanmar delivered more

than 1.07 million tonnes of rice and broken rice in the past four months of the current mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022). Between 1 October 2021 and 31 January 2022, Myanmar shipped over a million tonnes of rice via maritime trade and over 60,000 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through cross-border posts, the Myanmar Rice Federation stated.

Myanmar generated over US\$700 million income from exports of approximately two million tonnes of rice and broken rice in the past financial year 2020-2021. — NN/GNLM

Hass avocado plantation to be expanded in next avocado season



Avocados are grown mostly in the upper Sagaing region, Mandalay region, Chin and Shan states.

TO be able to export Myanmar avocados to the external market, the high-quality Hass avocado plantation will be highly focused to expand in the next avocado season, said U Myo Nyunt, vice-chair of the Myanmar Avocado Producers and Exporters Association.

The Hass avocado is an internationally marketable product. That is the reason, avocado growers have been engaged to an avocado service company in PyinOoLwin to expand their avocado cultivation. Estimated 500 acres of the avocado plantation will be extended in next monsoon June and July in PyinOoLwin.

“Next monsoon season, we will focus on Hass avocado plantation in PyinOoLwin. Hopefully, we will cultivate around 500 acres of plantation. There is an avocado service company named “Maymyo avocado in PyinOoLwin. The

company is providing farming methods and technology for avocado. Many acres of farmlands have been engaged with the company to grow the avocado. We are planning to expand Hass avocado species in the next monsoon season,” he clarified.

The Hass avocado species is popular in the international market and will be expanded according to the market situation. Currently, the company is providing technical assistance to boost the avocado sector in PyinOoLwin.

Avocados are grown mostly in the upper Sagaing region, Mandalay region, Chin and Shan states. There are about 23 species of avocado and about 6,000 farmers are growing approximately 20,000 acres of avocado plantation in Myanmar. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Green gram (Yezin) & (Shwewah) prices bring joy to farmers

THE local farmers from Thongwa township, Yangon region are mainly growing Yezin and Shwewah green gram species. Then, those were conveyed to the Yangon pulses market.

During the pandemic period of the 2021-2022 FY’s cultivation season, about 130,183 acres of green gram plantation, according to official data of the Thongwa Township Agriculture Department.

The green grams from Thongwa township are entering the Yangon pulses market. In the last week of February, the price of green gram (Yezin) species was K47,000 per basket (containing 20 visses) while the green gram (Shwewah) was priced at K47,500 per basket. Besides, the green gram price was ranged K46,000-K46,500 per basket in Kayan township. Although some growers are ready to harvest

green grams from their farmlands, they are waiting for prices to increase.

“Our farmers from Thongwa township are mainly growing Yezin and Shwewah green gram species. The Yezin green gram species is the black and huge one. The pulse is good quality and it is a very popular one in the market. The Yezin green gram is easy to harvest. For the Shwewah green gram, it is high-

ly demanded from the external market,” said a green gram trader from Thongwa township.

The green gram from the domestic market is vastly demanded by China, Europe and Japan, according to the Yangon pulses market.

In 2022, about 130,183 acres of the green gram are currently cultivated in 64 village-tracts in Thongwa township. — Soe Myint Aung/GNLM



In 2022, about 130,183 acres of the green gram are currently cultivated in 64 village-tracts in Thongwa township.

Trade via Hteekhee border rises by \$273.67 mln in mini-budget period

BILATERAL trade between Thailand and Myanmar through the Hteekhee border nearly the past five months reflected a significant increase of US\$273.67 million as against a year-ago period.

Between 1 October and 18 February in the current mini-budget period, the figures soared to \$776.18 million from \$502 million registered in the previous financial year, according to data from the Commerce Ministry.

Exports of natural gas from the Taninthayi region have contributed to the enormous increase in trade through the Hteekhee border in the previous years, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

The border trade between Myanmar and Thailand is conducted through land borders — Myeik, Kawthoung, Tachilek, Myawady, Mawtaung, Hteekhee and Meisei.

Myawady border post also witnessed a sharp rise in trade

value on account of the steady corn exports at the moment.

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

Lockdown fears spark panic buying in Hong Kong

HONG Kongers stripped shop shelves bare Tuesday as panic buying set in following mixed messaging from the government over whether it plans a China-style hard lockdown this month.

Uncertainty over Covid rules has sent the city's residents flocking to supermarkets, chemists and vegetable stores to stock up, leaving shelves empty across the city.

Photos circulating on social media showed people had trouble finding a variety of items including meat, vegetables, frozen foods, noodles, paracetamol and testing kits.

"We are like ants going home, grabbing a bit at one spot at a time," a woman, who gave her surname Wu, told AFP on Tuesday in a supermarket where most vegetables and meat had been snapped up.

The financial hub is in the grips of its worst coronavirus outbreak, registering tens of thousands of new cases each day, overwhelming hospitals and shattering the city's zero-Covid strategy.

Authorities plan to test all 7.4 million residents this month and isolate all infections either at home or in a series of camps that are still being constructed with the help of mainland China.

City leader Carrie Lam had initially ruled out a mainland style lockdown where people are confined to their homes during the testing period.

But on Monday, health chief Sophia Chan confirmed it was still on the table, a day after a senior Chinese health official described it as the best option.

On Tuesday multiple Hong Kong media including HK01, Singtao and South China Morning



A worker (L) refills empty shelves at a supermarket in Hong Kong on 1 March 2022, as panic buying returned to the city with many supermarket shelves stripped bare following mixed messaging from the government over whether it plans a city lockdown later this month when it tests all residents. **PHOTO: AFP**

Post also said authorities were planning a variety of lockdown options for the test period, citing sources.

SCMP's said the current favoured option was a nine-day "large-scale lockdown" where most residents would only be allowed out to buy food.—AFP

Japan raises COVID-19 entry cap to 5,000 per day amid calls for more



People arrive at Narita airport near Tokyo from Hanoi, Vietnam, on 1 March 2022. Japan eased its cap on the number of daily new entrants from overseas, introduced to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, from 3,500 to 5,000 the same day. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN eased COVID-19 border controls on Tuesday, setting its limit on new entrants at 5,000 per day, up from the previous 3,500, and reducing or exempting quarantine periods for both Japanese and foreign nationals.

Within the daily cap, which was relaxed for the first time in three months, foreign nationals will be able to enter Japan for purposes other than tourism.

But more than 400,000 people already eligible for visas have been unable to enter the country as of 4 January, according to the Immigration Services Agency of Japan, and calls for further easing of the controls remain strong among business and academic communities at home and abroad.

Japan's entry ban on non-resident foreigners effective from late November to the end of February, initially aimed at keeping the Omicron variant of the coronavirus at bay, has sparked a chorus of criticism for being too strict and not based on epidemiological reasoning. After arriving in Japan, travellers will now be asked to quarantine for three days and required to test negative for the virus on the last day of that period.—Kyodo ■

China could eventually 'co-exist' with Covid: top scientist

CHINA could move away from its zero-Covid strategy "in the near future" and co-exist with the virus, a top Chinese scientist said in a possible sign that the country's leadership is rethinking its strict approach. The country where the coronavirus was first detected in 2019 is now one of the last places

still hewing to a zero-tolerance approach, responding to small outbreaks with snap lockdowns and cutting off most international travel. But fatigue over disruptions to everyday life as well as semi-autonomous Hong Kong's struggle to contain a mass Omicron outbreak have raised

questions about the sustainability of China's approach. China's strategy against Covid-19 cannot "remain unchanged forever" and "it is the long-term goal of humanity to co-exist with the virus" at tolerable death and illness rates, Zeng Guang wrote in a social media post Monday.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Long COVID hits children far less than adults: study

CHILDREN are much less at risk of complications from COVID-19 than adults, a leading British health expert said Monday.

Shamez Ladhani, a consultant paediatrician at the UK Health Security Agency, said new data published Monday by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) should be reassuring for parents, clinicians and policy makers.

Ladhani, also chief investigator of the ONS study, said, "it is reassuring that the vast majority of primary and secondary school aged children surveyed since March 2020 have not experienced long COVID symptoms."

He said that as the findings show that children are much less at risk of complications from COVID-19 than adults, keeping children in school, where mental health support is available, remains vital.

"This data provides important information about the potential direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19 on children and young people," said Patrick Nguipod Djomo, co-chief investigator of the study at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

The study was jointly led by ONS, the LSHTM, and UK Health Security Agency.—Xinhua ■

Africa's COVID-19 cases near 11.19 mln: Africa CDC

THE number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Africa reached 11,188,490 as of Monday evening while the pandemic death toll across the continent stood at 248,812, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said.

Some 10,400,612 COVID-19 patients across the continent have recovered from the disease so far, Africa CDC noted.

South Africa, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Ethiopia are among the African countries with the most cases, according to the agency.

In terms of caseload, southern Africa is the most affected region on the continent, followed by its northern and eastern parts, while central Africa is the least affected region in Africa, the agency said.—Xinhua ■

China manufacturing activity picks up in February

FACTORY activity in China picked up in February, official data showed Tuesday, as market demand and production resumed following the Lunar New Year holiday.

The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) — a key gauge of manufacturing activity — edged up in February to 50.2, defying expectations of a return to contraction territory, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed.

The 50-point mark separates growth from contraction.

"Enterprises resumed work and production in good shape after the holiday," NBS senior statistician Zhao Qinghe said in a statement.

He added that new orders in the world's second-biggest economy picked up, indicating that



Employees work on an assembly line producing speakers at a factory in Linquan county, Fuyang city, in China's eastern Anhui province on 28 February 2022. PHOTO: STR / AFP

market demand returned after the holiday break.

The purchasing price index for key raw materials and the ex-factory price index both increased as well, rising "markedly for two consecutive months", Zhao said. He noted that costs for petrol, coal and other materials continued to be in a "high range".

"Early indicators

suggest that conditions improved in February," Julian Evans-Pritchard, senior China economist at Capital Economics, added in a recent report.

"Most localized restrictions on industrial areas and port cities were lifted thanks to fewer [coronavirus] outbreaks this month compared to January."—AFP ■

Toyota to restart all suspended plants in Japan on Wednesday

TOYOTA Motor Corp says it will restart all of its plants in Japan on Wednesday following a one-day suspension after a domestic supplier suffered a computer system failure caused by a cyberattack.

The decision comes as Toyota completely halted 28 production lines across its 14 factories in the country on Tuesday as a result of a system malfunction at Kojima Industries Corp in Toyota, Aichi Prefecture. The halt impacted the production of about 13,000 vehicles or 5 per cent of its monthly output.

Japan's top government spokesman, Hirokazu Matsuno, told reporters earlier in the day the system failure was caused by a cyberattack, urging other companies

to prepare for a heightened risk of such assaults as the Russian invasion of Ukraine continues.

Kojima Industries, which supplies plastic parts, said Tuesday its computer server system suffered a virus attack. A threatening message was also found, raising the possibility that it was attacked by ransomware.

The supplier, with

about 1,600 employees, said it had informed the government of its findings and contacted the police. Its servers ceased functioning on Saturday night. Satoshi Ninoyu, chairman of the National Public Safety Commission, said police are "confirming the details," adding any victim of a similar attack should consult with authorities.—Kyodo ■



File photo taken on 25 April 2020 shows Toyota Motor Kyushu Inc's Miyata plant in Fukuoka Prefecture. PHOTO: KYODO

Japan trading houses study Shell's exit from major Russian gas project



File photo shows a liquefied natural gas tanker in waters off Sodegaura, Chiba Prefecture, in April 2009 after arriving from Sakhalin 2. PHOTO: KYODO

MAJOR Japanese trading houses Mitsui & Co and Mitsubishi Corp said Tuesday they will consult with the government to assess Shell PLC's planned exit from its flagship oil and natural gas business in eastern Russia.

The British oil major said Monday it is exiting Sakhalin 2, its joint venture with Russian energy company Gazprom and a massive oil and gas project located on Sakhalin island, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Shell has a 27.5 per cent stake in the project,

while Mitsui and Mitsubishi hold 12.5 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively.

The project has been one of the main sources of natural gas supply to Japan. It can produce 9.6 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas annually, and about 60 per cent of its production is shipped to Japan, according to Mitsubishi's website.

The Japanese companies said they will analyze details of Shell's decision and consider how to handle the situation with the government and related parties.—Kyodo ■

S Korea's export keeps double-digit growth in February

SOUTH Korea's export kept a double-digit growth last month due to solid global demand for locally-made products, government data showed Tuesday.

Export, which accounts for about half of the export-driven economy, amounted to 53.91 billion US dollars in February, up 20.6 per cent from the same month of last year, according to the Ministry

of Trade, Industry and Energy.

It marked the largest February figure, topping 50 billion dollars for the first time in the cited month.

Import spiked 25.1 per cent from a year earlier to 53.07 billion dollars in February, sending the trade surplus to 0.84 billion dollars.

Trade balance turned into black in three months,

after recording the deficits of 0.43 billion dollars in December 2021 and 4.83 billion dollars in January this year respectively.

The outbound shipment continued to grow in double figures for the 12th consecutive month amid the recovery in global demand from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The daily average export advanced 17.6 per cent over the year to hit

a new high of 2.7 billion dollars in February.

Among 15 major export items, 12 logged a double-digit growth in outbound shipment.

Semiconductor export soared 24 per cent year-on-year to 10.38 billion dollars in February, surpassing 10 billion dollars for the 10th straight month on the back of strong demand for mobile devices amid the pandemic.—Xinhua ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (187W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (187W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-3-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3203S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3203S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-3-2022** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

NEWS IN BRIEF

China welcomes Ukraine-Russia negotiations, hopes for continuation: spokesperson

CHINA has always supported and encouraged all diplomatic efforts that are conducive to the peaceful settlement of the Ukraine crisis, and welcomes the launch of peace talks between Russia and Ukraine, a foreign ministry spokesperson said Tuesday.

SPOKESPERSON Wang Wenbin made the remarks at a daily press briefing in response to the negotiations between delegations from Russia and Ukraine held in the Gomel region of Belarus on Monday. "WE have noted that the two sides have agreed to hold a new round of negotiations in the near future," Wang said.

CHINA hopes that the two sides will continue the process of dialogue and negotiation and seek a political solution that accommodates reasonable security concerns of both sides, serves common security of Europe and is conducive to lasting peace and stability in Europe, Wang added. — Xinhua ■

Russia bans flights for airlines from 36 countries in retaliatory move

RUSSIA has banned airlines from 36 countries from using the country's airspace, local media citing aviation authorities reported Monday.

As a response to the ban of European states on Russian air carriers, a restriction has been introduced on the operation of flights by air carriers from 36 countries, according to aviation authorities. These restrictions will affect airlines from Britain, Germany, Spain, Italy, Canada and Portugal, among others. — Xinhua ■

Indian student killed in Ukraine shelling

AN Indian student was killed on Tuesday in shelling in Ukraine, New Delhi said as it urged Moscow and Kyiv to secure safe passage for around 12,000 of its stranded nationals.

"With profound sorrow we confirm that an Indian student lost his life in shelling in Kharkiv this morning," Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said on Twitter.

He added that the foreign secretary was "calling in the Russian and Ukrainian ambassadors to reiterate our demand for urgent safe passage for Indian nationals who are still in Kharkiv and cities in other conflict zones."

Kharkiv, Ukraine's second city, has been a target for Russian forces since President Vladimir Putin launched an invasion of the Eastern European country last Thursday. On Tuesday the central square of the city near the Russian border was shelled by advancing forces who hit the building of the local administration, regional governor Oleg Sinogubov said. — AFP ■

YouTube blocks Russian channels RT, Sputnik in Europe

YOUTUBE has blocked Russian channels RT and Sputnik in Europe "taking into account the ongoing war in Ukraine", the video-sharing platform said on Tuesday.

"We are blocking the YouTube channels of RT and Sputnik in the whole of Europe with immediate effect. Our systems need a little time before being fully operational," YouTube said in an email to AFP.

Fellow online giant Facebook took a similar decision on Monday by blocking content published by RT and Sputnik in the European Union.

The state-backed media organizations are considered mouthpieces of Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime.

European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen on Sunday announced they and their subsidiaries would be banned from broadcasting in the bloc for spreading "lies to justify Putin's war". — AFP ■

Isolated Russia defends Ukraine war at UN General Assembly

ENCOUNTERING deepening global isolation, Russia faced urgent calls Monday to end its "unprovoked" and "unjustified" assault on Ukraine as the UN General Assembly's 193 members held an extraordinary debate on the invasion of the ex-Soviet state.

During the rare emergency special session, just the 11th the Assembly has held in its history, Russia defended its decision to invade its neighbour as nation after nation urged peace from the podium.

On the sidelines, the United States said it was expelling from the country 12 "intelligence operatives" at Russia's United Nations mission for "engaging in espionage activities that are adverse to our national security".

Inside the General Assembly hall, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, pleaded: "The fighting in Ukraine must stop. Enough is enough."

Representatives of more than 100 countries are expected to speak over three days as the global body decides if it will support a resolution that demands Russia immediately withdraws its troops from Ukraine.



Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, Vassily Nebenzia leaves after speaking on the Russia-Ukraine conflict at the General Assembly emergency special session in New York, on 28 February 2022. PHOTO: AFP

A vote is expected Wednesday, and it must reach a two-thirds threshold to pass. The resolution is non-binding but will serve as a marker of how isolated Russia is.

Its authors hope they may exceed 100 votes in favour — though countries including Syria, China, Cuba and India are expected to either support Russia or abstain. "We do not feel isolated," Russia's UN ambassador Vassily Nebenzia told reporters.

He reiterated Moscow's stance, flatly rejected by Kyiv

and its Western allies, that its military operation was launched to protect residents of breakaway regions in eastern Ukraine.

"The hostilities were unleashed by Ukraine against its own residents," he said during his address. The vote is also being seen as a barometer of democracy in a world where autocratic sentiment has been on the rise, diplomats said, pointing to such regimes in Sudan, Mali, Burkina Faso, Venezuela, Nicaragua — and of course Russia. — AFP ■

Japan, US, EU, to aid refugees after Russia's invasion of Ukraine

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Tuesday he has agreed with his counterparts from the United States and the European Union to support refugees fleeing Ukraine after Russia's invasion.

Kishida provided no further information on what type of support will be extended, but his comments came after Japan pledged to extend emergency humanitarian assistance worth \$100 million to Ukraine.

The White House said in a statement the "leaders recognized the bravery of the Ukrainian people" and discussed the continued security, economic and humanitarian assistance that can be delivered.

In the phone call initiated by US President Joe Biden, Kishida also expressed opposition to any threat or use of nuclear weapons.

Kishida, an elected representative from the city of Hiroshima that suffered a US atomic



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida speaks to reporters at his office in Tokyo on 1 March 2022, after having phone talks with leaders of the other Group of Seven major industrialized nations as well as Poland and Romania on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. PHOTO: KYODO

bombing in World War II, made the statement after Russian President Vladimir Putin put his nuclear forces on high alert in defiance of international calls for diplomacy.

During the discussion also involving Britain, Canada and EU members bordering Ukraine such as Poland, the leaders affirmed their resolve to impose

"powerful" sanctions against Russia, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

"I told the other leaders that Russia's aggression shakes the foundation of the international order at its core, which requires united and resolute action by the international community," Kishida told reporters at his office following the phone call. — Kyodo ■

Russia invasion convoy masses near Ukraine capital

A huge Russian military convoy was massing on the outskirts of Ukraine’s capital Tuesday as fears grew the invading forces were set to launch devastating assaults aimed at taking control of Kyiv and other major cities.

Satellite images showed a long build-up of armoured vehicles and artillery starting 29 kilometres (18 miles) north of the city, as Moscow defied mounting global pressure and a wave of international sanctions that have smashed Russia’s economy.

Initial ceasefire talks between Moscow and Kyiv on Monday failed to secure a breakthrough, with Russia shelling residential areas in Ukraine’s second city Kharkiv and other

areas of the country after the negotiations.

The Russian army has been regrouping and massing its forces over the past 24 hours “primarily to encircle and take control of Kyiv and other major cities”, the general staff of Ukraine’s armed forces wrote on Facebook.

The column is more than 65 kilometres long and covers the entire road from near Antonov airport outside Kyiv to the town of Pryborsk, US satellite imaging company Maxar said.

“Some vehicles are spaced fairly far apart while in other sections military equipment and units are travelling two or three vehicles abreast on the road,”

Maxar said.

The images also showed “additional ground forces deployments and ground attack helicopter units” in southern Belarus near the Ukraine border.

Eastern city Kharkiv’s mayor Igor Terekhov, quoted by Ukrainian media, warned that Moscow’s armoured vehicles and tanks are “everywhere around the city”.

Russian forces killed several civilians including children late Monday, he said.

The mayor of Kherson, Igor Kolykhayev, also wrote on Facebook that the Russian army had set up checkpoints at all of the city’s entrances, but said it



This Maxar satellite image taken and released on 28 February 2022 shows part of a military convoy in southern Ivankiv, Ukraine. According to imagery collected by Maxar, the large military convoy seen north of Kyiv stretches from near Antonov airport in the south to the northern end of the convoy near Pryborsk. **PHOTO: SATELLITE IMAGE ©2022 MAXAR TECHNOLOGIES / AFP**

“remains Ukrainian” and “will be able to resist”.

Explosions were also reported in and around Brovary, a city on the outskirts of the capital.— AFP ■

All Russia’s security concerns must be taken into account for settlement in Ukraine – Putin

ALL Moscow’s security concerns must be taken into account for settlement in Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday during a telephone conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron.

Putin reiterated that a settlement would only be possible if Russia’s security concerns were taken into account, including “Russia’s sovereignty over Crimea,” as well as the country’s commitment to solving the tasks of Ukraine’s demilitari-

zation and denazification, and the issue of Ukraine’s neutral status, the Kremlin said in a statement.

Putin said Russia is open to negotiations with Ukraine and expressed hope they would lead to the desired result.

“The French side expressed its well-known views on Russia’s special military operation... and expressed hope for a quick settlement of the conflict through dialogue,” the Kremlin said. Putin said that Russia’s armed forces are not

striking civilian objects, and do not pose a threat to civilians.

“Ukrainian nationalists, who have been using their civilian population ‘as a human shield,’ are a threat,” Putin said.

According to the Elysee, Macron asked Russia to respect international law and protect the civil population.

“The French President reaffirmed the necessity to implement an immediate ceasefire,” the Elysee said. Putin and Macron agreed to hold further contacts. — Xinhua ■

Ukraine crisis stretches Indian ‘neutrality’ to the limit

RUSSIA’S invasion of Ukraine has left India’s traditional balancing act between Moscow and the West looking wobblier than ever, with experts saying New Delhi has few good diplomatic options.

Last week India abstained on a UN Security Council resolution deploring Russia’s “aggression” against Ukraine, winning praise from Moscow for its “independent and balanced position”.

But while New Delhi hoped this would be seen as neutrality, in many capitals its failure to condemn the invasion was taken as de facto backing of Moscow that gave President Vladimir Putin useful diplomatic cover.

And India is also reportedly looking to bolster its rupee-rouble trade pact with Moscow, potentially undermining Western efforts to isolate Russia from the global financial system.

The crisis has left India facing a dilemma: it leant towards the Soviet Union during the Cold War — while Pakistan was in the Western camp — and their close relations outlived the fall of the Iron Curtain, with Moscow still by far its biggest arms supplier.

At the same time it needs Western support to contend with Xi Jinping’s increasingly assertive China: Beijing is extending its reach into the Indian Ocean, and the two countries had a deadly border clash in 2020.

Together with the US, Japan and Australia, India is also a member of the “Quad alliance”

that is seen as a bulwark against China.

Its decision to abstain at the Friday Security Council vote left it alongside only Beijing and the United Arab Emirates, while Russia vetoed the resolution.

“There are not many choices that India has,” said Nandan Unnikrishnan of the Observer Research Foundation.

It “has as much investment in a relationship with Russia as it has in maintaining a relationship with the United States”, he told AFP.

“India’s challenges in the maritime is where it needs the United States and India’s challenges on the continental shelf is where it requires Russia.”

Hug the bear

Putin visited India last year, in a rare foreign trip for the Russian president, bear-hugging Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the two men bolstered military and energy ties.

New Delhi is the world’s second largest importer of arms after Saudi Arabia and according to the Business Standard, between 2016-2020, 49.4 per cent of its purchases were from Russia.

Late last year it began taking delivery from Russia of the S-400 missile defence system that it agreed to buy for over \$5 billion in 2018, despite the threat of US sanctions.

And while New Delhi is looking to develop its own capacity and diversify its suppliers, US imports accounted for just 11 per cent.—AFP ■

Israelis, Arabs, Iranians in harrowing exodus from Ukraine



Israeli passengers arriving from Ukraine via the border with Romania on an Israeli ‘Israir’ rescue flight are welcomed by their family upon arrival at Israel’s Ben Gurion airport in Lod, near Tel Aviv, on 1 March 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

ISRAELIS, Iranians and Tunisians landed back in their home countries Tuesday to the tearful relief of relatives, as evacuations of nationals caught up in the Russian invasion of Ukraine gathered pace.

The evacuees had all been forced to make harrowing escapes by land through the war zone to board repatriation flights in neighbouring countries, after Ukraine closed its airspace to civilian traffic at

the start of the invasion last week.

One of the first repatriation flights bringing home Israeli evacuees landed at Ben Gurion airport from Romania.

Badr Tawil, 23, a student who fled Ukraine’s under-fire second city Kharkiv, said he had escaped chaos.

“We just woke up once and we heard the sounds around us. Bombs everywhere. So we decided to leave, just to leave Ukraine,” he said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said Monday his office had helped 4,000 Israelis leave Ukraine since Russia invaded.

“We will do everything to not leave any Israeli behind, or any Jew behind,” he told journalists.—AFP ■

Myanmar women's team prepares for SEA Games

THE Myanmar women's team is preparing for the 31st South East Asian (SEA) Games, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The team started training ahead of the SEA Games a few days after the previous final round of the 2022 AFC Women's Cup.

The Myanmar women's squad has been preparing for the SEA Games for about two months and has selected 30 pre-

liminary players, football authorities said.

The Myanmar women's team has been taking training for the 2022 AFC Asian Cup and finals since mid-last year. The team trained for a long time and only had a few days off after the tourney, officials added.

U Tin Myint Aung, head coach of the Myanmar national women's team, will handle the team and most of the players who competed in the final round

of the AFC Asian Cup have been reorganized.

The Myanmar national women's team will compete in international qualifiers before the SEA Games and is set to play in March and April.

The squad won a bronze medal at the previous 30th SEA Games in 2019 in the Philippines.

The team has won three silver medals and seven bronze medals in SEA Games history.

— Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Atalanta thump Samp to stay on Juve's tail



Atalanta players celebrate after winning the Italian Serie A football match between Atalanta and Sampdoria at the Azzuri d'Italia Stadium in Bergamo on 28 February 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

ATALANTA cruised past Sampdoria 4-0 on Monday to keep pace with Juventus in Serie A's race for the Champions League.

Mario Pasalic's early strike, goals in each half from Teun Koopmeiners and Aleksei Miranchuk's late finish ensured that Atalanta stayed three points behind Juve, who sit in fourth after their win at Empoli on Saturday.

Gian Piero Gasperini's side have a game in hand which if they win would move them above Juve thanks to their superior head-to-head record.

A typically attack-minded display at the Gewiss Stadium gave Atalanta just their second win from eight Serie A games played since the turn of the year, ending a run of five league matches without victory.

It was also their first league home win since the end of No-

vember, their fourth in Bergamo all season.

Pasalic opened the scoring in the sixth minute with a powerful header which completely wrong-footed Wladimiro Falcone in the Samp goal.

The Croatia international netted his ninth league goal of the season after replacing Ruslan Malinovskyi just before kick-off. Malinovskyi, who had recently spoken out against the Russian invasion of his home country Ukraine, was due to start but picked up a calf injury in the pre-match warm up.

The 24-year-old was pictured chatting on the sidelines with his compatriot Vladyslav Supryaha, who is on loan at Samp from Dynamo Kyiv.

"We can see that Ruslan is having some trouble at the moment... we're trying to help him

but it's difficult," said Marten de Roon to DAZN.

Koopmeiners added the second just before the half-hour mark when he slotted home a calm finish from Matteo Pessina's pass.

And after Francesco Caputo missed two good chances to put Samp back in the game and had a goal ruled out for offside Netherlands midfielder Koopmeiners made sure of the points for Atalanta in the 61st minute.

The 24-year-old was set up by Russian Miranchuk, who barely celebrated after rounding off the scoring with a superb individual goal with four minutes remaining.

Midfielder Miranchuk almost looked sheepish after dribbling around three players before cutting a lovely shot back across Falcone to end a near-perfect evening for Atalanta.—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.

Hanyu to miss world c'ships due to ankle injury

YUZURU Hanyu will miss the world championships in France later this month after spraining his right ankle at the Beijing Olympics, the Japan Skating Federation said Tuesday.

The two-time Olympic gold medalist finished fourth last month in China where he suffered the injury during practice a day before his free skate. He admitted the severity of it would have seen him pull out had it not been the Olympics.

The 27-year-old took a painkilling injection ahead of the free skate at the Capital Indoor Stadium rink and although he failed to land his quad axel, he became the first skater to be officially recorded as attempting the jump at a major international tournament.

Following the exhibition, Hanyu was coy over his participation at the world championships in Montpel-



Yuzuru Hanyu. **PHOTO: KYODO**

lier starting 23 March.

"There are things I've yet to take a clear stand upon, and that includes my future. I will take everything into consideration in my decision about the worlds," he said at the time.

Meanwhile, 16-year-old Kao Miura will make his debut appearance at the championships.—Kyodo ■