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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Fisheries Dept strives to create marine sanctuaries for sustainable crab exploitation

AS hard-shell and soft-shell crab businesses generate revenue from exports and create job opportunities for the residents, the Fisheries Department is endeavouring to set up a natural marine sanctuary for sustainable crab exploitation.

The Fisheries Department in Rakhine State has banned the exploitation of below 80-gramme sized crabs. The companies are found to adhere to the rules and regulations set by the department. However, the fishers sent those crabs to other markets, which might cause the depletion of the crab resources in



As hard-shell and soft-shell crab businesses generate revenue from exports and create job opportunities for the residents, the Fisheries Department is endeavouring to set up a natural marine sanctuary for sustainable crab exploitation. **PHOTO: KANU**

the coming ten years and harm the socio-economy of the local community. To prevent such an

event, the department is working together with entrepreneurs and civil society organizations to set

the small crabs free into the protected marine zone areas.

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Mongkaing to preserve ancient earthen walls, wells as historical heritage

ACCORDING to the historical records, Shan ethnic people started living in Mongkaing Township, southern Shan State for over 2,000 years in 106 ME under the name of Namnip village. After that, the number of the villages has increased with the name of Wainngin, Wainkham, Wainleng and Wainpaing villages.

The oldest towns are the Wainngin (silver city) in 394 ME and Wainkham (golden town) in 654 ME. But now, the Wainngin (silver city) has become a village from Honar village-tract. But the name of the Wainkham (golden city) is no longer called.

But, some areas in the middle of farmland, on the other side of the Namtaim Creek and some earthen ramparts will be clearly visible as symbols of Wainkham (golden town).

Wainleng towns were established in 684 ME and only a few ruins of the old earthen wall can still be seen today. According to the ancient records, about four wells, seven lakes and 12 wards were established in 962 ME. These wells are named Nam Maw Hsaung Sai, Nam Maw Ai Lar, Nam Maw Tung Tang, Nam Maw Ho Kho Phat Nawng (aka) Nam Maw Kham Hswe. The lakes are named Naung Mo



According to the historical records, Shan ethnic people started living in Mongkaing Township, southern Shan State for over 2,000 years in 106 ME under the name of Namnip village.



In Mongkaing town, there are many wells that have been donated by the Shan Saophas beside the ancient wells dug during the King Siridhamma Soka.

Lai, Naung Pon Ngoh, Naung Yay, Naung San Kar, Naung Kay Nam, Naung Tung Tang, Naung Moe Lon Lon.

In 1060 ME, Shwebontha/Waibonla (Kaungmupheelar) pagoda was built to commemorate the victory over the invading Chinese army. The pagoda is now located in the area around the city prayer hall.

In Mongkaing town, there are many wells that have been

donated by the Shan Saophas beside the ancient wells dug during the King Siridhamma Soka. According to the antique records, these 11 wells are Nam Maw Ai Lar, Nam Maw Wit, Nam Maw Hsaung Sai, Nam Maw Auk, Nam Maw Lat Wo, Nam Maw Pheik, Nam Maw Swam, Nam Maw Kwai, Nam Maw Sang and Nam Maw Say.

In the past, only ancient wells were relied upon for drink-

ing water during the summer. Now, some of the wells were damaged, losing the form of historic wells.

Therefore, this article was written to show some evidence of the ancient earthen walls and historical heritage of Mongkaing with an aim for the youth to appreciate and preserve Mongkaing's ancient walls, historical heritage and ancient wells. — Chaw (Mongkaing)/GNLM

Fisheries Dept strives to create marine sanctuaries ...



The soft-shell crabs from Rakhine State are delivered to China, Japan, China Taipei (Taiwan) and European Union countries. Those from Ayeyawady Region are directly sent to the Yangon market due to a lack of cold storage in the region. PHOTO: KANU

FROM PAGE-1

Efforts are being undertaken to set up natural marine sanctuaries like the zones in Taungup of Thandwe District. “During a trip of the Union Minister for Agriculture, Live-

stock and Irrigation, the sustainability of crab exploitation is guided. We need to prevent marine resources from overexploitation. The department is trying to conserve the natural resources for sustainable use

and create protected areas for the crabs with the stakeholders concerned in the industry including the state government, Fisheries Department and local entrepreneurs,” said U Thet Oo, director of the Rakhine State

Fisheries Department.

The soft-shell crab cultivation businesses are primarily found in Thandwe, Sittway and Kyaukpyu districts in Rakhine State and the soft-shell crabs are processed in cold storage

plants to ship to foreign countries.

In addition to Rakhine State, the commercially valued crabs from Ayeyawady Region also live in the marine sanctuaries and are sent to Thailand. The soft-shell crabs from Rakhine State are delivered to China, Japan, China Taipei (Taiwan) and European Union countries. Those from Ayeyawady Region are directly sent to the Yangon market due to a lack of cold storage in the region. The live crabs are exported to Thailand again.

Rakhine State Fisheries Department is making a concerted effort to ensure sustainable crab exploitation in the state, manage aquaculture sustainably with the natural marine sanctuaries and prevent the depletion of marine resources. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

The military members discharge defence duties for the sakes of people with our own wishes

THE defence services of the country mean to protect the public at the lowest level and three-main national causes at the highest level. We, the military members, discharge defence duties for the sakes of people with our own wishes but not for private intentions.

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

National Solidarity and Peace-making Negotiate Committee, NCA-signatories hold informal talks

THE National Solidarity and Peace-making Negotiate Committee held an informal meeting with the ethnic armed organizations, which signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The event was attended by State Administration Council member Union Minister at the Union Government Office (1) Chairman of National Solidarity and Peace-making Negotiate Committee Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, committee members, officials of NCA-signatories — Joint General Secretary of ALP (Arakan Liberation Party) Khine Aung Soe Than and Central Committee member Khine Aung Hein, Deputy Head of DKBA Saw Tar Khu and Central Communication Head Saw

Kyaw Than Htay, Vice-Chairman Dr Naw Ka Paw Htoo of KNU/KNLA-PC and Central Committee member Saw Aung Kaung Shwe, Central Executive Committee member Khun Min Thein of PNLO and central committee member Khun Zwe Hto, Secretary (1) of RCSS Sao Sai Ngin and Central Executive Committee member Sao Saung Han,

First, Committee Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae explained the invitation of the government to ethnic armed organizations to peace processes, reduction of conflicts, the building of trust, political dialogue, state stability, regional development and current conditions regarding peace.

Then, the representatives of ethnic armed organizations discussed their opinions on



The National Solidarity and Peace-making Negotiate Committee meets the ethnic armed organizations-EAOs that signed NCA.

peace processes respectively.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae highlighted the basic requirements for peace and further work plans.

The National Solidarity and Peace-making Negotiate Committee also separately met ethnic armed organizations, which attended the event and discussed the peace process, health and regional development programmes. After the meetings, the officials gave presents to them. — MNA

Two-day ethnic representatives' meeting (forum) launched in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint makes the speech at the ethnic representatives' meeting (forum).

THE opening ceremony of the ethnic representatives' meeting (forum) aiming to strengthen the ethnic solidarity and Union spirit was organized in Nay Pyi Taw according to the COVID-19 health

rules yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Saw Tun Aung Myint, Deputy

Minister U Zaw Aye Maung, State Administration Council advisory board member Dr Salai Andrew Ngun Cung Lian, former region/state ethnic affairs ministers, facilitators and relevant officials of

the ministry concerned.

First, Union Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint highlighted the holding of the two-day forum to strengthen ethnic unity, cooperation of departments and organizations, support the peace processes and peace-related matters and ensure state stability in the future. He also added that the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee – UPDJC will discuss the peacemaking processes, measures to ensure ethnic unity, ethnic affairs and NCA, ethnic unity and proper facts for peace during the two-day forum.

He also said all should discuss based on the outcomes of the discussion to accelerate in building a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system, enduring peace for the entire nation and unity.

During the first session of the first-day meeting, Union Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint discussed the peacemaking processes phase (1) of UPDJC while Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing talked briefed measures to strengthen the national unity.

At noon, Deputy Minister U Zaw Aye Maung focused on ethnic affairs and NCA phase (1) and SAC advisory board member Dr Salai Andrew Ngun Cung Lian on ethnic unity of respective regions.

Then, the attendees of the meeting coordinated the discussion dividing them into three groups.

The forum will bring benefits to ethnic unity and peacemaking processes and be held on 28 and 29 March. — MNA

MoI Union Minister attends welcome ceremony for MRTV fresher staff, capacity-building training

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn attended a ceremony held to welcome the fresher staff and to open the capacity-building training of the Myanma Radio and Television in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

While addressing the ceremony, the Union minister said emphasis is being placed on staffing and capacity building of new employees to improve the quality of news and programmes presented in line with the changing technologies and to create new contents, adding that it can be seen the activities of MRTV can only be done with the cooperation of all.

He urged the new employees to adhere to the code of conduct and rules and to strive to become good and skillful through continuous learning. He added that the Prime Minister values the MRTV and that he



MoI Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn addresses the event to welcome the MRTV newcomer staff in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



instructed to be sustainable and reliable for the people during his attendance at the 75th Diamond Jubilee celebrations on MRTV. Afterwards, Director General of the MRTV U Ye Naing provided new employees with

office uniforms. The MRTV Capacity-Building Training will be conducted from 28 March to 1 April and a total of 284 employees will be attended. Teachers and departmental officials will lecture the

code of conduct and rules to be followed, and duties and responsibilities according to each department. After the ceremony, the Union minister watched the rehearsal of the MRTV staff

for Thingyan dances and provided cash awards to respective dance troupes. He also visited the day-school of the MRTV and inspected arrangements for the children of the employees. — MNA

MoC Union Minister meets MRCCI Chairman, members



The virtual meeting between the MoC Union Minister and the MRCC Chair and members in progress.

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan organized a virtual meeting with the MRCCI (Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry) Chairman, Central Executive Committee members and new Executive Committee members yesterday. During the meeting, the Union Minister explained the economic policy of the government and ministry and urged the MRCCI members to work together with private and government to develop the trade sector, strengthen the trade association and be close with partner organizations. The deputy minister, the

permanent secretary and directors-general coordinated the discussion. Afterwards, the UMFCOI President explained the cooperation works of partner organizations, private and governmental departments and reported on the set-up of the organization, duties and ongoing processes, while other officials presented challenges in the trade sector and their suggestions. The Union minister stressed the necessary things and concluded the meeting. The meeting was attended by the MoC deputy minister, officials of the UMFCOI and MRCCI. — MNA

163 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 28 March, total figure rises to 611,021

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **611,021** after **163** new cases were reported on 28 March 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **568,818** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **19,430** without casualties. —MNA

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Yepokegyi Village, a potential tourist destination in the future

YEPOKEGYI Village in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region, has become famous for its children who preserve the traditional San-yit-wine hairstyle (a style of hairdo with a top knot and a circular fringe). Children in this village, both boys and girls, traditionally keeps this hairstyle from five years of age until they become fifteen or sixteen.

The name “Yepokegyi” is derived from “Yezalokegyi” which refers to the lake in the form of a bird’s crop located on the east side of the village. The village is eight miles from Shauktaw Village and can be accessed within a 25-minute drive from Pwintbyu.

Despite the improved village roads, expansion of schools and the rising standard of living, chil-

dren are retaining their cultural heritage, the hairdo, which are attracting more and more tourists.

The village is now home to more than 700 residents with the San-yit-wine hairstyle out of the 3,400 total population, according to U Lu Win, the village administrator. The elders of the village said that this traditional hairdo has been kept in Yepokegyi village for about 200 years.

Due to the beauty of the lake, the village monastery, smooth roads, young women fetching water and weaving, it is going to be a tourist destination for photographers, painters and tourists who are looking for this kind of cultural characteristics. — Zeya Htet (Minbu)/GNLM



Village children used to play one of the traditional games in Myanmar.



Village damsels are seen fetching water in a traditional style.



The young help the old having a bath.



Village beauties are seen in one of the donation processions.



Village boys and girls are pictured in their traditional hairdo.

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

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

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

Yesterday, doctors and nurses

es from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 5,167 people from six townships in Mon and Kayin States, 635 people from Tamway and Yankin Townships in Yangon Region, 13,709 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 12,495 from twelve townships in Rakhine State, 44,550 people from seven townships in Mandalay Region, 320 people from Toungoo Township in Bago Region

It is reported that officials from the respective Military commands visited the site and coordinated the necessary work.

— MNA



An elderly woman in Toungoo Township in Bago Region gets vaccination against COVID-19.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, commodities, crude oil, vehicles, motorcycles sized

SUPERVISED by the Anti-illegal Trade Steering Committee, efforts are being made to take effective action against illegal trade activities under the law.

On 25 March, the Kengtung Customs Department of Shan State seized undocumented 1,400 bags of garlic worth K16,800,000 from a 12-wheel truck worth K40,000,000 heading to Taunggyi from Kengtung near the Kengphaung post. The official took action under the Customs Law.

On 26 March, the Kengtung Township Customs Department also confiscated K2,340,000 worth of undocumented foodstuffs from a vehicle worth K12,000,000 at the same place and took action under the Customs Law.

On 27 March, the combined inspection team of Kayin State conducted inspections at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) joint checkpoint and seized K2,630,000 worth of electronic materials and shoes from two trucks heading to Yangon from Myawady. They also took action under the Customs Law.



Illegal teak is seized in Bago Region.

Similarly, the Mayanchaung checkpoint of Mon State also captured K1,366,800 worth of foodstuffs from a vehicle heading to Mandalay from Myawady and charged under the Customs Law.

On the same day, the Magway Region anti-illegal trade agents also seized 38 gallons of illegal crude oil worth K64,470 in Minbu Township of Minbu District and took action under the Public Property Protection Act.

On 28 March, the Bago Region Forest Department seized K8,010,860 worth of 41.6136 tonnes of illegal timbers in the Bago and Thayawady districts and took action under the For-

est Law.

Moreover, the combined inspection team consisting of Myanmar police members also confiscated four unregistered motorcycles worth K1,200,000 in Htigyaing Township of Katha District in Sagaing Region and took action under the Export and Import Law, and the Forest Department seized 1.3090 tonnes of illegal teak worth K392,700 in Bamauk Township of Katha District and charged under the Forest Law.

Therefore, a total of 18 arrests (estimated value of K84,804,830) were made from 25 to 28 March, according to the committee. — MNA

Illegal drugs seized in some townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a passenger vehicle at the Mahlwetaung combined checkpoint in Kaleinaung, Yephayu Township on the evening of 27 March and seized 146,250 stimulant tablets from the vehicle.

On the same day, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force also seized 110,000 stimulant tablets from the vehicle ridden by Aung Ko Ko (a) Aung

Ko near Tayoketan village, Myeik (South) village-tract in Myeik Township.

Similarly, on the same day, 5,850 stimulant tablets and 0.01 kilogramme of heroin from a motorcycle ridden by Kyaw Lin in PyinOoLwin Township, and 9,900 stimulant tablets from a vehicle in Yankin Township, were seized, and action is being taken against the arrested suspects under the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to the Myanmar Police Force. — MNA



Win Htay, Wai Phyo Aung and Ye Min Tun (aka) Saw Tin Maung are seen together with seized drugs and saloon.

Woman sentenced to life imprisonment for human trafficking

A woman was sentenced to life imprisonment for trafficking a 29-year old woman to China for profiteering, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

Ma Maw Maw Lwin (a) Zin

Mar Htay (a) Arr Li persuaded the woman who lived in Salin Township, Magway Region, that working at a restaurant in China would make Yuan 1,300 per month. She sold her to a

Chinese man when she arrived in China for forced marriage.

A case was filed against her at the Linzin Area Police Station in Salin Township under Section 24 of the Anti-Traf-

ficking in Persons Law. As she has been sentenced to 10 years in prison at Lweje Area Police Station under Section 24 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. As she committed

repeated human trafficking case, the Minbu District Court sentenced her to life imprisonment under Sections 24/31 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. — MNA

Price of rice rises in domestic market

THE domestic price of rice has increased according to Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association, Rice Wholesale Centre (Wahdan).

Currently, the price of a 108-pound bag of rice is ranging between K47,000-K50,000 for Paw San, K53,000-K55,000 for Kyar Pyan Shae, K39,500 -K41,000 for special Khon Ni, K32,500- K33,500 for 90-day rice in the domestic market.

Similarly, the price of a 108-pound bag of rice was ranged between K39,000-K40,000 for Paw San, K46,000-K48,000 for Kyar Pyan Shae, K31,000 - K32,000 for Khon Ni Shae, K2,9,000-K30,000 for 90-day rice on 1 March.

There is, therefore, a gap of K3,500-K10,000 per 108-pound rice bag in a month.

The rise in the price of rice can be attributed to an increase in the paddy price, according to the rice traders.

Currently, the price of



Under the guidance of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association and Rice Exporter Companies are selling rice at an affordable price, roaming about the city by the cars for the consumers in Yangon Region.

paddy is surging because of the lower supply of paddy. And, the Paw San was priced at over K1 million per 100 baskets while the Emahta monsoon paddy was

ranged from K708,000-K800,000 per 100 baskets.

Under the guidance of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association and Rice Exporter Companies are

selling rice at an affordable price, roaming about the city by the cars for the consumers in Yangon Region.

They are selling for K1,000 per basket for low-grade rice and K1,700 per basket for Paw San rice.

This mobile sale scheme is being implemented by MRF, Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association, rice wholesale centre (Wahdan), traders and brokers with a view to offering the rice at a fairer price starting from 14 September 2021.

About one to five 108-pound bags can be individually purchased. Those who want to buy them can come and buy at the Wahdan rice wholesale centre located at No 100 between Lanthit and Wahdan streets, Port Compound, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon through the contact numbers (09 421167474 and 01218266~68) of the centre. — NN/GNLM

Prices of Myanma traditional musical instrument drums vary on specification, design



The drums are exported to Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei. As Myanmar musicians working abroad offer to buy them, we sent them to foreign markets.

THE prices of Myanma traditional musical instruments vary depending on the design and specification, said Ko Hein Htet, a traditional drum maker in Mandalay.

“The prices of drums used in Myanmar traditional orchestra move in the range of K600,000 to K1 million depending on the specification. The drums are exported to Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei. As Myanmar musicians working abroad offer to buy them, we sent them to foreign markets. The drums used in the traditional orchestra are different from other purposes,” he elaborated.

Myanmar’s traditional orchestra (Saing Waing) is composed of a circle of 21 drums.

“The makers also offer per-

sonalized items. It takes about two months to purchase an order. The makers usually search gum-kino timber for raw materials. Gum-kino timber is worth K3 million to K4.5 million per tonne. As the price of raw materials is exorbitantly high, the markers hunt them in the forest instead. The drums made of gum-kino timber is of high quality rather than those made of Albizia leb-bek,” he explained.

Furthermore, the price of the leather used in drums depends on China’s market. The leather is purchased from a butchery. If Chinese traders buy the leather, the price will rise. At present, the price of leather is pretty low due to lack of Chinese demand,” he added.— Lu Lay/ GNLM

Gold trading volume data collected under guidance of steering committee

UNDER the guidance of the Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market, the gold trading volume data is being collected, said Chair U Myo Myint of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

The data of the trading volume of the gold and jewellery shops in the Yangon Region and the association’s trading data have to be reported to the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

“The committee held a meeting on 12 March and the deputy governor of the Central

Bank of Myanmar directed us to collect the actual trading figure of the gold trading in the region, whether it is export to India or Thailand or anywhere else. If the trading data is compiled, the officials concerned will take necessary measures to enhance the gold market to meet the international standard,” U Myo Myint elaborated.

There is no accurate data on gold exports, he added.

The officials of the committee, subcommittee, Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association and YGEA discussed matters regarding gold trading and export

market data on 11 March 2022.

The meeting highlighted matters concerning the gold production condition, trading situations, export and domestic trading data, formation of separate teams to conduct the inspection tour to set the standards in line with the international criteria, determining the duties and responsibilities of the pricing, inspecting the trading situations of the importers and exporters along with the related financial institutions and other coordination matters in respect of the subcommittees. — NN/ GNLM



Gold jewellery is seen at one of the gold outlets in Yangon.

Save the environment by efficiently using freshwater

MYANMAR possesses 16 per cent of the water sources of Southeast Asian countries as well as 12 per cent of Asia. Hence, the government is striving to supply clean drinking water to all villages facing shortages of drinking water in 2031.

In summer, three dry zones such as Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions are facing a scarcity of drinking water. Moreover, other regions and states are also encountering shortages of water, based on climate change and environmental degradation.

Due to the consequent impacts of climate change, Myanmar loses some water sources. Lakes and wells are dried out in summer. Some irrigation facilities face a lesser volume of water before the summer.

Generally, the people are to emphasize efficient utilization of freshwater sources such as drinking water for consumption and underground water tapping for agricultural purposes. All the people need to take practice for use of water as saving the environment to be greened in order to last the long term existence of water sources in the country.

imizing waste and loss. On the other hand, relevant authorities need to sink tube wells to pump out the underground water for local sufficiency of drinking water.

Storing water in hand is a proper way of preventing the danger of fire in summer as Myanmar is located in the tropical region. Actually, drinking water is a tool to shift the nature of society endowed with health facilities. Generally, the people are to emphasize efficient utilization of freshwater sources such as drinking water for consumption and underground water tapping for agricultural purposes.

All the people need to take practice for use of water as saving the environment to be greened in order to last the long term existence of water sources in the country.

■ ■ ■

COVID-19: After 2 years, India resumes regular international flights from 27 March

Parliamentary Standing Committee for Civil Aviation has praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to timely restrict international flight services to and from India during the peak of COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

NEARLY after two years of the pandemic, India is all set to resume regular international flights from 27 March, according to an order issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

The order said that Scheduled Foreign Carriers have applied for approval of their international schedule. The Summer Schedule 2022 is effective from 27 March 2022, till 29 October this year.

A total of 60 foreign airlines of 40 countries including Mauritius, Malaysia, Thailand, Turkey, the United States of America, Iraq and others have been given the approval to operate 1783 frequencies to/from India during Summer Schedule 2022.

However, there are a few new airlines which include India Salam Air, Air Arabia Abu Dhabi, Qantas

and American airline, to begin airline operations with India.

Notably, India had suspended the international flights since March 2020, due to the COVID pandemic.

Welcomed the decision

Meanwhile, Parliamentary Standing Committee for Civil Aviation Chairman TG Venkatesh welcomed the decision to resume the international flight operations from 27 March after two years of suspension due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"There is good news for international travelers and the government that flights have started all over the world from today. This is a welcome decision by the Government of India and I congratulate Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia who took the right decision and fulfilled the dreams of Indian Aviation and Prime Ministers of India," TG Venkatesh told ANI.

TG Venkatesh, Chairman of Civil Aviation Parliamentary standing Committee, before announcing regular international flight operations, had convened several meetings and held detailed discussions with relevant stakeholders including the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and Airport Authority of India (AAI) with all airline operators regarding the decision to resume regular international flight operations.

Advice to the stakeholders

"Our committee on civil aviation has suggested many things to do before starting regular international flight services, we have given advice to the stakeholders



Notably, India had suspended the international flights since March 2020, due to the COVID pandemic. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI**

to don't compromise with safety and security of the passengers and including airlines crew, put HEPA filter to inside the aircraft and airports, all international passengers list to be shared with states Governments and monitoring their health condition minutely," he told ANI.

TG Venkatesh's committee

has praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to timely restrict international flight services to and from India during the peak of COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

Nearly after two years of the pandemic, India on Sunday resumed regular international flights.

"A total of 60 foreign airlines of 40 countries including Mauritius, Malaysia, Thailand, Turkey, the United States of America, Iraq and others have been given the approval to operate 1783 frequencies to/from India during Summer Schedule 2022," DGCA told ANI.

SOURCE : ANI

Ventilation systems in schools can reduce COVID-19 cases: Italian study

Compared to levels in classrooms with no ventilation systems, COVID-19 cases were reduced by 40 per cent when classroom air was completely replaced every 25 minutes.



While ventilation is important for good indoor air quality, consider it as part of a larger effort to provide a healthy school environment during the pandemic. Students wearing face masks attend a face-to-face class at a college in Hanoi, Vietnam, 14 February 2022. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/VNA VIA XINHUA**

IMPROVING school ventilation systems can help reduce COVID-19 cases among students, an Italian study released on Tuesday showed. The study, conducted by the Hume Foundation, an Italian think tank, involved 10,441 classrooms in Marche in central Italy, of which 316 classrooms were equipped with mechanical ventilation systems while the other 10,125 were not.

In the 316 classrooms with mechanical ventilation systems, there were far fewer cases of COVID-19, and the number of infections reduced in step with the quality of the school's ventilation system, according to the study.

Compared to levels in class-

rooms

Compared to levels in classrooms with no ventilation systems, COVID-19 cases were reduced by 40 per cent when classroom air was completely replaced every 25 minutes.

When the air was completely replaced every 15 minutes, cases were lower; and in cases where the air was replaced every 10 minutes, reported COVID-19 cases were much lower; the study showed. Most schools in Italy lack mechanical ventilation systems, according to local reports. Italy's COVID-19 safety rules require teachers to open classroom windows when feasible.

The study, carried out be-

tween September 2021 and January 2022, said that cases in schools could drop from 250 per 100,000 students to 50 per 100,000 students by installing efficient ventilation systems. The news came as COVID-19 infections started to rise in Italy after a lull from early February to early March. Italy recorded 96,365 new cases Tuesday, the highest daily new cases since 8 February. While ventilation is important for good indoor air quality, consider it as part of a larger effort to provide a healthy school environment during the pandemic.

COVID-19 spreads mainly between people who are in close contact with one another. When indoors, there is less airflow to

disperse and dilute viral particles when exhaled, so the risk of spread of COVID-19 to another person nearby is higher than being outdoors.

Proper ventilation used with other actions

Improvements to indoor air alone will not stop the spread of COVID-19, but proper ventilation used with other actions can help reduce the spread of the disease. Use ventilation considerations in conjunction with other actions, such as wearing a face covering, staying at least 6 feet away from others, frequent hand hygiene, and cleaning and disinfecting surfaces that are touched a lot.

SOURCE : XINHUA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of Service Organization transferred and appointed

THE State Administration Council has transferred and appointed Dr Htay Aung, Rector of Loikaw University of the Higher Education Department under the Ministry of Education, as Rector of Lashio University of the same ministry from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 28 March 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and a few cloud over the North Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 29 March 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Chin States, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Taninthayi regions and Shan State and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and isolated in Shan, Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 March 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 March 2022: Partly Cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 March 2022: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Scientists find microplastics in blood for first time

SCIENTISTS have discovered microplastics in human blood for the first time, warning that the ubiquitous particles could also be making their way into organs.

The tiny pieces of mostly invisible plastic have already been found almost everywhere else on Earth, from the deepest oceans to the highest mountains as well as in the air, soil and food chain.

A Dutch study published in the *Environment International* journal on Thursday examined blood samples from 22 anonymous, healthy volunteers and found microplastics in nearly 80 per cent of them.

Half of the blood samples showed traces of PET plastic, widely used to make drink bot-

tles, while more than a third had polystyrene, used for disposable food containers and many other products.

"This is the first time we have actually been able to detect and quantify" such microplastics in human blood, said Dick Vethaak, an ecotoxicologist at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

"This is proof that we have plastics in our body — and we shouldn't," he told AFP, calling for further research to investigate how it could be impacting health.

"Where is it going in your body? Can it be eliminated? Excreted? Or is it retained in certain organs, accumulating maybe, or is it even able to pass the blood-brain barrier?"

The study said the microplastics could have entered the body by many routes: via air, water or food, but also in products such as particular toothpastes, lip glosses and tattoo ink.

"It is scientifically plausible that plastic particles may be transported to organs via the bloodstream," the study added.

Vethaak also said there could be other kinds of microplastics in blood his study did not pick up — for example, it could not detect particles larger than the diameter of the needle used to take the sample.

The study was funded by the Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development as well as Common



Microplastics had already been spotted in oceans, air and food — now researchers have found it in human blood. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Seas, a UK-based group aimed at reducing plastic pollution.

Alice Horton, anthropogenic contaminants scientist at

Britain's National Oceanography Centre, said the study "unequivocally" proved there were microplastics in blood. — AFP ■

Money at the heart of international efforts to save nature

CAN humanity curb spending that harms the world's biodiversity and instead focus funding on protecting it?

That question is at the heart of international negotiations in Geneva, which will set the stage for a crucial United Nations COP 15 biodiversity summit in China later this year.

Almost 200 countries are due to adopt a global framework this year to safeguard nature by mid-century from the destruction wrought by humanity, with a key milestone of 30 per cent protected by 2030.

These ambitions will only be met with a new approach to biodiversity funding and a

rethink of the huge sums spent on subsidies harmful to nature, according to observers.

Subsidies for things like fossil fuels, agriculture and fishing can often result in environmental destruction and encourage unsustainable levels of production and consumption, experts say.

The exact figure that the world spends on these harmful subsidies is debated, although the group Business for Nature estimates that it could be as much as \$1.8 trillion every year, or two per cent of global gross domestic product.

Financing in general is among the more challenging

issues up for debate at the Geneva meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which runs until Tuesday.

"Resource mobilization at this meeting has become a thorny issue," said Ghanaian academic Alfred Oteng-Yeboah, who has played a key role in international efforts to protect biodiversity.

"It is a balancing act. At the global level money has continuously been a problem."

The draft text contains the aim "to redirect, reallocate, reform or eliminate harmful incentives", reducing them by at least 500 billion dollars per year. — AFP ■

Consuming artificial sweeteners linked to cancer risk: study

CONSUMING artificial sweetener could increase the risk of developing cancer, a large-scale study suggested Thursday, but experts not involved in the research said it was not enough proof to consider changing current health advice.

Sweeteners are consumed by millions every day in products like diet soda, partly as a way to avoid weight gain from sugar — but how healthy these substitutes are themselves has long been a matter of controversy.

To assess the cancer risk of sweeteners, researchers analyzed the data of more than 100,000 people in France who self-reported their diet, lifestyle and medical history in intervals between 2009-2021 as part of the NutriNet-Sante study.

They then compared consumption to the rate of cancer, while adjusting for other variables such as smoking, poor diet, age and physical activity.

The participants who consumed the largest amount of sweeteners, "beyond the median amount, had an increased cancer risk of 13 per cent compared to non-consumers," Mathilde Touvier, research director at France's INSERM institute and the study's supervisor, told AFP.

The study, published in the journal *PLOS Medicine*, said that a higher cancer risk was particularly seen with sweeteners aspartame and acesulfame potassium — both used in many soft drinks including Coke Zero. — AFP ■



New research suggests a possible link between cancer and artificial sweeteners, which are widely used in diet soft drinks. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Scientists develop new combo treatment for head and neck cancer

AN Israeli-led research team has developed a potential new treatment for head and neck cancer (HNC), using a targeted drug and immunotherapy, Ben Gurion University (BGU) in southern Israel announced on Sunday.

The findings, co-authored by Israeli, Chinese, French, German and US researchers, were published in the *Journal for Immunotherapy of Cancer* on Sunday.

Through pre-clinical study, the researchers found a new treatment combination of Tra-

metinib, a cancer drug that brings a type of killer white blood cells to the cancer site, and Anti-PD-1, an immunotherapy that not kills cancer cells directly but blocks a pathway on immune cells to make them more engaged in fighting tumours. In traditional clinical treatment, Trametinib has not shown efficiency in inhibiting the targeted hyper-active pathway of cancer cells, said the research.

Researchers then analyzed tumour-host interaction that facilitates immune escape in tu-

mour-bearing mice, and found that using a short Trametinib treatment can make resistant tumours more sensitive to anti-PD-1 immunotherapy.

"We sincerely hope that oncologists will test this treatment combination in HNC patients, as improving immunotherapy efficacy is crucial for prolonging the survival of cancer patients," the study's correspondent author Moshe Elkabets was quoted by the BGU statement as saying. — Xinhua ■

NEWS
IN BRIEF

Malaysia reports 16,863 new COVID-19 cases, 37 new deaths

MALAYSIA recorded 16,863 new COVID-19 infections as of midnight Sunday, bringing the total tally to 4,138,867, according to the health ministry. The newly reported infections included 238 imported cases and 16,625 local transmissions, showed data released on the ministry's website. A further 37 deaths have been reported from COVID-19, bringing the death toll to 34,751.

The ministry reported 26,171 new recoveries, bringing the total number of COVID-19 patients cured and discharged from hospitals to 3,870,937. Of the 233,179 active cases currently, 299 are being held in intensive care and 187 of those are in need of assisted breathing. — Xinhua ■

S Korea reports 187,213 new COVID-19 cases

SOUTH Korea reported 187,213 new COVID-19 cases as of midnight Sunday compared to 24 hours ago, raising the total number of infections to 12,003,054, the health authorities said Monday.

The daily caseload was down from 318,130 recorded in the previous day due to less virus tests over the weekend, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA). The recent resurgence was driven by infections in the Seoul metropolitan area amid the spread of the Omicron variant of the virus.

Of the new cases, 34,189 were Seoul residents. The number of newly infected people living in Gyeonggi province and the western port city of Incheon was 50,574 and 11,726, respectively. — Xinhua ■

Half of Shanghai in lockdown to curb Covid-19 outbreak



A police officer (C), wearing a protective gear, controls access to a tunnel in the direction of Pudong district in lockdown as a measure against the Covid-19 coronavirus, in Shanghai on 28 March 2022. PHOTO: AFP

MILLIONS of people in China's financial hub were confined to their homes on Monday as the eastern half of Shanghai went into lockdown to curb the country's biggest ongoing Covid-19 outbreak.

The move, announced late Sunday, caused a run on grocery stores by residents who have become exasperated with authorities' inability to snuff out the outbreak despite nearly three weeks of increasingly disruptive measures.

Authorities are imposing a two-phase lockdown of the city of about 25 million people to carry out mass testing.

The government had sought to avoid the hard lockdowns regularly deployed in other Chinese cities, opting instead for rolling localized lockdowns to keep Shanghai's economy running.

But Shanghai has in recent weeks become China's Covid hotspot, and on Monday another record high was reported, with 3,500 new confirmed cases in the city.

The area locked down on Monday is the sprawling eastern district known as Pudong, which includes the main international airport and glittering financial centre. — AFP ■



In this picture taken on 23 March 2022, a school girl holds a placard as she watches health workers perform a street play to raise awareness on the tuberculosis disease, at a school in Dharavi slum in Mumbai. PHOTO: AFP

After Covid, India tries to get on top of tuberculosis

WHEN Covid-19 ripped through India in 2020-21, several million people are thought to have died. Desperate efforts to stem the pandemic hurt the battle against another huge killer: tuberculosis.

India is the home to a quarter of the world's TB infections and an estimated half a million people died of the curable lung disease in 2020 in the South Asian nation — a third of the global toll.

Because of the pandemic, global deaths from the "silent killer" rose in 2020 for the first time in more than a decade, reversing years of progress, the World Health Organization says.

In India, the number of new cases detected in 2020 actually fell by a quarter to around 1.8 million due to Covid restrictions and as the pandemic diverted resources.

Nearly two-thirds of people with TB symptoms did not seek treatment, according to a 2019-21 nationwide government survey released on World TB Day on Thursday.

Ashna Ashesh, 29, diagnosed with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis four years ago, saw how patients, many isolated and jobless because of lockdowns, struggled for support.

"They were incredibly

afraid... They were reaching out for any kind of information that could be offered about how to access tests and medication," the public health professional with the Survivors Against TB collective told AFP.

"The impact has been immense... Covid has set back the fight against TB quite significantly. A recovery plan for TB is critical, both in India and globally."

India now faces an uphill battle to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of ending the spread of TB by 2025, five years earlier than the UN's target. — AFP ■

COVID-19 cases simmer down across Aussie states

THE daily cases of COVID-19 have begun to stabilize in Australia's eastern most populous states, abating initial fears that the Omicron BA.2 sub-variant would trigger a new wave.

The daily cases in New South Wales (NSW) fell to 16,199 on Monday, marking the fourth consecutive day in which cases dropped from a high of 24,803 reported last Thursday. However, the number of patients in hospitals with the virus jumped by 100 overnight to 1,270.

In the nation's second-largest state, Victoria, 8,739 new cases were reported on Monday after a

peak of just over 10,000 late last week.

Similarly, cases in Queensland have eased off over the weekend falling to 7,816 from over 11,000 late last week.

Queensland's Health Minister Yvette D'Ath said on Sunday that they are expecting the peak is yet to come. "We're not sure when this wave is going to peak but we expect some time in April," said D'Ath.

Fears that the more transmissible BA.2 sub-variant, which has fast become the dominant variant across Australia, would lead to a sharp uptick in cases

has so far not been seen.

In a recent interview with Xinhua, Chair of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of South Australia, Dr Adrian Esterman said the variant would likely present a challenge as states look to live with the virus.

"As a result of the increasing dominance of BA.2, plus the removal of public health measures, we are starting to see increases in case numbers in most states and territories."

"At the same time, we are approaching the flu season, which could be particularly bad this year." — Xinhua ■

Japan film “Drive My Car” wins best international feature at Oscars

DIRECTOR Ryusuke Hamaguchi’s “Drive My Car” won best international feature at the 94th US Academy Awards in Los Angeles on Sunday, becoming the fifth Japanese film to bag the prestigious Oscar for the category after having garnered a string of international accolades.

The last Japanese film to win the award, which used to be known as best foreign language film, was Yojiro Takita’s “Okuribito” (Departures) in 2009.

Holding the Oscar statuette, Hamaguchi expressed gratitude to the actors and others involved in the film based on a short story of the same title by world-renowned Japanese author Haruki Murakami. He closed his speech by raising the trophy and saying, “We’ve got it, everyone. Thank



Photo taken on 27 March 2022, shows the red carpet in front of the venue for the US Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles. **PHOTO: KYODO**

you.”

The film depicts a widowed

stage actor and director negotiating waves of grief brought

on by the sudden death of his wife who left behind unresolved questions. He finds solace in the company of a female chauffeur assigned to drive for him as he comes to terms with his loss.

The film expanded on Murakami’s “Drive My Car” by using elements of two of his other works in the same collection of short stories titled “Men Without Women.”

Since winning an award for best screenplay in the famed Cannes film festival in July last year, the brooding three-hour-long drama has received about 90 awards in Japan and abroad.

“Drive My Car” missed out on the best picture Oscar, although it made history as the first Japanese film to be nominated for the category. It also

missed best director and best adapted screenplay, with best picture won by “CODA” and best director awarded to Jane Campion for “The Power of the Dog.”

When the film was announced as the winner of the best international feature award, Hamaguchi, 43, hugged actors Hidetoshi Nishijima and Masaki Okada before going on stage. He looked at the statuette, saying, “Oh, you are the Oscar” and thanked the members of the Academy and those involved in the film, speaking mostly in English.

At the end of his speech, he congratulated actress Toko Miura, who played the driver of the red Saab 900 hatchback and was not present at the ceremony.

— Kyodo ■

UAE reaffirms OPEC+ commitment, says West must be ‘reasonable’



Minister of Energy and Infrastructure of the United Arab Emirates Suhail bin Mohamed al-Mazrouei speaks during the Atlantic Council’s Global Energy Forum in Dubai, on 28 March 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE United Arab Emirates on Monday urged Western countries to be “reasonable” in their expectations, underlining its commitment to the global OPEC+ energy alliance.

The grouping of the 13 members of the Saudi-led Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and their 10 allies, including Russia, is an “alliance to stay”.

“We always believe that whatever we do as countries, when it comes to production and this work, it needs always to stay out of politics,” said UAE’s Energy Minister Suhail al-Mazrouei during an energy

forum in Dubai.

A surge in prices and supply fears since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine last month have led to calls for OPEC to increase output.

But the OPEC+ group plans to boost production by just 400,000 barrels a day in April, the same pace as in past months.

“Russia is an important member and, leaving the politics aside, that volume... is needed today, and unless someone is willing to come and bring 10 million barrels, we don’t see that... someone can substitute Russia,” said Mazrouei. — AFP ■

India’s top multiplexes to merge to survive ‘streaming onslaught’

INDIA’S two largest multiplex operators are set to merge, the companies said, as the industry recovers from the pandemic and battles a surge in subscriptions to streaming platforms. Bollywood, India’s Hindi-language film industry, was worth \$2.5 billion in 2019 and is the world’s most prolific. Movies in English and other regional languages are also big business.

But pandemic lockdowns and restrictions sent the indus-

try into a tailspin, with multiplex chains suffering major losses and dozens of small cinemas going bust in the movie-mad nation.

“The film exhibition sector has been one of the worst impacted sectors on account of the pandemic,” PVR chairman Ajay Bijli said in a statement about the merger with INOX Leisure.

“Creating scale ... is critical for the long-term survival of the business and (to) fight the

onslaught of digital OTT (over-the-top) platforms,” he added.

The country of 1.4 billion people has attracted streaming giants Netflix, Amazon’s Prime Video and Disney’s Hotstar, all keen to tap into the boom in on-line audiences.

An upcoming merger of Sony’s India unit with local broadcaster ZEE is expected to replicate the success of Disney’s 2019 tie-up with homegrown streaming platform Hotstar. — AFP ■



A PVR cinema box office counter is pictured in New Delhi in 28 March 2022. India’s two largest multiplex operators are set to merge, the companies said, as the industry recovers from the pandemic and battles a surge in subscriptions to streaming platforms. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V XETHA BHUM VOY.NO. (1178W/E)

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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.
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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

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M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Markets mostly rise, eyes on Ukraine talks and Shanghai lockdown



A woman drives a scooter down a quiet street in Yangpu district, in Shanghai on 28 March, 2022. Millions of people in China's financial hub were confined to their homes on 28 March as the eastern half of Shanghai went into lockdown to curb the nation's biggest Covid outbreak. **PHOTO: AFP**

STOCK markets mostly rose Monday with traders hoping for progress in ceasefire talks between Russia and Ukraine this week, though gains were

tempered by a phased lockdown in Shanghai that led to fresh concerns about already strained supply chains.

that the Federal Reserve will become increasingly aggressive in its drive to bring down inflation continue to dampen sentiment, with Treasury

Growing expectations

yields — a gauge of future interest rates — surging.

With the war in Ukraine now in its second month, investors are hoping the two sides will be able to make inroads on ending the crisis when they meet in Turkey, either on Monday or Tuesday.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky said he hoped they would bring peace “without delay”, despite several previous rounds failing to overcome disagreements about Kyiv’s alignment with the West and Russia’s occupation of eastern parts of the country.

But there is a hope that Moscow could be willing to de-escalate as its troops struggle to break dogged resistance from its much smaller opponent.

— AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCL 16

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 16 VOY. NO. (003/22)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-3-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT-2** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CHI HUA

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR PENIDA VOY.NO. (110N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-3-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

North Korea’s Kim vows ‘overwhelming’ military power: state media



In this photo taken in Pyongyang on 25 March 2022, students of the Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce watch footage of the previous day’s launch of the Hwasong-17 missile — Pyongyang’s first ICBM test since 2017. PHOTO: AFP

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un has vowed to build up “overwhelming” and unstoppable military power, state media reported Monday, days after he presided over the nation’s biggest missile launch. Kim’s comments follow Pyongyang successfully carrying out the launch in defiance of crippling international sanctions on Thursday, the first time the North has fired an intercontinental ballistic missile at full range since 2017. Known as the Hwasong-17, the powerful ICBM was first unveiled in October 2020 and dubbed a “monster missile” by analysts. “Only when one is equipped with the formida-

ble striking capabilities, overwhelming military power that cannot be stopped by anyone, one can prevent a war, guarantee the security of the country and contain and put under control all threats and blackmails by the imperialists,” Kim told workers involved in the launch, KCNA reported. “We will continue to attain the goal of reinforcing national defence capabilities.” The missile launched Thursday — one of nearly a dozen North Korean weapons tested this year — appeared to have travelled higher and further than any previous ICBM tested by the nuclear-armed country, including one designed to strike anywhere on the US mainland. — AFP ■

Yoon seeks future-oriented approach to improve S Korea-Japan ties

SOUTH Korea’s president-elect Yoon Suk Yeol on Monday called for a future-oriented approach to help improve strained ties with Japan when he met with Tokyo’s Ambassador to South Korea Koichi Aiboshi. “South Korea and Japan are partners that share many tasks to tackle such as security and economic prosperity and, therefore, to overcome the current thorny relationships, it is needed to form a future-oriented partnership based on correct perspective toward history,” Yoon told Aiboshi, his spokeswoman Kim Eun Hye said. Ties between the two countries have sunk to their lowest point in decades due to historical disputes, including the issue of compensation for South

Korean wartime labourers who worked for Japanese firms, some against their will. In regard to North Korea’s recent indication it would lift a self-imposed moratorium on nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests, Yoon stressed the need for closer cooperation between South Korea, the United States, and Japan. “We have to make North Korea be assured that there is nothing it could earn through nuclear arms,” Yoon added. Aiboshi said North Korea’s provocations are regarded as a serious challenge to South Korea-Japan security as well as that of the wider world. He added that Japan hopes to cooperate closely with South Korea in pursuit of stability and pros-

perity in East Asia. Pyongyang fired a new ICBM last Thursday, bringing condemnation from the international community for violating UN Security Council resolutions. Yoon met with Aiboshi for 25 minutes Monday, their encounter coming after one originally scheduled for 17 March was postponed when the Japanese envoy became infected with the coronavirus. The president-elect and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida agreed on 11 March to improve bilateral ties and expressed their hope to meet in person when they spoke by phone for the first time after Yoon’s win in the 9 March election. — Kyodo ■

Philippines, US kick off large-scale joint military drills

THE Philippines and the United States on Monday kicked off their large-scale annual joint military drills in the Southeast Asian country. The participants in the exercise, codenamed Balikatan 2022, include 3,800 Filipino and 5,100 US military personnel, as well as observers from various armed forces in the region. As the largest iteration of the Philippines-US joint drills since 2015,

Balikatan 2022 will be conducted across the main Luzon island from 28 March to 8 April. According to the military, the drills will focus on “maritime security, amphibious operations, live-fire training, urban operations, aviation operations, counterterrorism, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.” It also includes a command post exercise that tests both forces’ ability to plan, command and

communicate in a simulated environment. Balikatan, a Tagalog phrase for “shoulder-to-shoulder,” is the most comprehensive among several regular Philippines-US joint military exercises. The Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) gives US troops a legal basis to be in the Southeast Asian country for bilateral exercises, and governs the conduct of US armed force personnel. — Xinhua ■

Japan’s GSDF marks launch of new electronic warfare unit

JAPAN’S Ground Self-Defence Force marked Monday the establishment of a new electronic warfare unit to manage related corps scattered across the country which are beefing up capabilities in the electromagnetic spectrum. The unit, composed of around 180 personnel nationwide, is tasked with detecting and analyzing potential adversaries’ communications and radar emissions. It will also be responsible for disrupting enemy communications and radar if called upon. A ceremony marking the unit’s launch was held Monday at the

GSDF’s Camp Asaka straddling Tokyo and Saitama Prefecture, where the unit headquarters is based. “It is essential that the unit (as a whole) effectively inhibit our adversaries’ ability to maximize our capabilities,” Yasutaka Nakasone, a parliamentary vice minister of defence, said during the ceremony. The unit headquarters was established on 17 March to address the country’s urgent need to improve its capabilities in the electromagnetic field, along with space and cyberspace, in the face of China and Russia’s military buildup. The unit will operate the ground



Photo taken on 27 March 2022, shows the Ground Self-Defence Force’s cutting-edge “network electronic warfare system,” dubbed NEWS, in Okinawa Prefecture. PHOTO: KYODO

force’s “network electronic warfare system,” dubbed NEWS that collects, analyzes and jams enemy radio waves in an integrated manner.

It aims to establish information superiority over potential adversaries. “Strengthening capability in the new fields is critical to achieving synergies

in combination with conventional domains and to responding appropriately to situations,” said Col. Hiromitsu Kadota, the unit head. — Kyodo ■

NEWS DIGEST

HERE are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

Zelensky ‘studying’ neutrality

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky says Kyiv’s negotiators are studying a Russian demand for Ukrainian neutrality, which Kyiv had previously rejected.

Speaking ahead of peace talks between Ukraine and Russia in Turkey, Zelensky says: “This point of the negotiations is understandable to me and it is being discussed, it is being carefully studied.”

He also concedes it will be “impossible” to push Russia out of all Ukrainian territory, saying to do so “would mean World War III”.

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No breakthrough in talks: Russia

The Kremlin says previous rounds of talks have made little progress.

“So far we cannot state any significant achievements or breakthroughs,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov says, while hailing the fact that the two sides were preparing for their first face-to-face talks in weeks.

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Biden comment ‘alarming’

The Kremlin on Monday says US President Joe Biden’s description of Putin on Saturday as a “butcher” who “cannot remain in power” is “alarming”.

“We will continue closely monitoring statements of the US president,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov says of the remarks.

Biden’s off-the-cuff remarks have been widely criticized, with the White House forced to clarify that he is not advocating regime change in Russia.

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Ukraine halts evacuations

Ukraine says it is pausing evacuations of civilians from war-scarred regions for fear of attacks by Russian troops on humanitarian corridors.

The foreign ministry describes the situation in the southern port city of Mariupol, where tens of thousands of civilians remain encircled by Russian forces, as “catastrophic”.

France, Greece and Turkey are trying to organize mass evacuation from the city.

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New fires in Chernobyl zone

“Significant” new fires have broken out in the exclusion zone around the defunct Chernobyl nuclear power plant, which is occupied by Russian forces, Ukrainian authorities say.

“It is impossible to control and extinguish fires in full due to the capture of the exclusion zone by the Russian occupation forces,” Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk says on Telegram.

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Heineken leaves Russia

Dutch brewer Heineken becomes the latest multinational to pull out of Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

Heineken says that it was “no longer sustainable nor viable” to remain in the country and said it would seek to “transfer” its business to a new owner, profit-free.

Source : AFP

Nearly 3.9 million people flee Ukraine: UN



Ukrainian evacuees wait in a hall of the train station in Przemyśl, near the Polish-Ukrainian border, on 28 March 2022, following Russia’s military invasion on Ukraine. PHOTO:AFP

NEARLY 3.9 million people have fled Ukraine since Russia’s invasion a month ago, UN figures showed Monday, with the flow continuing to slow.

The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, said 3,862,797 Ukrainians had fled the country — an increase of 41,748 from Sunday’s figures.

Around 90 per cent of them are women and children, it added.

Of those who have fled, 2.2 million have fled for neighbouring Poland, while more than half a million have made it to Romania. Nearly 300,000 have gone to Russia.

Before the crisis began a month ago, EU member Poland was home to around 1.5 million Ukrainians.

In total, more than 10 million people — over a quarter of the population in regions under government control before the 24 February invasion — are now thought to have fled their homes, including nearly 6.5 million who are internally displaced.

Ukraine’s refugee crisis is Europe’s worst since World War II.

The UN children’s agency, UNICEF, said Thursday that 4.3 million children — more than half of Ukraine’s estimated 7.5-million child population — had been forced to leave their homes.

It puts at some 1.5 million the number of those children who have become refugees, while another 2.5 million are displaced inside their war-ravaged country, it said. — AFP ■

Obituary

Shri R. Siva Narayana (Aged 77)

Shri R. Siva Narayana beloved father of Raju @ Aung Naing, Hay Mar, Sujatha, Kishore Kumar and Satish Kumar passed away peacefully on 25 March 2022 at 2:35 pm at Bahosi Hospital, Yangon and cremated on 26 March 2022 at Yay Wae Hindu cemetery.

Bereaved Family

Kremlin says Russia-Ukraine negotiations may continue in Turkey Tuesday

THE Russian and Ukrainian delegations will likely meet in Turkey on Tuesday, the Kremlin said Monday.

“The very fact that it was decided to continue in-person negotiations is important,” local media reported, citing Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

“Today, the delegation is leaving for Turkey... we expect that theoretically, talks could continue tomorrow,” he said, adding that the negotiations would unlikely resume today.

Peskov noted that while face-to-face negotiations are more focused, and both sides can cover more issues, there are still no clear signs of a breakthrough.

Meanwhile, David Arakhamia, a member of the Ukrainian delegation, told Interfax-Ukraine news agency on Monday that the next round of peace negotiations between Ukraine and Russia will start on Tuesday in Turkey.

The start of the negotiations has been postponed due to logistics issues, he added. On Sunday, Arakhamia wrote on Facebook that the talks will take place in Turkey on 28-30 March.

The Ukrainian and Russian delegations have held three rounds of negotiations in person in Belarus since 28 February, and the fourth one started on 14 March in the format of a video conference. — Xinhua ■

Ukraine urges UN to demilitarize area near Chernobyl plant

UKRAINE has asked the United Nations (UN) to take actions on demilitarizing the exclusion zone around the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (NPP), the government-run Ukrinform news agency reported on Monday.

“We demand that the UN Security Council take immediate measures to demilitarize the exclusion zone of the Chernobyl NPP and establish a special UN mission to eliminate the risk of recurrence of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster,” Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk was quoted by



A picture taken on 13 April 2021 shows the giant protective dome built over the sarcophagus covering the destroyed fourth reactor of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant ahead of the upcoming 35th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. PHOTO:AFP

the news agency as saying. Currently, there is a risk of damaging the confinement structures built over the Chernobyl destroyed nuclear power unit No 4 due to the hostilities and a large amount of ammunition in the area, Vereshchuk added.

On Sunday, Ukrainian Ombudswoman Lyudmyla Denisova said that forest fires, which broke out around the Chernobyl NPP due to hostilities, cover more than 10,000 hectares.

Ukrainian firefighters are unable to reach the area, which is controlled by Russian forces, Denisova added. The Chernobyl nuclear plant, some 110 km north of Kyiv, suffered one of the worst nuclear accidents in human history on 26 April 1986. — Xinhua ■

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.



PHOTO: IBSF

Myanmar snooker player Aung Phyo selected to compete in World Games

MYANMAR snooker player Aung Phyo has been selected to compete in the World Games in the United States from 7 to 17 July.

The Asian Billiards and Snooker Federation have selected Aung Phyo and several other players to compete in the tournament.

International Billiards and Snooker Federation and the Asian Billiards and Snooker Federation recently announced the list of players eligible to

compete in the tournament.

The Asian Billiards and Snooker Federation have selected eight players to compete in the 2022 Asian Billiards and Snooker Championships in Qatar this month, featuring Myanmar player Aung Phyo.

Aung Phyo competed in the World Snooker Championships and the Asian Snooker Championships this month and won the joint third prize at the Asian Championships.

As a result, Aung Phyo is on the Asian Billiards and Snooker Federation shortlist.

Aung Phyo has been re-selected as Myanmar's snooker player and will compete in the 31st SEA Games in Viet Nam in May.

The World Games are not a regular event for the Myanmar sports team but have competed frequently and the team will return this year after competing in 2009. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Egypt will defend with 16 players against Senegal, vows Queiroz

EGYPT coach Carlos Queiroz says his team "will defend with 16 players" when they protect a 1-0 lead over Senegal on Tuesday in the second leg of an African World Cup play-off.

"What I mean by 16 players is that each one must make the effort of two players, not just one player," said the Mozambique-born former Real Madrid manager and twice Manchester United assistant manager.

"We deservedly won the first leg against the best team in Africa and now we are going to Senegal to fight for every metre, every loose ball. Every Egyptian must double his efforts."

A play-off that pits Liverpool stars Mohamed Salah of Egypt and Sadio Mane of Senegal against each other is a repeat of the recent Africa Cup of Nations final, which Sen-

egal won on penalties after a 0-0 draw.

Here, AFP Sport looks ahead to the second legs on Tuesday that will decide which five African teams go to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Senegal v Egypt

Senegal coach Aliou Cisse says he does not want to see supporters wearing suits in the recently completed Stade du Senegal near Dakar when they confront Egypt. "We need more fanaticism when it comes to supporting our national team, like they do in Egypt and other north African countries," he says. "Those who wear suits to football matches must give their tickets to Senegalese supporters who wear football jerseys. We want to see only green, yellow and red (national flag colours) in the stands." —AFP ■

North Macedonia have '90 minutes to fulfil' World Cup dream

THE North Macedonia players have "90 minutes to fulfil" the "dream of a whole country" said key midfielder Elif Elmas ahead of Tuesday's 2022 World Cup play-off against Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal.

North Macedonia travel to Portugal in the hope of claiming a second notable scalp, having eliminated European champions Italy last Thursday, and reaching their first ever World Cup finals.

"Frankly this might be one of the most difficult and most exciting matches for all of us," said Elmas on Sunday.

"We have 90 minutes to fulfil our childhood dream, not only ours, but of the whole country.

"Simply, we have to know that we can't miss this chance and we have to 'burn' on the pitch in order to get to Qatar."

North Macedonia are bidding for a fourth successive away victory but face a Portugal side



North Macedonia's players attend a training session in Skopje on 26 March 2022. North Macedonia will face Portugal in their FIFA World Cup 2022 qualification playoff soccer match on 29 March 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

which will feature an extra-motivated Ronaldo, who at 37 is unlikely to have another chance of appearing at football's quadrennial global showpiece.

"We beat a giant like Italy, but still have one more step towards the World Cup. We dream of a victory on Tuesday," said winger

Ezgjani Aljoski.

"We do not want to mess something up in Ronaldo's career, but we believe that we can win against Portugal."

Portugal and North Macedonia have played each other just once before, producing a goalless draw in a 2012 friendly. —AFP ■