

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VIII, No. 287, 15th Waning of Pyatho 1383 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Monday, 31 January 2022

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Youth and literature festival continues its second-day in Nay Pyi Taw



Students are interestingly enjoying the controlling of small airplane at Youth and Literature Festival in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 January. **PHOTO: KO KO AYE**

THE second-day of the Youth and Literature Festival in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee Union Day continued yesterday at the Wunna Theikdi Stadium

in Nay Pyi Taw, and was alive with families and staff from ministries, students, youths and the people.

The Science and Technology Booth, the Aviation Awareness

Booth and the Maritime Awareness Booth were especially crowded with students and young people as they have simulators to test advanced fighter jets, helicopters and ships.

Moreover, students and young people also study awareness records to follow the traffic rules for safety, records of the anti-human trafficking police activities and anti-drug task force

police activities, displayed in the crime scene education vehicle introduced by Nay Pyi Taw Police Force with the theme “Let’s spread knowledge to get rid of drugs”.

For those who are interested in aviation, there was a small airplane flight demonstration ground where officials were demonstrating the steps involved in flying small planes, and it was seen that students and young people were paying close attention.

U Aung Kyaw Nyein, an official from the Myanmar Aviation Enthusiasts Association, said, “The purpose of the aviation gallery in the festival is to attract young people to aviation which is of great interest to young people all over the world and in Myanmar too, and to develop human resources with modern technologies for the future of the country. Another interesting aspect is the practical part and the people can test drive a virtual aircraft,” he added.

In addition, the galleries of knowledge and sports such as the gallery of biographies of great scholars, historical contracts, and documents, painting art gallery, **SEE PAGE-6**

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
My
PAGE-

NATIONAL
Se
PAGE-

NATIONAL
La
PAGE-

LOCAL BUSINESS
Ja
PAGE-

National Objectives of Diamond Jubilee Union Day 2022

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

State Administration Council Press Release

Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who reside in various regions for many reasons

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, with worries, have evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries due to the incitements and intimidation of NLD members, extremist followers, unlawful associations and terrorist groups such as CRPH and NUG, stimulation of CDM, and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities on 1 February 2021.
2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of unlawful association and terrorist group CRPH and NUG, and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in those areas, they wish to return to their native lands.
3. **The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.**
4. As those who evade their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from the evaded areas to various parts of Myanmar.
5. As such, the information was released that if those who evaded to various areas, except for persons who committed any kinds of crime, wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord due to multiple worries, the citizens abroad can contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates in accord with the easing restrictions under the law.

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

THE State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.

Lift tower, walkway soon to operate on a trial run at Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda



A lift tower is under construction at Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda in Minbu Township with the use of heavy machinery.

THE construction of a lift tower and a walkway is nearly finished at Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda in Minbu Township and it is soon to run on a trial basis, U Than Lwin, project manager of Kyaw Thar Engineering Construction Group.

The project commenced on 29 June 2021 under Phases 1 and 2. The construction work is 95 per cent complete. Only painting, dismantling scaffolding and concrete work under Phase 1 are left to be done. The lift tower is slated to be operational in the second week of February, he added.

The installing of a lift under Phase 2 began on 16 January, with made-in Spain Orona elevator and parts. It is used 6-mil-

imeter 14 elevator steel cables. The construction is to end this month. The lift tower will undergo trial run on 1-4 February, said U Thein Win Aung, assistant chief engineer, in charge of AGT Company.

The lift tower is 210 feet long, 119 feet high and 12 feet wide. The project is carried out under the allocated fund of K1.6 billion of the Pagoda. Up and down elevator cabins were purchased at K230 million and installing of lifts started on 23 January. This project will facilitate the elders, children, the persons with disabilities and devotees in their pilgrimage. The capacity of each cabin is 20 people.—Maung Maung (Minbu)/GNLM

174 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 30 January, total figure rises to 535,254

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 535,254 after 174 new cases were reported on 30 January 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 513,193 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,310 without casualties for seven consecutive days.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 29-1-2022, a total of 22,106,391 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 18,847,061 people have been fully vaccinated and 3,259,330 people yet to get the second shots.—MNA

Weakness happened in the education sector

THE Senior General first and foremost expressed his wish to improve the education standard of the country. But states and ethnic areas faced weakness of rural education due to language barriers and poor transport facilities. In successive eras of the governments, weakness happened in the education sector because of lesser number of teachers.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the coordination meeting on the higher-education sector on 18 January 2022.)

MoI Union Minister inspects factories in Yangon region

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than made inspection tours to factories in Yangon Region on 29 and 30 January.

At the packaging paper mill in Insein Township on 29 January, the Union Minister inspected the process of Star Sanda Company and production process of garment products. Afterwards, he arrived at the Textile and Garment Technology Development Department which will conduct international textile testing, inspection and quality certification issuance under the Joint Venture of the Ministry of Industry and Korea Apparel Testing and Research Institute (KATRI) for the development of the Myanmar textile and garment industrial development. At the department, he inspected the construction of the laboratory building and the availability of testing equipment for the textile, and instructed



Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than views assembling process of automobiles of Go Excellent (Myanmar) Co., Ltd at Shwelinpan Industrial Zone in Hlinethaya Township.

officials to set up inspection procedures and to train the staff in advance for international standard testing and to create a good working environment.

Afterwards, he inspected the production of masks at

No (9) Textile Factory Branch (Insein), production of OKI detergent powder and detergent cream at United Pacific Co., Ltd, and instructed officials to effectively use the land and equipment of the government,

to pay attention not to impact the environment, to continuously carry out research and development works to develop the current businesses, and to increase production to meet domestic demand.

Yesterday morning, the Union Minister arrived at Go Excellent (Myanmar) Co., Ltd in Shwelinpan Industrial Zone in Hlinethaya Township and Myanmar Arr Thit Man Motor Co., Ltd at Thadukan industrial zone in Shwepyitha Township, and inspected assembling of automobiles, testing the capacity of auto with the supported equipment, tested driving in a variety of road conditions to ensure the safe use of assembled vehicles for the people and the performance of the vehicles at various speed. He said it is necessary to establish a quality assurance system to produce quality guaranteed products and to provide accreditation to the staff according to their skills. The Union Minister also instructed them to pay attention to the safety of the people, and to strive to develop components and acquire technologies.—MNA

Public Notification

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

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

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

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

MoC oversees import of anti-COVID-19 devices and essential medical supplies

THE Ministry of Commerce is overseeing the importation of essential medical supplies including anti-COVID-19 devices that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, through border trade points, international airports and seaports. Yesterday, six tonnes of masks were imported via the Chinshwehaw trade zone by a company.

It is reported that anti-COVID-19 medical supplies and equipment are being given priority in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) coordinated with the relevant departments, and notice related to the import of medicines and related products have also been made available on the Ministry's website, commerce.gov.mm.—MNA



Cargo truck is carrying protective equipment for COVID-19 at Chinshwehaw trade zone on 30 January.

Mottos of 75th Anniversary Union Day 2022

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

MoHT Union Minister meets with hoteliers in Pyay District

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung attended a hotel and tourism sector development meeting held at Mingalar Garden Hotel in Pyay city on 29 January, Bago Region.

At the meeting, the Union Minister instructed the hoteliers to abide by Enchanting Myanmar Health & Safety Protocol to provide safe tourism services, comply with the new normal lifestyle, get back to business in accordance with the health guidelines and ensure the hotel workers to get fully vaccinated.

The tourism industry starts to revive in the current high season. The mass cycling event promoting tourism with sporting activity in Sri Kestra, one of the Pyu ancient cities was held on 30 January, by looking forward to the tourism development and physical fitness of the people. This event is aimed to draw the attentions of the travellers. All



Union Minister Dr Htay Aung poses for documentary photo together with departmental officials, hoteliers and youths and cyclists in Sri Kestra ancient city in Pyay on 29 January.

the stakeholders in tourism industry including government, hoteliers in Pyay city and residents must exert the concerted efforts to boost the tourism sector as it can help enhance the

socio-economy of the residents and thrive tourism related businesses, he added.

Afterwards, U Aung Min, Bago Region Minister for Social Affairs, handed over regional-level

COVID-19 safe service certificates to the relevant hoteliers under Enchanting Myanmar Health & Safety Protocol.

Union Minister Dr Htay Aung formally opened the mass

cycling event in Sri Kestra yesterday morning.

The cyclists were flagged off in front of Shwebonthamuni Pagoda market and passed Padaung town, Nawade Bridge, Bayintnaung junction, Myothit street, Pyay-Aunglan-Paukhaung junction and World Heritage stone sign. This 10-mile route ended at Bawbawgyi Pagoda. Approximately 320 cyclists participated in the event. The Advocate General of Bago Region government and officials concerned encouraged the athletes at the World Heritage site. The Union Minister, Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win and officials concerned presented the commemorative badge to the each cyclist who completed the route. Furthermore, 20 bicycles were also awarded to lucky draw winners and the athletes aged under 12 received the special prizes as well.—MNA

Yangon mayor inspects Mingaladon township development works

CHAIRMAN of the Yangon City Development Committee Mayor U Bo Htay visited Mingaladon Township yesterday morning and inspected construction of new complexes at Yadanathiri Market on the detour, Akarit Ward, Mingaladon Township.

The Mayor also checked the systematic relocation of meat and fish shops in the new two-storey market and the trade in accordance with the COVID-19 disease prevention and control guidelines.

The Mayor then distributed masks to the customers in

the market for COVID-19 disease prevention and control.

He instructed the cleaning of the market to facilitate the entry and exit of trucks and the removal of rubbish and silt from the drains.

The Mayor and party inspected the installation of 15-tonne Liquid Oxygen Tank in Mingaladon Township Development Office. He also inspected the group to carry out public services in the Township Development Office.

Then, the Mayor and party viewed round placing of asphalt concrete near Pinyinmabin

Katkyaw Sutaungpyae Pagoda on Yangon-Pyay Road. He also inspected the clean and tidy work around Bayintnaung Road, Hline Township.

The Mayor and party then looked into greening tasks on Tezadipa Island on the lake circular road in Mingala Taungyunt Township, bicycle parking near the entrance to Tezadipa Island Park, clearing the bridge, the daily cleaning of the dirt on the bridge and the demolition of the old wooden bridge. The bridge was planned to be rebuilt within the set time.—MNA



Mayor U Bo Htay views progress of placing asphalt concrete on road section near Pinyinmabin Katkyaw sutaungpyae Pagoda in Mingaladon Township on 30 January.

Mu river landslide protection work completed by 20 per cent

MORE than 20 per cent of the Mu River landslide protection work has been completed in Sagaing Region, according to U Htet Zaw Oo, Assistant Director of the Sagaing Region Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems.

More than 580 million kyats from the regional fund of this financial year have been spent on the construction of bored pile-based 400 feet long retaining walls, 690 feet long steel basket-reinforced concrete wall and 700 feet long gabion embankment in Pinlebu,

Shwebo and Taze townships to prevent the Mu River landslide, he said.

The Department is also conducting field inspections to ensure that the landslide protection work is completed in a timely manner and all construction work will be completed

by 20 March 2022.

The landslide protection works have been implemented since the last week of December 2021 by the respective tender-winning companies in the 2021-2022 Mini Budget Year.

It is also reported that the Sagaing Region Department

of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems is also implementing landslide protection works in Phaungpyin, Kalewa and Kani townships in Sagaing Region with K639.625 million from the Union Fund.—Lulay/GNLM

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

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

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aunghthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

MoC notifies importers of compulsory licensing from 1 March

THE Ministry of Commerce has declared HS code lines for imports which need licence starting from 1 March 2022.

This action aims to respond to the post COVID-19 recovery, ensure systematic import and export process and manage foreign capital inflows.

The ministry has already notified the importers of the compulsory licensing for some import items. Import licence can be sought from 1 February 2022.

Those HS code lines include

the following import items; bicycles, other cycles, parts and accessories of bicycle, cycle and vehicles, glass fibres, glass wares and other articles of glass, knitted or crocheted fabrics, textile materials, cotton and silk yarn, plastic, chemical, coffee substitutes and extracts, pharmaceutical products and equipment, sunglasses, hand clock, arms and ammunition, pistols, furniture, mattress, cushion, chandelier, electrical appliance, game machines, extraction from

animals, stamps and antiques, vessel and parts, telecommunication materials, household goods, air-conditioner, cold storage and refrigeration machines, washing machine, hot air balloons, iron, steel, aluminum and gems and jewellery, ceramic, construction materials, printing materials, rubber, leather, flammable items, fuel oil, food products, tobacco and related products, preserved food, raw materials for food processing industry, animal products, aquatic

animals, live animals and decoration materials.

Starting from 1 March, those items included in the HS code lines declared by the Ministry of Commerce are obligatory for import licensing. More items which need import licence will be notified as well, in compliance with the Export and Import Law.

Myanmar imports the consumer, capital, intermediate goods, and materials used by CMP businesses.

The value of Myanmar's imports as of 21 January in the current mini-budget period (Oct 2021-Mar 2022) sank to US\$4.38 billion from \$4.94 billion recorded in the same corresponding period of last FY, the Ministry of Commerce's data indicated.

The top 10 import countries to Myanmar are China, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Viet Nam, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the US, as per data of the ministry.—KK/GNLM

Agricultural export value plummet to \$1.25 bln as of 21 January



Trucks carrying watermelon and other fruits are leading to border gate.

THE value of agricultural exports sank to US\$1.25 billion as of 21 January in the current mini-budget period (Oct 2021-March 2022), indicating a significant drop of \$375.5 million as against the year ago period, as per the statistic of the Ministry of Commerce.

The agro exports topped \$1.6 billion in the corresponding period of the 2020-2021 FY.

China constitutes 90 per cent of Myanmar's fruit and vegetable export. During the previous financial year, the closure of border posts by China adversely affected the fruit

producers.

Additionally, China's import regulations and prevention measures for the COVID-19 caused delay, exporters said.

At present, some border posts are operating trade activities on a trial run.

During the mini-budget

period, the coronavirus pandemic impacted the foreign demand for agricultural products, livestock, mineral and finished industrial goods. In contrary, the exports of fishery, forest products and other goods rose slightly.

In the exports sector, the agriculture industry performed the best, accounting for 37 per cent of overall exports. The chief items of export in the agricultural sector are rice and broken rice, pulses and beans and maize. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, kitchen crops and other agro products are also shipped to other countries.

Myanmar agro products are primarily exported to China, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka.

The country requires spe-

cific export plans for each agro product, as they are currently exported to external markets based upon supply and demand. The G to G pact also ensures the strong market for the farmers. Contract farming systems, involvement of regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders, and some grower groups, are required in order to meet production targets, the Agriculture Department stated.

The Commerce Ministry is endeavouring to help farmers deal with challenges such as high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and erratic weather conditions.

The agricultural exports jumped to US\$4.6 billion last financial year 2020-2021, despite the downward trend in other export groups.—KK/GNLM

Black gram constitutes over 50 per cent of overall bean exports

MYANMAR generated US\$174 million income from exports of over 210,000 tonnes of black gram (urad called in India) as of 21 January in the current mini-budget period, which accounts for over 50 per cent of overall export value of beans and pulses, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

As the newly harvested black gram is constantly flowing into the market, the price will not significantly rise regardless of the steady demand by India.

The price of black gram hit an-all time high of K2 million per tonne on 29 September tracking the Kyat devaluation (K3,000) on US dollar. At present the exchange rate of a US dollar is pegged at around K2,000 and the prices of black gram dropped to below K1.33 million accordingly,

as per the data of Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre).

Myanmar can export 250,000 tonnes of black gram (urad) and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon pea under the G to G pact during April-March period. So far, the export volume has surpassed the set quota. Additionally, India extended relaxations of conditions regarding clearance consignment until 31 March 2022.

Myanmar is the top producing country of black gram that India demands, with a yearly production of approximately 400,000 tonnes.

Myanmar conveyed US\$359 million worth of over 444,733 tonnes of various beans and pulses to foreign trade partners

over the half of the mini-budget period. The country shipped \$334 million valued 416,210

tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through sea route, and \$25.7 million valued

28,523 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through land border.—KK/GNLM



Sample of pulses and beans in bags are stockpiled in brokerage.

Youth and literature festival continues its second-day in Nay Pyi Taw



Students and young people are watching Sepak Takraw skill demonstration of selected athletes at Stadium (B) of Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 January. **PHOTO: KO KO AYE**

FROM PAGE-1

COVID-19 pandemic awareness gallery and sports activities gallery were also full of young people and students.

In the afternoon, a demonstration of Myanmar national team athlete under training for the 31st SEA Games was held at the Stadium (B) of Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium and the students came to visit with enthusiasm.

The festival also organized competitions such as painting competition and home building competition, it was a pleasure to see that both teachers and students and the interested



Bookworm students are choosing books at the book stall. **PHOTO: KO KO AYE**

set by the Ministry of Health. Also, emergency medical services were also included, and COVID-19 pandemic awareness signs and banners were displayed in the festival area.

The Youth and Literature Festival is being held from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm with good intentions to develop the intellect and ideas of young people, to develop good habits of participating in group activities while celebrating the festival happily, to encourage young people to be creative and to study literature, to build a society of the future with their good ideas.—Myo Sat Thit/GNLM



Students are viewing round the booths at Youth and Literature Festival. **PHOTO: KO KO AYE**



people were actively involved. In addition, entertainment and performances of the students and artists from the MRTV and

the Department of Fine Arts also brought the festival to life.

Due to the current COVID-19 period, visitors to the

festival were allowed to enter the festival only after being screened in accordance with the COVID-19 prevention measures

Illegal timber, foodstuffs, utensils and vehicles seized

UNDER the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, effective action is being taken to prevent illegal trade in accordance with the law.

On 29 January, officials conducted inspection at the container inspection station at Myanmar Industrial Port.

A total of K113,229,000 worth general consumer goods not enlisted in the import declaration ID (estimated value

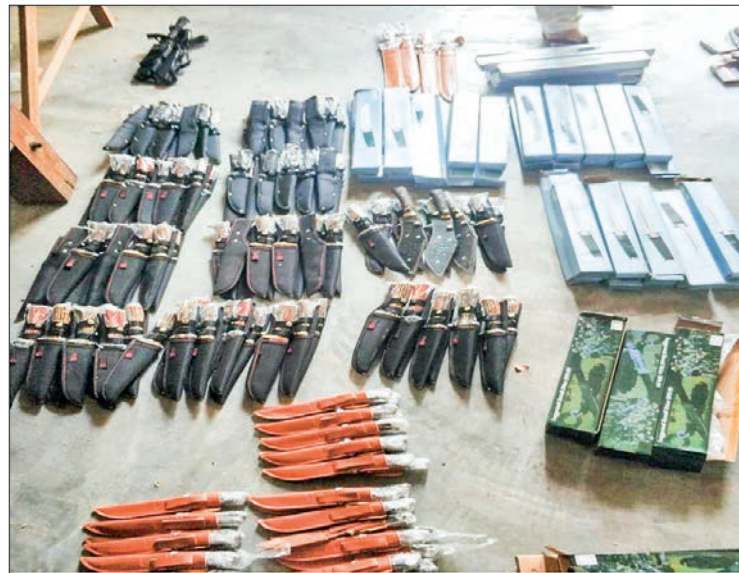
K13.304 million), electrical appliances (estimated value K16.42 million), five types of agricultural machinery spare parts (estimated value K1.5 million), phone accessories (estimated value K7.525 million), cosmetics (estimated value K74.48 million) were seized.

Action is being taken against the offenders in accordance with the customs law.

Similarly, Myawady (OSS)



Photo shows illegal consumer goods seized by officials at checkpoint on 29 and 30 January 2022.



Seized illegally imported items.



Seized illegally imported chainsaw.

Customs Department of Kayin State conducted a surprise patrol near the Myawady Trade Zone.

A total of 200 cartons of illegal energy drink (estimated value K2 million) from a 6-wheeler coming from the Myasandi detour across the Myawady Trade Zone to the Asian Highway junction and one Mitsubishi Canter 6-wheel-

er (estimated value K 23 million) carrying the goods, which is a total of value of K25 million were seized and action is being taken in accordance with customs law.

The customs team on duty also conducted inspections at the Mayangchaung Permanent Checkpoint. Imported goods (estimated value K1,112,860)

and motorcycle spare parts (estimated value K2,290,800) from the 22-wheeler from Myawady to Yangon were seized.

Similarly, under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, a combined team led by the Department of Forest conducted inspections.

Forest Areas in Bago, Toungoo and Thayawady districts, 16.3962 tonnes of illegal timber (estimated value K2,125,592) was seized and action is being taken against offenders in accordance with the forest law.

In addition, a combined inspection team led by the Customs Department inspected 10 illegal chainsaws excluding knives (estimated value K1.5 million) and 160 various sizes of knives (estimated value K2.4 million) at the 16th-mile Kyaukchaw checkpoint, Mandalay Region. Action is being taken in accordance with the customs law. In addition, a combined inspection team under the management of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force (ACT) conducted an investigation and seized 665 bags (estimated value K7,094,220) weight of 50 kilogrammes of fertilizers in excess of the import limit in Sagaing Township and action is being taken in accordance with the customs law. Thus, a total of 11 arrests were made with the estimated value of K154,752,472 on 29 and 30 January, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee.—MNA

Stimulant tablets seized in some townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Taninthayi Region Police Force stopped and searched a motorcycle driven by Myo Aye on the Myeik-Taninthayi highway, near Latha Village, Tonbyaw Village-tract, Myeik Township at 3.45 pm on 28 January and 2,000 stimulant tablets were seized.

Similarly, Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a HYUNDAI vehicle driven by Aung Kyaw Tun, accompanied by Thiha Min Zin on the Hopong-Loilem Road, near Loiwetok Village, Phatyan Village-tract in Hopong Township.

According to the chain, 200,000 tablets of ecstasy were

confiscated and Sai Hla Tun (alias) Pho Thee and Myo Min Thu were detained at the 4th-mile joint checkpoint near Metaung village, Naunglay Village-tract.

Next, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a motorcycle near Hwaykwe village, Hwaykwe Village-tract, Kengtung Township.

The motorcyclist fled the scene and found five kilogrammes of Ice in his bag. They are being prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, according to the Myanmar Police Force.—MNA

K 760 million worth of illegal drugs seized in Tachilek Township

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force seized narcotic drugs worth K760 million from four persons in Tachilek Township, Shan State (East).

A total of 100,000 stimulant tablets, 10 kilos of Ketamine from the motorcycle driven by Sai Oum (a) Aik Oum were seized on 19 January near Parkhok village in Tachilek Township, Shan State (East) when the police searched his motorcycle according to the report.

The investigation led to the house of Yein and Ma Nang Ein in Namluk (Shan) village where 1.6 million stimulant tablets were confiscated, and the police also



Four suspects were arrested together with stimulant tablets and 10 kilos of Ketamine in Tachilek Township on 19 January.

arrested Aik Si Yun (a) Aik Kyaing at his house in Pakhok village.

It is reported that action is being taken against four of them under the law, and the related

suspects in seizing 1.7 million stimulant tablets and 10 kilos of Ketamine worth over K760 million will be identified and prosecuted, according to the Myanmar Police Force.—MNA

Let's breed and produce meat to taste a brighter future

THE government is implementing two points of policy to shape the country to become a prosperous country and to supply nutritious foods to all citizens with food sufficiency. A number of people are engaging in livestock tasks in addition to agricultural tasks but some people are operating the livestock breeding tasks only. These businesses are benefiting the breeders as well as the people nearby the breeding farms because of creating job opportunities.

Myanmar has adequate areas endowed with natural pasturelands for agricultural and livestock farming. Relevant ministries are ready to provide pedigree farming cattle and quality species of poultry to the local farmers.

Those who can spend capital are operating the agriculture and livestock farms whereas the local people who are unaffordable to spend capital will have the chance to work at the farms to earn income for their families. As such, agricultural farms and livestock ranches can contribute much to the economy of relevant areas.

Myanmar is full of natural resources necessary for operating agriculture and livestock farms. If those farm owners apply the modern technologies in breeding pedigree cattle, the country is sure to see the situation of improved socio-economic status of the people with food sufficiency in line with the policy of the State.

More than 100 million pigs, poultry, goats and sheep were bred in the nation according to the 2021 animal population census. Another animal census collected in 2019 stated that there were over 10.6 million cattle in the nation. At the same time, the fishing industry was booming with production from inland fish farms and the offshore fishing process. Indeed, these statistics prove that the breeding farms could produce a sufficient volume of meat.

A survey showed that individual people need to consume 9.5 visses of chicken (one viss is equal to 1.6 kilogrammes), three visses of pork, 1.7 visses of beef and 0.24 viss of goat per year. As such, the individuals should consume five ticals to 10 ticals of meat and fish per day.

Myanmar has adequate areas endowed with natural pasturelands for agricultural and livestock farming. Relevant ministries are ready to provide pedigree farming cattle and quality species of poultry to the local farmers.

As such, the people residing in all regions and states need to operate livestock farming tasks in order to produce meat and fish to sufficiently meet the demand of the people across the nation at fairer prices. Hence, all the people need to breed and produce meat and fish to taste a brighter future.



Study finds SARS-CoV-2 may remain active for longer than recommended quarantine period

A new study has detected that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can infect a person for more than 200 days in an atypical case. The study has been published in the 'Frontiers in Medicine Journal'.

The atypical case of infection by SARS-CoV-2 was part of a study involving 38 Brazilian patients followed on a weekly basis between April and November 2020 by researchers affiliated with the Pasteur-USP Scientific Platform, a partnership between France's Pasteur Institute, the University of Sao Paulo (USP) and Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) in Brazil. The patients were followed until they tested negative twice or three times consecutively by RT-qPCR.

An alert regarding the risk

The study was supported by FAPESP. It served as an alert regarding the risk of limiting quarantine for COVID-19 patients to seven, ten or even 14 days after they test positive, as initially prescribed by protocols to combat the disease. It also reinforced the significance of vaccination, social distancing, and mask-wearing.

"Of the 38 cases we tracked, two men and a woman were atypical in the sense that the virus was continuously detected in their organism for more than 70 days. Based on this result, we can say that about 8 per cent of people infected by SARS-CoV-2 may be able to transmit the virus for more than two months, without necessarily manifesting any symptoms during the final stage of the infection," said Marielton dos Passos Cunha, first author of the article.

The study was conducted while he was a postdoctoral intern at the Pasteur-USP Scientific Platform. "We wanted to know if a period of 14 days was really long enough for the virus to stop being detectable. We concluded that it wasn't. It can take a month for a patient to test negative, and in some cases included in our study the patients remained positive for 71 to 232 days," said Paola Minoprio, one of the coordinators of the Platform and principal investigator for the study.

Remain active

This is not the first evidence that the virus can remain active for longer than expected even in patients with mild symptoms. In early 2021, researchers at the University of Sao Paulo's Institute of Tropical Medicine (IMT-USP) of these patients at the time the material was collected.



Representational Image: A new study has detected that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can infect a person for more than 200 days in an atypical case. PHOTO: ANI

in Brazil analyzed 29 samples of nasopharyngeal secretion from patients who tested positive for COVID-19.

The material was collected at a public primary health centre on the tenth day after the onset of symptoms and inoculated into laboratory-grown cells. In 25 per cent of the cases, the viruses present in the samples were capable of infecting the cells and replicating them in vitro. In theory, therefore, other people could be infected if they came into contact with droplets of saliva expelled by 25 per cent

of these patients at the time the material was collected.

The risk appeared to be even greater for people with compromised immune systems. In a paper published in June 2021, researchers at the same university's Medical School (FM-USP) described a case of infection that lasted at least 218 days.

The patient was about 40 years old and had undergone aggressive treatment for cancer before contracting COVID-19.

An autoimmune blood disorder

Even so, this week the Brazilian Ministry of Health reduced the recommended period of self-isolation from ten to seven days for patients with mild or moderate symptoms, and to five days for people without symptoms if they test negative.

At end-2021, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cut its recommendation from 10 to five days in the case of asymptomatic patients provided they continue to wear a mask and test negative for COVID-19.

In the study led by Minoprio, the difference between women and men in terms of the duration of viral activity was not significant (averaging 22 days and 33 days respectively). As for the three atypical cases, the virus remained detectable for 71 days in the woman and 81 days in one of the two men. None of them had comorbidities and all had mild symptoms of COVID-19.

The other atypical man continued to test positive for coronavirus for 232 days (April-November 2020), after which he tested negative three times by RT-qPCR. He had HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, since 2018 but had no detectable viral load thanks to antiretroviral therapy.

Even so, this week the Brazilian Ministry of Health reduced the recommended period of self-isolation from ten to seven days for patients with mild or moderate symptoms, and to five days for people without symptoms if they test negative.

At end-2021, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cut its recommendation from 10 to five days in the case of asymptomatic patients provided they continue to wear a mask and test negative for COVID-19.

In the study led by Minoprio, the difference between women and men in terms of the duration of viral activity was not significant (averaging 22 days and 33 days respectively). As for the three atypical cases, the virus remained detectable for 71 days in the woman and 81 days in one of the two men. None of them had comorbidities and all had mild symptoms of COVID-19.

The other atypical man continued to test positive for coronavirus for 232 days (April-November 2020), after which he tested negative three times by RT-qPCR. He had HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, since 2018 but had no detectable viral load thanks to antiretroviral therapy.

SOURCE: ANI

COVID-19 still affects recovered footballers' performance



In this 29 February 2020 photo, Hoffenheim's Swiss midfielder Steven Zuber (right) and Bayern Munich's German midfielder Joshua Kimmich vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match Hoffenheim v Bayern Munich in Sinsheim. PHOTO: DANIEL ROLAND / AFP

THE long-term effects of COVID-19 among the recovered, sometimes referred to as "long COVID-19," also manifest themselves among footballers.

Very few top-level footballers have suffered from life-threatening bouts of the coronavirus, but the longer-term effects of the virus are now being seen in the game, with one study suggesting even players' passing quality can suffer. There have been several high-profile cases of COVID-19 effects preventing players returning to the pitch immediately after testing negative for the virus.

Bayern Munich midfielder Joshua Kimmich, who was not vaccinated, missed two months of action due to lung damage, while Juventus forward Paulo Dybala said he struggled with

a "shortness of breath" when he returned in 2020 after testing positive. Even seven-time Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi admitted that he needed "more time than expected to recover" after contracting COVID-19 over the winter break.

A handful of more serious cases

There have been a handful of more serious cases in professional football. Newcastle goalkeeper Karl Darlow spent three days on a hospital drip, Montpellier winger Junior Sambia was hospitalized in intensive care and Nantes' Jean-Kevin Augustin has not started a first-team game since 2019 due to the long-term effects of COVID-19. But many coaches have also expressed fears in recent weeks about short and medium-term effects. "When players have

the virus and then come back, it's not done just by a click of the fingers. Even they feel it, it takes time," said France's World Cup-winning manager Didier Deschamps.

Researchers from the universities of Duesseldorf and Reading saw results from a study, into 257 Bundesliga and Serie A players who returned after suffering with COVID-19, that suggested performance levels also fell. The study found that players' passing success rate fell by up to 5% and that the virus affected footballers over the age of 30 more seriously. It also suggested that teams with more players who had recovered from COVID-19 had worse results than their rivals. "So far, the results suggest a permanent alteration in the player's abilities," said James Reade, director of the economics de-

partment at the University of Reading and co-author of the study, albeit with a caveat. "The majority of players had not been vaccinated (at the time of the study) and this remains a complicating factor."

There have been reports of players struggling from cardiac inflammation, including Gabon duo Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Mario Lemina, who both left the ongoing Africa Cup of Nations to recover from COVID-19. But French football federation medical director Emmanuel Orhant said there was no definite link between the virus and increased risk of cardiac problems for footballers. He found, in December 2020, that 2.2% of 350 players who tested positive had a cardiac issue.

SOURCE: AFP

Motto of 75th Anniversary Union Day 2022

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

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 30 January 2022)



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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 30 January 2022: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 January 2022: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 January 2022: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 January 2022: Generally fair weather.

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

(Issued at 08:45 hour MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude (3.8) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (21) miles east-northeast of Homalin), latitude 24.91 °N, longitude 95.25 °E, depth (110) kilometres, about (75) miles northeast of Tamu seismological observatory was recorded at (08) hr (26) min (14) sec MST on 30 January 2022.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

သတင်းစာ မြန်မာ့လုံခြုံရေး အကဲသွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

09 454 237 515

သတင်းစာ ဂျပန် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာစံချိန်စီ ပုံနှိပ်လုံခြုံရေး အကဲသွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

01 860 4530



Staff members work on the track at the National Ski Jumping Center in Chongli District of Zhangjiakou City in north China's Hebei Province, on 28 January 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/JIANG KEHONG**

Chinese Ski Association advocates use of fluorine-free ski wax in Beijing 2022

THE vice president of the Chinese Ski Association, Zheng Liangcheng said both the International Ski Federation (FIS) and the Chinese Ski association urge athletes to use fluorine-free ski wax at the Beijing Olympic Winter Games to protect the environment.

Zheng, also FIS council member, said FIS has yet to develop a mature device to detect fluoride in ski wax and called for the athletes to take an active role in using fluorine-free ski wax in an effort to protect the environment.

In line with European Union environmental standards, the FIS plans to ban fluoride ski wax from all FIS competitions.

"All of our decisions need to be made with prudence. The equipment must be able to provide accurate test results to ensure a fair platform for all athletes," said Zheng.

Concerns about this device's accuracy include the possibility that the detection could be affected by the presence of fluoride in the environment, for example, that one

has already existed on piste.

A basic understanding is, on the occasion of the competition scene, there's no possibility to fairly detect the fluoride without a piece of accurate portable equipment. This is because waxing is the top secret of athletes.

"If you visit a waxing workshop, you'll find that all the labels on ski wax have been removed, because the waxing technicians just don't want other people to know how they work.— Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australia pumps cash into Great Barrier Reef protection

AUSTRALIA unveiled a billion-dollar package to protect the climate-ravaged Great Barrier Reef on Friday, hoping to prevent the vast network of corals from being removed from UNESCO's World Heritage list.

Conservative prime minister Scott Morrison announced the Aus\$1 billion (US\$700 million) nine-year plan, months after narrowly avoiding the reef being placed on UNESCO's "in danger" list.

"We are backing the health of the reef and the economic future of tourism operators, hospitality providers and Queensland communities that are at the heart of the reef economy," Morrison said. — AFP ■

Indonesia jails poachers over killing of 5 Sumatran elephants

NEARLY a dozen poachers were jailed by an Indonesian court Thursday over the 2020 killing of five critically endangered Sumatran elephants and the illegal trade of their lucrative tusks, as the Southeast Asian archipelago's battle with wildlife crime continues.

Rampant deforestation has reduced the elephants' habitat and brought them into increasing conflict with humans, while their ivory tusks are prized in the illegal wildlife trade.

Authorities found the dead elephants — killed by electrocution and with their tusks removed — in early 2020 at a palm oil plantation in the remote village of Tuwie Peuriya in Aceh, which sits on the tip of Sumatra Island. — AFP ■

Sweden approves plan for final repository for nuclear waste



The image shows a design sketch of the repository for used nuclear fuel in Forsmark, Sweden. The Swedish government approved on Thursday the construction of the final repository for used nuclear fuel in Sweden, for the safe and long-term storage of the country's nuclear waste. **PHOTO: LASSE MODIN/THE SWEDISH NUCLEAR FUEL AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMPANY/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

THE Swedish government approved on Thursday the construction of the final repository for used nuclear fuel in Sweden, for the safe and long-term storage of the country's nuclear waste.

The site is in the vicinity of an existing nuclear power plant at Forsmark, about 140 km north of the capital Stockholm.

Under the plan, 6,000 parcels of some 12,000 tons of radioactive waste will be encased in copper and bentonite, a fine natural clay, and laid to rest below 500 meters of bedrock for more than 100,000 years.

"This will be a secure spent fuel repository that will provide safety for both the environment and people. In addition, it pro-

vides long-term conditions for the Swedish electricity supply and Swedish jobs," said Minister for Climate and the Environment Annika Strandhall in a press release.

Construction of the final repository could potentially begin in 2023, although the decision is subject to scrutiny by Sweden's land and environmental court and review by the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority.

The Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company (SKB) will be in charge of the construction.

Together with the construction of a nuclear waste encapsulation plant, the whole project will require an investment of about 19 billion Swedish kronor (2 billion US dollars), and could take about ten years to finish.

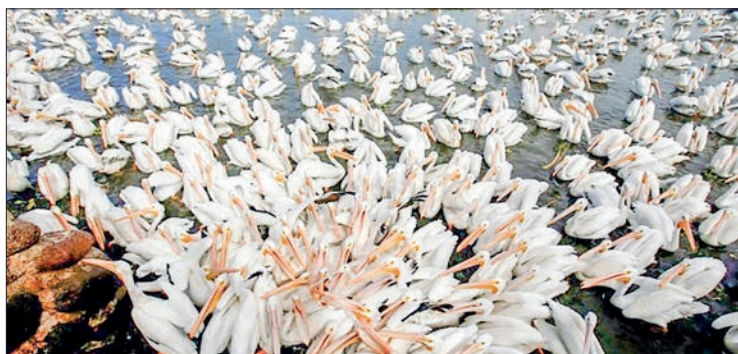
"It is a historical decision that enables SKB to dispose of the nuclear waste that our generation has produced," SKB's CEO Johan Dasht said following the announcement. — Xinhua ■

Mexican town hopes pelicans will help tourism take off

A town in western Mexico where thousands of American white pelicans migrate is hoping to turn the birds into a global tourist draw — and recoup losses from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Petatan Island, located on Lake Chapala in Michoacan state, plays seasonal host to the birds, which head south in search of warmth and food.

Many locals note that the



A flock of white pelicans is seen on the shore of the Chapala lagoon in Cojumatlán de Regules, Mexico. **PHOTO: AFP**

migration pattern is similar to the renowned monarch butterfly and takes place at the same time of year — between October and April — though they highlight the role they play in feeding these birds.

"Petatan is an island of fishermen, the fishermen go to the lagoon, collect the fish, extract the fillet and the bone... it is what serves as food when the pelicans

are in season," explains Ana Lilia Manso, mayor of Cojumatlán de Regules, the town that includes Petatan.

The community welcomes the American white pelicans' arrival, which attracts tourists from nearby towns. They fill restaurants and pay for boat rides to get an up-close look at the flocks that adopt this region as their home for six months. — AFP ■

Vietnam reports 15,150 new COVID-19 cases, 2,233,287 in total

VIETNAM reported 15,150 new COVID-19 cases on Saturday, including 15,100 locally transmitted and 50 imported, according to its Ministry of Health.

The Vietnamese capital Hanoi remained the locality with the highest number of infections on Saturday with 2,806 cases, followed by northern Bac Ninh province with 992 cases and central Da Nang city with 865 cases.

The infections brought the country's total tally to 2,233,287 with 37,547 deaths. Nationwide, 1,962,597 COVID-19 patients

have recovered.

A total of 180.9 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines, including 27.7 million third shots, have been administered, according to the ministry.

Vietnam has gone through four coronavirus waves of increasing scale, complication, and infectivity. As of Saturday, the country has registered over 2.2 million locally transmitted COVID-19 cases since the start of the current wave in late April last year, said the ministry. — Xinhua ■



Photo taken on 8 August 2020 shows mannequins wearing face masks in Vietnam's capital city Hanoi. Vietnam reported six new cases of COVID-19 infection on Monday, bringing its total confirmed cases to 847, along with two more deaths from the disease, according to the Ministry of Health. PHOTO: XINHUA/WANG DI

Miami's lure during Covid sends housing prices through the roof



Miami saw the steepest rent hikes of 2021 in the United States, with median rent at one point reaching \$2,800. PHOTO: AFP

MIAMI resident Maria Ruby learned last month that her rent will shoot up 65 per cent in February. She cannot afford it and does not know where to go.

Her plight illustrates an unexpected effect of the coronavirus pandemic: Miami is seeing some of the highest housing cost increases anywhere in the United States.

Metropolitan Miami was already a lure even before Covid,

with its warm weather, white sand beaches and absence of state — though not federal — income tax.

It is a sophisticated, cosmopolitan city that is attractive to European and Latin American investors.

But the pandemic made Miami even more of a mecca. Strict lockdown rules in other parts of the United States and the rise of working from home

for a company that could be far away caused many people to up and move to the south of Florida.

They flocked from northeastern cities such as New York and Boston, as well as from California, and found cheaper rent and Republican politicians eager to get the state economy running again after the ravages of Covid lockdowns.

"They started coming to South Florida in droves," said Jennifer Wollmann, board chair of the Miami Association of Realtors.

"Our weather, business-friendly state and open spaces are very attractive for people coming from states that were cold and shut down," she said. The effect quickly became apparent. People with better paying jobs than the going rate in south Florida caused housing prices to shoot up. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

China never manipulates COVID-19 test results, say Beijing 2022 organizers

MANIPULATING COVID-19 test results is unnecessary, and China will never do that, said Huang Chun, deputy director general of the Pandemic Prevention and Control Office of the Beijing 2022 Organizing Committee.

Commenting on foreign media reports suggesting China's potential manipulation of the test results to influence the athletes, Huang assured a press briefing on Saturday that the test results are authentic. Inside the closed-loop, all the COVID-19 tests are PCR tests, which are recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as well as medical experts from home and abroad.

"For the testing, we selected qualified laboratories. They've been recognized by public health authorities in China. Equipped with accredited testing reagents and equipment, they follow standard and strict procedures in testing and have a comprehensive management system to ensure quality and bio-safety. Medical personnel in sampling and testing, all with professional backgrounds, have gone through training before performing their tasks," he said. Huang added that Chinese authorities frequently visit those laboratories to review their quality as well as safety, and a positive result will only be confirmed by a second test.

Dr Brian McCloskey, the Chair of the Beijing 2022 Medical Expert Panel, also confirmed that tests in Beijing 2022 are up to international standards and follow the guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO). — Xinhua ■

Canada truckers head for Ottawa to protest vaccine mandate

HUNDREDS of Canadian truckers converged on Ottawa Friday for a major demonstration against vaccine mandates to cross the Canada-US border.

Coming from as far as British Columbia on the Pacific coast, the "Freedom Convoy", as the truckers have named it, has been growing and drawing more attention in recent days.

The meeting point for the weekend rally has been set for Parliament Hill, in the heart of the Canadian capital.

Since mid-January, Canada



Canadian truck drivers protesting over a Covid-19 vaccine mandate in Toronto on 27 January 2022. PHOTO: AFP

and the United States have imposed a Covid-19 vaccine mandate for truck drivers crossing the border between the two countries, the longest in the world at nearly 5,500 miles (9,000 kilometers).

The vaccine mandate has been denounced by some truckers, who received an endorsement from Tesla and SpaceX founder Elon Musk, who tweeted on Thursday "Canadian truckers rule."

"These demonstrations are national in scope. They're

massive in scale. Unfortunately, they're polarizing in nature," said Ottawa police chief Peter Soly Friday.

He was unable say how many trucks or demonstrators would show up but warned of "major traffic safety issues" in the capital and asked people to stay off the roads whenever possible. He said organizers of the protest had told police it would be peaceful but warned that some people may join the movement to "incite hatred and violence". — AFP ■

Cambodia's economy forecast to grow over 5 pct in 2022: PM

CAMBODIA'S economy is expected to grow over 5 per cent in 2022 after the southeast Asian nation has fully reopened since November, buoyed by its high vaccination rates, Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen said here on Sunday.

"The success of the COVID-19 national vaccination campaign has allowed Cambodia's economy to grow at a faster-than-expected rate," he said during a handover ceremony of 300,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine donated from Poland.

"Cambodia's economy is projected to grow by around 3 per cent in 2021 and will continue to grow by more than 5 per cent in 2022, mainly thanks to the full re-opening of the country, and the return of the socioeconomic



Photo taken on 31 December 2021, shows cargo boxes at the Phnom Penh International Airport's warehouse in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. **PHOTO: VAN POV/XINHUA**

activities to normal across all sectors," he added.

The kingdom's economy is mainly driven by agriculture, tourism, garment exports, and

real estate and construction.

So far, Cambodia has administered at least one dose each of COVID-19 vaccines to 14.35 million people, or 89.7 per cent

of its 16 million population, the Health Ministry said, adding that 13.75 million people, or 86 per cent, have been fully vaccinated with two required shots.

Most of the vaccines used in the country's inoculation program are China's Sinovac and Sinopharm.

"Undoubtedly, vaccination is the key measure to control the spread, to end the COVID-19 crisis, and to re-open socio-economic activities safely in the new normal," Hun Sen said.

Cambodia has well controlled the spread of COVID-19. The kingdom has reported zero death from the disease for 26 days straight, according to the health ministry.

The country logged 57 new cases on Sunday, including 44 domestic infections, bringing the national total caseload to 121,299, with 3,015 deaths and 117,428 recoveries, the ministry said. — Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nord Stream 2 pipeline: key card in West's hand against Russia

THE Nord Stream 2 pipeline, set to double natural gas supplies from Russia to Germany, has become a key bargaining chip for the West in its bid to stop Moscow from invading Ukraine.

The pipeline, which Germany has defiantly pursued despite criticism from the United States and Eastern Europe, was completed last year but still requires regulatory approval.

Germany has now given a clear warning that it will not allow Nord Stream 2 to begin operating if Russia invades Ukraine, despite a severe energy crisis that has sent gas prices soaring in Europe.

Here is a look at the history of the pipeline, which critics say will increase Europe's dependence on Russian gas and Ukraine has described as a "geopolitical weapon". — AFP ■

US regulator points to progress in allowing 5G at more airports

US aviation officials reported progress Friday on allowing more 5G service near airports following negotiations with telecommunications providers, but airlines said there were still some disruptions.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) praised Verizon and AT&T for providing "more precise data about the exact location of wireless transmitters," the agency said in a statement.

The data has permitted the FAA to narrow the territory where it still has safety questions and "enable the wireless providers to safely turn on more towers as they deploy new 5G service in major markets across the United States," the regulator said.

Telecom firms have spent tens of billions of dollars to obtain 5G licenses, but were forced to delay the launch following an outcry from the aviation industry warning of massive disruptions.

At issue is the possibility 5G signals will interfere with radio altimeters that allow aircraft to conduct low-visibility landings.

Since Verizon and AT&T agreed on 18 January to delay 5G implementation at some airports, the FAA has been gradually clearing more aircraft following a review.

The agency said about 90 per cent of US commercial aircraft have been cleared for "most" low-visibility approaches in areas with 5G, and on Thursday, the Boeing 737 MAX became the latest model to receive that approval. — AFP ■

Erdogan sacks statistics chief after record inflation



Supermarket cashiers and clients wear protective face masks as new measures are enforced to fight against the coronavirus in Ankara on 6 August 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has sacked the head of the state statistics agen-

cy, according to a decree published Saturday, after releasing data showing last year's inflation

rate hit a 19-year high of 36.1 per cent.

Sait Erdal Dincer was just the latest in a series of economic dismissals by Erdogan, who has sacked three central bank governors since July 2019.

Erdogan has railed against high interest rates, which he believes cause inflation — the exact opposition of conventional economic thinking.

The 2021 inflation figure released by Dincer angered both the pro-government and opposition camps.

The opposition said it was underreported, claiming that the real cost of living increases were at least twice as high. — AFP ■

Thousands of flights cancelled as Eastern US braces for winter storm

THOUSANDS of flights in the United States were cancelled Saturday as parts of the East Coast braced for a shellacking by a powerful winter storm packing heavy snow and high winds.

Places in the North East, including New York and Boston, were expected to bear the brunt of the far-reaching system, which is also predicted to pummel the Mid-Atlantic.

Salt machines and snowplows were at the ready in New York, where Mayor Eric Adams tweeted that a foot (30 centimetres) of snow was predicted, but warned that "Mother Nature

has a tendency to do what she wants."

Some 3,400 flights were already cancelled for Saturday traveling within, into or out of the United States, according to flight tracker FlightAware.

Cancellations on Friday tallied more than 1,450.

The National Weather Service warned of "whiteout conditions and nearly impossible travel at times," along portions of the Mid-Atlantic and New England coasts, with snowfall accumulations greater than a foot expected in parts of the same region.

The governors of New York and New Jersey declared a state of emergency while Boston Mayor Michelle Wu declared a snow emergency.

The storm will produce extremely cold temperatures with dangerous wind chills Saturday night into Sunday morning, the NWS said.

"Get home safely tonight, remain home over the weekend, avoid any unnecessary travel," New York Governor Kathy Hochul said in a statement, singling out Long Island, New York City and the lower Hudson Valley for particularly deep snow. — AFP ■

NEWS
IN BRIEF

Kochi seeks to become anime, manga hub as remote work base

KOCHI Prefecture in western Japan, which has produced many famous manga artists, recently launched a project to boost the animation industry by setting up a remote working base to establish the region's reputation as a locus for anime and manga. The Kochi prefectural government, together with three municipal governments and Kochi Shinkin Bank, are working to attract firms in the animation industry to set up satellite offices locally, enabling creators to work remotely even while away from major cities such as Tokyo. As part of the plan, a satellite office base will be set up in Kochi city in the first half of this year to provide support for attracting companies in the animation industry, and creating an environment where creators can work remotely. — *Kyodo* ■

China factory activity edges down in January amid Covid outbreaks

FACTORY activity in China edged down in January, official figures showed Sunday, but slightly exceeded expectations as businesses struggled with sporadic disruptions due to coronavirus outbreaks.

The Purchasing Managers' Index — a key gauge of manufacturing activity — in the world's



Factory activity in China edged down in January, according to official figures. PHOTO: AFP

second-largest economy inched down to 50.1, just above the 50-point mark separating growth from contraction.

The data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows a slight decrease from last month's reading of 50.3, when activity was buoyed by an easing of commodity prices.

"Faced with a com-

plex and severe economic environment and scattered outbreaks... China's economy continued to recover and develop, though growth levels somewhat declined," said NBS statistician Zhao Qinghe.

The NBS reading contrasted with a private survey of smaller manufacturers, which fell by 1.8 points to 49.1. — *AFP* ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (0308S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (0308S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-1-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Notice of passing unanimous resolution for buy-back of shares by First Japan Tire Services Company Limited (the "Company")

Notice is hereby given as required by Section 121 (h) of the Myanmar Companies Law that the Company incorporated in Myanmar with Certificate of Incorporation No. 116261758 and having its registered office at PS#3, No.1503, 15th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar had passed a unanimous resolution for buy-back of shares by the Company.

The summary details of the buy-back of shares are as follows:

- (1) Buy-back of shares is selective buy-back.
- (2) Share capital of USD 211,661 currently held by Yoma Nominee Limited will be cancelled.

Ads Call 09251022355
09974424848

Ministry of Transport and Communications
Myanma Port Authority

Invitation to Open Tender for Dredging and Waterway Improvement of Dawei River

1. The Myanma Port Authority (MPA) is planning to award the contract for **dredging** across the waterway of the Dawei River (Tavoy River) in Tanintharyi and for **sand export**, in order to improve the waterway and navigation channel as the sedimentation causes shallow water-depth and disrupts port operation. MPA, in this regard, would like to invite both local and international companies to participate in an Open Tender.
2. Unlike a commercial dredging, such dredging needs to ensure a) not to incur any damage to the environment and ecosystem, by dredging at the specific shallow-water areas designated by the MPA to reach the targeted water-depth, b) not to disrupt the socio-economic conditions of the local people, and c) to assist and support to local development works and local needs if necessary. And thus, the potential bidders must present qualification in terms of work- and technical experience, and the strength of expert team and equipment as well as strong financial capability. (International companies may need to form a JV with a local company or have a branch office in Myanmar.)
3. Therefore, any interested companies (both local and international) that meet the above mentioned technical and financial requirements are invited to enter the tender. Tender Application and forms can be purchased from the following address and the dates and times of the tender process are as follow:
 - (a) Address to purchase Tender Forms - Myanma Port Authority (Marine Department), No. 10, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.
 - (b) Date & Time to purchase - 1-2-2022 to 21-2-2022, Office Hour (10:00-15:00)
 - (c) Address for Tender submission and Date & Time - Myanma Port Authority Head Office 1-3-2022, 13:00
 - (d) Tender Opening Date & Time - 1-3-2022, 14:00
4. For further details, please contact the following numbers:
 - (a) 01-246380
 - (b) 01-8387117, Ex-211

Myanmar Port Authority
Tender Accepting and Documents Evaluation Committee

Ministry of Transport and Communications
Myanma Port Authority

Invitation to Open Tender for Dredging and Waterway Improvement of Thanlwin River (Darebauk)

1. The Myanma Port Authority (MPA) is planning to award the contract for **dredging** across the waterway of Bilu Island North Channel, Thanlwin River (Darebauk) in the Mon State, and for **sand export**, in order to improve the waterway and navigation channel as the sedimentation causes shallow water-depth and disrupts port operation. MPA, in this regard, would like to invite both local and international companies to participate in an Open Tender.
2. Unlike a commercial dredging, such dredging needs to ensure a) not to incur any damage to the environment and ecosystem, by dredging at the specific shallow-water areas designated by the MPA to reach the targeted water-depth, b) not to disrupt the socio-economic conditions of the local people, and c) to assist and support to local development works and local needs if necessary. And thus, the potential bidders must present qualification in terms of work- and technical experience, and the strength of expert team and equipment as well as strong financial capability. (International companies may need to form a JV with a local company or have a branch office in Myanmar.)
3. Therefore, any interested companies (both local and international) that meet the above mentioned technical and financial requirements are invited to enter the tender. Tender Application and forms can be purchased from the following address and the dates and times of the tender process are as follow:
 - (a) Address to purchase Tender Forms - Myanma Port Authority (Marine Department), No. 10, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.
 - (b) Date & Time to purchase - 1-2-2022 to 21-2-2022, Office Hour (10:00-15:00)
 - (c) Address for Tender submission and Date & Time - Myanma Port Authority Head Office 1-3-2022, 14:30
 - (d) Tender Opening Date & Time - 1-3-2022, 15:30
4. For further details, please contact the following numbers:
 - (a) 01-246380
 - (b) 01-8387117, Ex-211

Myanmar Port Authority
Tender Accepting and Documents Evaluation Committee

Putin tells Macron that West ignored Russia's security concerns

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin told his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron Friday that the West had ignored Moscow's security concerns over NATO expansion and Ukraine, the Kremlin said.

The United States and NATO earlier this week delivered a response to sweeping security demands put to them by Russia, that called on the West to promise never to admit Ukraine to the US-led security alliance.

"The US and NATO responses did not take into account Russia's fundamental concerns including preventing NATO's expansion and refusing to deploy strike weapons systems near Russia's borders," Putin told Macron, the Kremlin said in a statement.

Putin said the US had "ig-



Belarus's defence ministry released photos showing Russian troops and tanks arriving for drills. PHOTO: BELARUS DEFENCE MINISTRY/AFP

nored" other key concerns outlined by Russia and had failed to explain how security in Europe

could be guaranteed without hurting defence concerns of other countries.

The Kremlin said the two leaders had spoken at length, with Putin telling Macron he

will "carefully" study the US and NATO's responses "after which he will decide on his further actions".

A Russian troop build-up close to the border with eastern Ukraine has raised Western fears the Kremlin is planning to invade its pro-EU neighbour.

Russia denies any plans to invade but has demanded wide-ranging security guarantees from the West, which keeps trying to engage Moscow diplomatically. The Elysee Palace on Wednesday hailed as a "positive signal" talks in Paris between Russia and Ukraine — as well as France and Germany — which produced the first joint written statement on the conflict in eastern Ukraine signed up to by Moscow and Kyiv since 2019. — AFP ■

Italian parties to beg outgoing president to stay on



Italian President Sergio Mattarella (centre) talking with President of the Italian Senate, Maria Elisabetta Alberti Casellati (second left). PHOTO: AFP

ITALY'S warring parties were set Saturday to beg outgoing President Sergio Mattarella to stay for another term, fearing political chaos due to a possible

failure to elect his successor.

The 80-year old — who has repeatedly ruled out serving again — won nearly 400 votes at the seventh ballot, and the

parties in the governing coalition said they had struck a deal to elect him at the next round.

Mattarella will need to get 505 or more votes at the eighth ballot, which starts at 16:30 pm (1530 GMT).

Italy's presidency is largely ceremonial, but the head of state wields serious power during political crises, from dissolving parliament to picking new prime ministers and denying mandates to fragile coalitions.

Prime Minister Mario Draghi, a former European Central Bank chief brought in to lead the government almost a year ago, had been touted for months as the most eligible head of state. — AFP ■

UK assisted dying bill hopes to end 'inhumane' suicides

MOLLY Meacher's voice quivers with emotion as she tells how her aunt took her own life after her liver cancer tumour grew to the size of a football.

"One night, she took a whole lot of pills and whisky, and her husband found her dead in the morning," said Meacher, a member of British parliament's upper House of Lords.

"It seemed to me terribly

sad that somebody would end their life alone in the middle of the night without even their dear husband knowing that this was what they were doing," she told AFP.

Meacher, 81, has drafted a law to legalise assisted dying in England for the terminally ill with less than six months to live, an act currently punishable by up to 14 years in prison.

"It just was clear to me that this was just inhumane. You wouldn't treat a dog or a cat like that. But we treat our own people like that," said the former social worker. The UK parliament examined the question of assisted dying in 2015 and decided against legalising it, but since then other countries have decided to approve what many see as an act of mercy. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Half of Stockholm trains cancelled due to staff shortages

HALF of all trains scheduled to travel to and via Stockholm, the Swedish capital, this weekend have been cancelled due to severe staff shortages. "The Swedish Transport Administration has never before had to cancel so many departures due to illness within the staff groups, despite two years of a pandemic," said Bengt Olsson, press officer of the organization in a press release on Friday.

The cancellations affect all trains: long-distance lines, commuter lines and freight trains at least until early on Sunday.

As Stockholm is an important hub for train traffic, the cancellations will also affect destinations north as well as south of the city.

Olsson did not elaborate on the nature of the many sick leaves, but the Omicron variant is wreaking havoc in the country, affecting critical services whose staff are off sick or in quarantine due to a household member being infected.

To keep services running, the government last week announced new rules, including a quarantine exemption for unvaccinated individuals with key functions specified by the Civil Contingencies Agency. — Xinhua ■

Young feminist, Iran-born old hand to lead German Greens

GERMANY'S Green party elected fresh leadership Saturday just a month after joining its first national government in 16 years, crowning a duo mixing new blood with outspoken policy experience.

FEMINIST Ricarda Lang, 28, and Iranian-born foreign policy expert Omid Nouripour, 46, are taking the reins of the ecologist party as it attempts to keep supporters onside while maintaining a tricky coalition in Berlin.

The Greens and their chancellor candidate Annalena Baerbock scored their highest ever result in last September's general election with 14.8 per cent of the vote.

But they fell short of even bigger expectations that they could name Angela Merkel's successor.

The party wound up joining Germany's first three-way national coalition, under Chancellor Olaf Scholz of the Social Democrats and alongside the pro-business Free Democrats. — AFP ■

UK to offer NATO 'major military deployment' in Europe

BRITAIN is preparing to offer NATO a "major" deployment of troops, weapons, warships and jets in Europe, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced Saturday, to respond to rising "Russian hostility" towards Ukraine.

The offer, set to be made to NATO military chiefs next week, could see London double the approximately 1,150 UK troops currently in eastern European countries and "defensive weapons" sent to Estonia, his office said.

"This package would send a clear message to the Kremlin — we will not tolerate their destabilising activity, and we will always stand with our NATO allies in the face Russian hostility," Johnson said in a statement late Saturday.

"I have ordered our Armed Forces to prepare to deploy across Europe next week, ensuring we are able to support



British artillery soldiers are pictured after a shooting session during the Dynamic Front 18 exercise in Grafenwoehr, Germany, in March 2018. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

our NATO allies on land, at sea and in the air," he added.

The British leader said if Russian President Putin chose "bloodshed and destruction" in Ukraine, it would be "a tragedy for Europe".

"Ukraine must be free to

choose its own future," he argued.

Johnson, who has been under intense political pressure for weeks following a series of scandals, said Friday he will speak to Putin in the coming days to urge de-escalation over Ukraine.

Meanwhile, he is to visit the region next week.

Relations between Russia and the West are at their lowest point since the Cold War after Moscow deployed tens of thousands of troops on the border of Ukraine.

Support

Britain's foreign ministry is expected to announce the toughening of its sanctions regime on Russia in parliament Monday, to target strategic and financial interests.

Meanwhile UK officials will be dispatched to Brussels, home to NATO headquarters, to finalise details of the military offer after ministers discuss the differing options also on Monday.

Britain's chief of defence staff Tony Radakin, the head of the armed forces, will brief the cabinet on the situation in Ukraine the following day.

The possible deployment of aircraft, warships and military specialists as well as troops and weaponry will reinforce NATO's defences and "underpin the UK's support for Nordic and Baltic partners", according to Johnson's office. — AFP ■

Kazakh leader rejects international probe into deadly unrest



This image grab shows protesters near an administrative building during a rally over a hike in energy prices, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 5 January. PHOTO: AFP

KAZAKHSTAN President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev Saturday rejected calls for an international probe into a bloody crisis in the

ex-Soviet country and said he had no plans to change the constitution to extend his rule.

Over 200 people were killed

and thousands injured earlier this month in violence that began with anti-government protests and prompted the country to call in Russia-led troops.

Tokayev and other Kazakh officials have blamed the clashes that sent Central Asia's richest country into turmoil on bandits and terrorists with foreign connections, while providing little proof to back up the theory.

In his first televised interview since the crisis began, Tokayev reiterated that Kazakhstan had been under attack from militants and said the state would be able to probe the events without foreign help.

— AFP ■

Stray bullets kill bystanders as US shootings soar

A baby in his car seat. A man in bed. A girl walking with her mother: Stray bullets killed each of them days apart as surging gun violence ripples through the United States.

In addition to the people killed in suicides or the homicides hitting record levels in some US cities, an untold number of other victims are struck by bullets that weren't meant for them.

The deaths can spark fleeting spurts of media and police attention — similar to the nation's recurrent horror over mass shootings — only for the focus to ebb until the next tragedy occurs.

"It happens so regularly," said Chris Herrmann, a gun violence expert at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. "If this happened in a foreign country, it would be headline news."

The southern US city of Atlanta was the scene of two cases this month.

A 31-year-old British astrophysicist named Matthew Willson was in bed on 16 January when he awoke to sounds of gunfire outside his girlfriend's apartment — and was fatally shot moments later.

"It's impossible to comprehend how it is even true," his sister Kate Willson told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution newspaper.

About a week later Kerri Gray was driving with her six-month-old son Grayson Fleming-Gray when she heard a noise and two cars raced past. — AFP ■

North Korea fires unidentified 'projectile': South's military

NORTH Korea fired an "unidentified projectile" Sunday, the South's military said, its seventh weapons test this month in one of the most intense spates of launches on record as the regime flexes its military muscles while ignoring US offers of talks.

The last time North Korea tested this many weapons in a month was in 2019, after high-profile negotiations between leader Kim Jong Un and then-US president Donald

Trump collapsed.

Since then, talks with the US have stalled, and the country is reeling economically from biting international sanctions and a self-imposed coronavirus blockade. "North Korea fired an unidentified projectile towards the East Sea (Sea of Japan)," Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. Japan's coast guard meanwhile said it had detected a launch of a "possible ballistic missile".

This year Pyongyang has embarked on a fresh flurry of sanctions-busting tests, including hypersonic missiles, after Kim re-avowed his commitment to military modernisation at a key party speech in December.

Pyongyang carried out two weapons tests last week, and has conducted at least four additional tests this month — including of what it called hypersonic missiles on 5 and 11 January. — AFP ■



A stuffed teddy bear hangs from a light pole at a memorial for 8-year-old Melissa Ortega, who was struck in Chicago by stray bullets. PHOTO: AFP

Lot-drawing ceremony for 2023 Asian Cup 3rd Round qualifiers to be held on 24 Feb

THE lot-drawing ceremony for 2023 Asian Cup 3rd Round qualifiers in which Myanmar team participating will be held on 24 February.

A total of 24 teams will compete in the third round, which will be divided into four groups of six.

Following the 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup second round qualifiers held in mid-2021, 12 teams have qualified for the 2023 Asian Cup third round qualifiers.

Kuwait, Myanmar, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, the Philippines, Jordan, Bahrain, Palestine, India, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Turkmenistan, the Maldives, Nepal, Hong Kong, Singapore, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Indonesia will have to compete in the third round of 2023 Asian Cup.

The final round of the 2023 AFC Asian Cup will be played

with 24 teams, with 13 teams already appearing, and 11 more teams from the third round.

As a result, the top five teams from the top six and the second place teams will win the tournament.

Qatar, host China, Japan, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Iran, UAE, Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Australia, Oman and Vietnam have already qualified for the finals.— Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM ■

Nadal comes from two sets down to make history with 21st Slam



Spain's Rafael Nadal reacts after winning against Russia's Daniil Medvedev during their men's singles final match on day fourteen of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne early on 31 January 2022. **PHOTO: BRANDON MALONE / AFP**

It was one of the 35-year-old Spanish warrior's greatest title victories in his 29th Grand Slam final as he won his second Australian Open, 13 years after his first in 2009.

"This has been one of the most emotional matches of my tennis career," Nadal said.

"It's just amazing. I didn't know a few months back if I would even be playing again on the tour and I am back on this court before you all today. You don't know how much I fought to be here.

"The huge support I have received in the three weeks here is going to stay in my heart for the rest of my life."

Nadal also became only the fourth man to win each of the four Grand Slams twice and the third oldest man in the Open Era (since 1970) to win a Grand Slam title, behind Ken Rosewall and Federer.

The final went down to the bitter end with Nadal being broken as he served for the championship only for the Spaniard to break back. — AFP ■

RAFAEL Nadal roared back from two sets down to win a titanic five-set duel with Daniil Medvedev and claim a record 21st Grand Slam men's title in the Australian Open final on Sunday.

The Spanish great looked dead and buried as the Russian world number two carved out a two-set lead but Nadal surged home for one of his mightiest comeback wins 2-6, 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in 5hr 24min on Rod La-

ver Arena.

Nadal came out on top in the physical war of attrition to move ahead of era rivals Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer on the all-time list of men's major winners.

Djokovic missed his chance to improve on his nine Australian Open wins when he was deported over vaccination issues on the eve of the tournament, while Federer is injured.

Toko-Ekambi goals fire Cameroon into Cup of Nations semi-finals

CAMEROON are through to the semi-finals of their Africa Cup of Nations after Karl Toko-Ekambi's double fired them to a 2-0 win over Gambia on Saturday in the hosts' first game at the tournament since the deadly crush in Yaounde.

French-born Lyon striker Toko-Ekambi scored two goals in the space of eight minutes at the start of the second half,

leading to scenes of ecstatic celebration in Douala.

His goals were just reward for Cameroon, who completely dominated against a Gambian side appearing in their first ever Cup of Nations.

"They sat back and made it difficult for us and their goalkeeper made some great saves in the first half but we came back out in the second half, got

the goals and saw it out, and now we are proud to be in the semi-finals," said Toko-Ekambi.

Cameroon march on to a last-four showdown with Egypt or Morocco as they continue their quest for a sixth continental title, while reaching the quarter-finals was an extraordinary performance for Gambia. — AFP ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

- To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Barty 'humbled' after joining tennis royalty



Ashleigh Barty poses with the Australian Open trophy. **PHOTO: AFP**

ASHLEIGH Barty says she feels "humbled" to have joined tennis royalty's most exclusive club with a Grand Slam crown on three different surfaces, but vowed: "There's still work to be done."

The 25-year-old achieved the feat by becoming the Australian Open's first home champion in 44 years when she came from 1-5 down in the second set of Saturday's final to beat Danielle Collins 6-3, 7-6 (7/2).

It followed her breakthrough French Open success in 2019 and Wimbledon last year, putting her in elite company.

The only other active players to snare majors on clay, grass and hard courts are legends of the sport — Serena Williams, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic.

Barty and Williams are the only two to win their first three Slams on three surfaces.

"I feel very humble to be in such a select group. To be honest, I don't really feel like I belong with those champions of our sport," said the world number one. — AFP ■