

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

## Maha Zeyabon golden umbrella, Waziyaketu diamond orb hoisted atop Sakkyapadaung Pagoda in conjunction with consecration in Thetthapadaung Village in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region

A ceremony to hoist Maha Zeyabon golden umbrella and Waziyaketu diamond orb atop Sakkyapadaung Pagoda in conjunction with the consecration ceremony took place in the precinct of YwaU Monastery in Thetthapadaung Village of Lekaing Village-tract in Pwintbyu Township in Magway Region yesterday morning, graced by State Ovadacariya Salin Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Ketu and members of the Sangha.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and party took the Nine Precepts from Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Presiding Nayaka of Salin's Maha Withutayama Seinpan Monastery Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Bhaddanta Kumara.

The Senior General, wife and family members offered Yadana diamond orb, pennant shaped vane, golden umbrella and offerings to Salin Sayadaw. Members of the Council, the joint secretary and Union ministers donated alms to members of the Sangha. They all listened to a sermon



The Senior General, wife and family members offer the Yadana diamond orb, pennant-shaped vane, golden umbrella and offerings to the Salin Sayadaw yesterday.

delivered by Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Maha Withutayama Monastery from Salin and shared

merits gained.

The Senior General, the wife, family members and party

conveyed the Yadana diamond orb and pennant shaped vane around the pagoda clockwise and

conveyed them atop the pagoda at the auspicious time by a decorated float. **SEE PAGE-3**

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SAC members attend opening ceremony of Inter-Region/State traditional martial arts or Myanma Thaing competition 2022 in Nay Pyi Taw

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Fuel oil prices in Ygn market inching upward up to over K1,700 per litre

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## National Objectives of Diamond Jubilee Union Day 2022

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

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

#### Announcement 1/2022

6<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1383 ME

6 February 2022

### Invitation to Perpetual Peace and Diamond Jubilee Union Day Ceremony

1. The State Administration Council is implementing the five-point Road Map for ensuring stability and development and flourishing the genuine, disciplined multiparty democracy. The government adopted the policy that “emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)” as the fourth point of the Road Map. To do so, the State Administration Council is continuously implementing the peace process as part of emphasizing peace in line with the NCA.
2. The Tatmadaw issued 20 statements related to a ceasefire from 21 December 2018 to 28 February 2022 to conduct ceasefire. After meeting with the Cambodian Prime Minister taking ASEAN alternate chair on his working visit to Myanmar on 7 and 8 January 2022, a joint declaration was issued to continue the ceasefire till the end of this year.
3. The message of greetings 2022 made by the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister stated, “The year 2022 is of importance. Coming 12 February is the Diamond Jubilee Union Day and the 4 January 2023 will be the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day. Hence, it is important to further strengthen the sovereignty of the State and progress of the nation with development fruits. So, we have to start the new paces for restoration of the peace this year. As it is mentioned in the fourth point of the five-point road map, all stakeholders and organizations are invited to join the peace talks.” Although Myanmar has regained 75 years, the strengthening of sovereignty and development of the nation do not have the improvement as expected due to occurrences of internal armed conflicts and the country loses the strengths and capabilities. It is necessary to restore the perpetual peace to apply these strength and capabilities for the State development at full capacity.
4. Restoration of perpetual peace is very important for building the Union based on democracy and federalism. In this regard, the majority of political parties focused their discussions on the construction of the Union based on democracy and federalism within five years. The National Unity and Peace Restoration Central Committee, the work committee and the coordination committee were formed for working the national unity and perpetual peace. The peace co-ordination committee has so far held meetings with NCA signatories 16 times, non-NCA signatories nine times, political parties seven times and religious leaders and peace negotiators two times, totalling 34.
5. The State Administration Council is arranging the management for holding meetings with ethnic armed organizations for restoring the perpetual peace. Except for the groups declared as terrorist groups, the government invited not only NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations but also non-NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations to talks about the perpetual peace. The schedule was especially expressed that the meetings would not be pre-restricted for topics of the talks with the aim of freely exchanging views among them.
6. Among three future tasks of the State, **two national tasks** are “to ensure the prosperity of the State and the food sufficiency” and **the two political tasks** are “to strengthen the genuine, disciplined multiparty democracy and build the Union based on democracy and federalism.” As such, the new steps will be made for the peace as of this year as part of implementing the process for ensuring **the integration of peace and sovereignty**.
7. It is necessary to focus on talking about the perpetual peace through seeking the way to solve the answer in negotiation in accord with the democratic practices in order to politically solve the political problems in successive eras as internal affairs of our country. On the occasion coincided with the Diamond Jubilee Union Day, all ethnic armed organizations are especially invited to the Diamond Jubilee Union Day grand ceremony as well as the pre-coordination meeting on perpetual peace talks to build the Union based on democracy and federalism during the ceremony of the Diamond Jubilee Union Day. The entire ethnic national people are requested to negotiate with all stakeholders to attend the free and unrestricted peace talks and the Diamond Jubilee Union Day for restoration of the perpetual peace of the government.

State Administration Council

## Honouring Ceremony on Diamond Jubilee Union Day 2020 to be broadcast live

AN Honouring Ceremony to mark the Diamond Jubilee Union Day 2020 will be held at the Nay Pyi Taw Grand Military Parade Ground on the morning of 12 February. The ceremony will

be broadcast live at MRTV-HD, MRTV NRC, MRTV Farmers', MRTV Parliament, MWD HD, MWD Variety HD, 5 Plus, Reader Channel, Skynet Up-to-Date and Skynet Ethnic Channel and

aired live on Radio Myanmar, Padamyar FM, Cherry FM, Pyinsawady FM, Mandalay FM and Shwe FM and Thazin FM starting from 6:15 am on 12 February 2022. — MNA

**1,307 new cases of  
COVID-19 reported on  
10 February, total figure  
rises to 541,904**

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **541,904** after **1,307** new cases were reported on 10 February 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **514,833** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,310** without casualties for 18 days consecutively.—MNA



## Further ongoing work process

Further priorities of our government are: –

Priority will be given to ensure the prosperity of the nation and food sufficiency as two national tasks.

As two political processes, we will strengthen the genuine, disciplined multiparty democracy and build the Union based on democracy and federalism.

### Measures on the sustainability of peace and sovereignty

Concerning measures on the sustainability of peace and sovereignty, the year 2022 is of great importance. Coming 12<sup>th</sup> February will be Diamond Jubilee Union Day and the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023 will be Diamond Jubilee Independence Day. As such, it is important to ensure the strengthening of the sovereignty of the State and the fruitful development of the nation. So, we would like to start new steps for the restoration of peace this year. As it has been mentioned in the Five-point Road Map, I have expressed my wish to invite all relevant organizations to talk about peace in my New Year message of greetings in 2022. So, I'd like to add one more that we are always ready for peace.

*(Excerpt from the speech made by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on one-year State responsibilities discharged by the State Administration Council on 1-2-2022)*

## Maha Zeyabon golden umbrella, Waziyaketu diamond orb hoisted atop Sakkyapadaung Pagoda in conjunction with consecration in Thetthapadaung Village in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife and congregation take the Nine Precepts from the members of the Sangha at the event yesterday.

### FROM PAGE-1

Members of the Sangha consecrated the pagoda. The Senior General and wife offered alms in the emerald alms-bowl, flowers, water and fruits to the Buddha Image in the pagoda. They then sprinkled scented water on the stone inscription plaque bearing the past lives of the Buddha-to-be and the archive stone inscription and beat the bell nine times. In the precinct of the pagoda, they planted a Maha Bawdi banyan tree.

The Senior General, wife and party donated alms to members of the Sangha and served the guests with a lunch.

Sakkyapadaung Pagoda was built by U Soe Min and his family from Mayoekon Village in Pwintbyu Township from 22 February to 17 April 2004. In the past, the nine-elbow pagoda was located in the centre of Kokkutayon (Okpo Pagoda), Gawthinayon (Ywakhaing Pa-

goda), Parwaryon (Shwepanmyaing Pagoda) and Gandayon (Kyaungtawya Pagoda) flanked by Ywathagyi, Hlegyi, Kanthagyi and Montawgyi villages. In this regard, Abbot of Neikbantawng Monastery from Lekaing Village-tract Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visutta said a random utterance, saying that “it shall be hustling and bustling-the country shall be peaceful and prosperous.” With the contributions of the Senior General, wife and family members, and well-wishers, the nine-elbow pagoda was enveloped by the 45-foot Sakkyapadaung Pagoda. Yesterday, the Maha Zeyabon golden umbrella and Waziyaketu diamond orb were hoisted atop the pagoda in conjunction with the consecration ceremony successfully.

The Senior General then met village elders, officials from village maternal and child welfare association and local peo-



ple in Lekaing Village and asked about economic and development measures of the region.

Village elders reported on requirements for the sale of agricultural machinery in in-

stalment because of shortages of farming workers, a fire truck for the village and regional development tasks. The Senior General instructed officials to sell the agricultural machin-

ery in instalment, provide a fire truck to the village before summer, renovate Shwepyiaye pagoda and carry out regional development tasks.

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# Maha Zeyabon golden umbrella, Waziyaketu diamond orb hoisted atop Sakkyapadaung Pagoda in conjunction with consecration in Thetthapadaung Village in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region



The Senior General and wife offer "Soon" (day meals) to the Salin Sayadaw and senior monks.



**FROM PAGE-3**

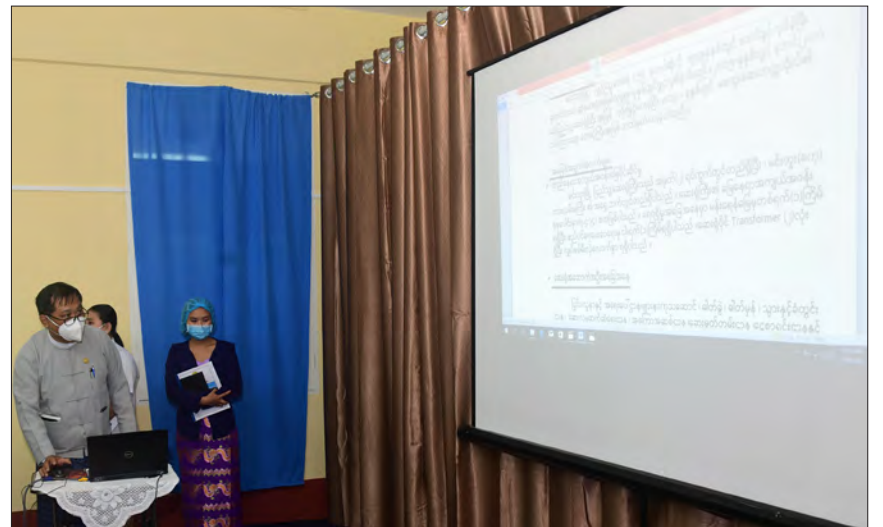
The Senior General presented K5 million to the village development fund and cordially greeted village elders, officials from village MCWA and locals.

The Senior General paid homage to Sandaku Natha Kyaungtawya Pagoda in Pwintbyu Township and donated cash to the multiple development fund of the pagoda. The Senior General, wife and party paid homage to Secretary-General of the pagoda board of trustees Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Dhammacara and asked after his health condition. They also donated alms to the Sayadaw. The Senior General instructed officials to systematically maintain the pagoda for long term existence. —MNA

The Senior General's wife and devotees participate in hoisting the diamond orb and golden umbrella atop Sakkyapadaung Pagoda.



# Oxygen plant will be re-operated for giving treatment to COVID-19 patients: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets the health department personnel at the Minbu General Hospital yesterday.

ARRANGEMENTS must be made for patients to conveniently receive medical treatment at the hospital under the systematic management, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in inspecting Minbu General Hospital yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting hall, Magway Region Public Health Department Head Dr. Thaung Hlaing reported on the brief history of the hospital, medical treatments for various patients, progress in vaccination of anti-COVID-19 pandemic, functioning of the teaching hospital, preparation for ICU of the hospital and re-

quirements.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General said that the oxygen plant will be re-operated for giving treatment to COVID-19 patients. Patients from townships on the western bank of Ayeyawady Region in Magway Region are to receive medical treatment at Minbu General

Hospital. The hospital has been equipped with full facilities. The Senior General recognized the dutiful services of the health staff at the hospital. It is necessary to carry out sanitation in the compound of the hospital, and arrangements must be made for patients to conveniently receive medical treatment at the hospital

under systematic management.

The Senior General presented K15 million for the hospital and foodstuffs for health staff and patients through the medical superintendent and officials.

The Senior General then cordially greeted the health staff. — MNA

# SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing discusses regional development with officials from Magway region government

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met Magway region cabinet members and district and township-level departmental personnel and discussed regional development yesterday afternoon at the meeting hall of the local military headquarters.

The meeting was also attended by the SAC members, the Magway region chief minister, the commander of the Central Command and officials.

Firstly, Ministers of the Magway regional government and district administrators presented the preparation for livestock farming and hatcheries in rivers and plans for goat breeding by forming cooperative societies, condition of cotton cultivation, the completion status of COVID-19 vaccination, the situation of local security and the rule of law.

Upon explanation, the Senior General said it is necessary to systematically plant fish in rivers, and cattle and goat breeding will be more beneficial if they are reared in captivity as it will provide not only livestock but also natural fertilizers required for agriculture. The Senior General also suggested that not only broilers but also layers should



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hold talks with the regional government officials and departmental personnel in Magway yesterday.

be raised in large numbers in the Magway region, adding that it is found that poultry farming is more productive with the use of evaporation type, modern breeding system, which can also be used with the solar system on sunny days.

He highlighted the need to make fish and eggs affordable for people to eat nutritious food. An ordinary person needs to consume about 10 ticals of meat and three eggs per day, therefore, the government is releasing fish in rivers and streams across the country, he said.

Regarding oil production, the

Senior General said it is necessary to modernize oil mills and carry out systematic milling and be able to produce fertilizers and animal feed from the mills. In addition, he also added the need to preserve toddy plants and toddy products as the toddy plants is an ancient culture of Myanmar and the need to improve yields per acre of cotton cultivation.

It is necessary to cultivate forest trees as a national duty, to implement agricultural activities with industrial farming system, to produce tractors from state-owned tractor factories and to support private-owned factories,

to make it available to farmers with good quality and low price, to include production roads in the development of the industrial farming system, which will also solve the problem of labour shortage, he added.

The Senior General also stressed the need to comply with the traffic rules to reduce traffic accidents in the region, to have directions and signs systematically, to take measures to prevent the illegal driving of vehicles, to supervise the proper use of motorcycle helmets, to systematically issue driving licences, and to enforce the rules and regulations

to prevent overloading of trucks to prevent road damage.

He instructed officials to work for the development of rural areas and meet the needs as much as possible to reduce the development gap between urban and rural areas in the region. The administration is governed by a democratic system and it is necessary to act in accord with the authority given by law. As the governing bodies in each township, district and state/region-level need to work for the benefit of the people under the law, it is necessary to do everything that needs to be done, he instructed. — MNA



## State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspects dinner table setting, full dressed rehearsal of ethnic people for Diamond Jubilee Union Day 2022



The Vice-Senior General inspects the dinner table setting for the Diamond Jubilee Union Day 2022.

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspected the table setting for dinner and full dressed rehearsal of ethnic people for the ceremony to mark the Diamond Jubilee Union Day 2022 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, the Vice-Senior General arrived at the square of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall and cordially greeted the ethnic cultural troupes.

He then inspected the table setting for dinner to mark the Diamond Jubilee Union Day 2022 and the officials explained the procedures.

Afterwards, he checked

the full dressed rehearsal of ethnic cultural dance troupes at the outdoor theatre to be performed at the dinner party and left the necessary things.

At the dinner party, the ethnic people will perform dramas and dances with songs, including "Perpetual Peace for Union".

Chairman of Central Committee on Organizing the Diamond Jubilee Union Day Vice-Senior General Soe Win viewed the dance rehearsal together with the SAC members, central committee member Union ministers, chairpersons of subcommittees deputy ministers and officials. — MNA



The Vice-Senior General and party view the full dressed rehearsal of ethnic nationals for Diamond Jubilee Union Day 2022.

## Committee on Implementation of Stability Peace and Development in Rakhine State holds 1/2022 meeting

THE Committee on Implementation of Stability Peace and Development in Rakhine State organized its 1/2022 meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, Committee Chairman Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung said to submit the report regularly regarding the implementation of recommendations for stability peace and development of Rakhine State.

The working committees should carry out the operations following the drafted plans especially the development programmes with the project set by the working committee on socio-economic development.



He then talked about the preparations for the Pilot Project at Taung Pyo Letwe and Nga Khu Ya reception centres, Hla Phoe Khaung Kyar camp and reception centres, cooperation works of relevant min-

istries, working committees and Rakhine State Government and systematic storage of documents and data.

Then, Vice-Chairman (1) Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing briefed them on the

regional peace and development and resettlement of internally displaced persons while Vice-Chairman (2) Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine explained the activities of the working committee on human-

itarian aids and resettlement, accepting of refugees under Pilot Project and work plans to be implemented according to MoU signed by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and India.

Then, the attendees to the meeting discussed matters related to the security and rule of law, collaboration with UN organizations and international countries, immigration and citizenship scrutiny processes and other development programmes of Rakhine State.

The Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairpersons instructed the necessary things and concluded the meeting. — MNA



# SAC members attend opening ceremony of Inter-Region/State traditional martial arts or Myanmar Thaing competition 2022 in Nay Pyi Taw

THE opening ceremony of Inter-Region/State traditional martial arts or Myanmar Thaing contest 2022 was organized at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium (B) in Nay Pyi Taw following the COVID-19 health rules yesterday.

The event was attended by State Administration Council members Mahn Nyein Maung, U Khin Maung Swe, Daw Aye Nu Sein, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U Sai Lone Hsaing, U Saw Daniel, Union Ministers Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, U Min Thein Zan, Dr Thet Thet Khine and Dr Htay Aung and the deputy ministers, departmental officials and staff.

First, Union Minister U Min Thein Zan highlighted the intentions of holding the martial arts competition such as the emergence of young, strong and fit athletes to lift



Dignitaries attend the opening ceremony of the Inter-Region/State traditional martial arts (Myanmar Thaing) contest 2022 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



the dignity of the country, sharing of martial arts in the international countries and a supportive measure to participate in South East Asia and World competitions.

He also added that it should conserve Myanmar's Thaing as it is a valuable cul-

tural heritage and consider it as a national duty of the individual to spread and develop it in line with the trend. Martial arts are important for the defence of the nation and need to be seriously preserved as a traditional heritage.

The youths also take it in

mind not to disappear these arts. Moreover, the judges should fairly decide the competition cases and Thaing contestants should communicate with other participants friendly and compete with their best skills and perseverance.

The martial arts competi-

tion will be conducted from 10 to 14 February and a total of 145 Thaing contestants of 12 teams from regions and states will participate in the contest. Anyone interested in sports can visit and enjoy it for free. — MNA

## Students for Diamond Jubilee Union Day Ceremony pay study tour to MRTV in Tatkon



Students pay the study tour around the MRTV in Tatkon

THE students, who will participate in the Diamond Jubilee Union Day Ceremony by performing the characters representation of states/regions and playing the band, and their teachers visited MRTV in Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw and enjoyed the entertainment programmes yesterday.

First, the study group viewed the 40 display booths in MRTV Diamond Jubilee Museum featuring TV broadcasting machinery and vehicles, other machinery for TV broadcasting, gramophone records and tapes, news studio, musical instruments and other related materials.

Then, Director-General U Ye Naing of MRTV warmly

welcomed the students and teachers and delivered a greeting speech at the Auditorium of MRTV.

Afterwards, the MRTV staff performed with a song and opened the video clip of the one-year performance of the SAC and other MRTV singers sang and the Inzali Anyeint troupe entertained the students and teachers.

The study group including 1,240 students and teachers from 13 high and middle schools of Pyinmana and Nay Pyi Taw paid a study tour to MRTV in two groups keeping in line with the COVID-19 health rules. — MNA



Students watch the entertainment programmes.

### Public Notification

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

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

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

*Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee*

### Public Notification

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

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

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

*Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee*

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# Place emphasis on healthcare for the people

THE whole world has been suffering from COVID-19 for more than two years. The pandemic brings terrible loss to the social-economic life of the people as well as some 20,000 casualties out of over 50,000 infected people during the period.

In line with the policy "do it practically and promptly, and nothing is more important than the human life" adopted by the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister, all relevant personnel strived for taking preventive, control and treatment measures of COVID-19 at full capacity day and night. Consequently,

Healthcare is a must for the people regardless of race, gender, age, the rich and the poor. Medical personnel should never abandon the patients in line with the Hippocratic Oath. Time gradually goes with the wind. The time and history will show the correct records related to the Hippocratic Oath.

for confirmed patients.

At that time, 765 hospitals and 7,430 clinics of 1,077 hospitals and 11,427 clinics provided healthcare services to people across the nation. Currently, these hospitals and clinics are open for the resumption of their services for the people.

During the period, Myanmar received just two million of 30 million units of COVID-19 vaccines from India due to various reasons. In its tenure, the State Administration Council purchased some US\$300 million worth of vaccines and accepted more than 17 million doses of vaccines worth more than US\$100 million from China, India, Russia and the Nippon Foundation.

Healthcare is a must for the people regardless of race, gender, age, the rich and the poor. Medical personnel should never abandon the patients in line with the Hippocratic Oath. Time gradually goes with the wind. The time and history will show the correct records related to the Hippocratic Oath.



# WHO urges rich countries to pay up for Covid plan

The WHO said the vast inequity was not only costing lives and hurting economies, it was also risking the emergence of new, more dangerous variants that could rob current tools of their effectiveness and set even highly-vaccinated populations back by many months.

THE WHO urged rich countries Wednesday to pay their fair share of the money needed for its plan to conquer Covid-19 by urgently contributing \$16 billion.

The World Health Organization said the rapid cash injection into its Access to Covid Tools Accelerator could finish off Covid as a global health emergency this year.

The WHO-led ACTA is aimed at developing, producing, procuring and distributing tools to tackle the pandemic: namely vaccines, tests, treatments and personal protective equipment.

ACTA gave birth to the Covax facility, designed to ensure poorer countries could access eventual vaccines, correctly predicting that richer nations would hog doses.

Covax delivered its billionth vaccine dose in mid-January.

ACTA needed \$23.4 billion for its programme for the October 2021-September 2022 period, but only \$800 million has been raised so far.

The scheme therefore wants \$16 billion up front from wealthy nations "to close the immediate financing gap", with the rest to



Aid workers check a shipment of vaccines against the coronavirus sent to Sudan by the Covax vaccine-sharing initiative, shortly after an Emirates plane landed at the airport in the capital Khartoum, on 6 October 2021. PHOTO: EBRAHIM HAMID/AFP

be self-funded by middle-income countries.

### Omicron impetus

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the rapid spread

of the Omicron variant made it all the more urgent to ensure tests, treatments and vaccines were distributed equitably.

"Wherever you live, Covid-19 is not finished with us," he said.

"Science gave us the tools to fight Covid-19; if they are shared globally in solidarity, we can end Covid-19 as a global health emergency this year."

Just 0.4 per cent of the 4.7

billion Covid tests administered globally during the pandemic have been used in low-income countries.

Meanwhile only 10 per cent of people in those nations have received at least one vaccine dose.

The WHO said the vast inequity was not only costing lives and hurting economies, it was also risking the emergence of new, more dangerous variants that could rob current tools of their effectiveness and set even highly-vaccinated populations back by many months.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the campaign launch that overcoming the pandemic was within reach this year, "but we need to act now".

"If we want to ensure vaccinations for everyone to end this pandemic, we must first inject fairness into the system," he said.

"Vaccine inequity is the biggest moral failure of our times and people and countries are paying the price."

### Ramaphosa call

ACTA has come up with a new "fair share" financing model

on how much each of the world's wealthy countries should contribute, based on the size of their national economy and what they would gain from a faster recovery of the global economy.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, who co-chairs the ACTA facilitation council, said inequitable access to Covid tools was simply prolonging the pandemic.

### Step up in solidarity

"I urge my fellow leaders to step up in solidarity, meet their fair shares, and help reclaim our lives from this virus," he said.

Ramaphosa and his co-chair Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store have written to 55 of the wealthiest nations outlining their "fair share" and encouraging them to cough up.

The plan would require the United States to contribute the most, at \$6 billion.

"Public health doesn't end at our borders. All of us are at risk and all of us must respond to turn the tide. Let's get this done," said US Health Secretary Xavier Becerra.

SOURCE: AFP

# AI 'ageism' could seriously impact elderly health: WHO

Doctor Vania de la Fuente Nunez, of the WHO's Healthy Ageing unit, pointed to practices seen during the Covid-19 pandemic of allowing a patient's age to determine whether they could access oxygen, or a bed in a crowded intensive care unit.

BIASES embedded in artificial intelligence systems increasingly used in healthcare risk deepening discrimination against older people, the World Health Organization warned Wednesday.

AI technologies hold enormous potential for improving care for older people, but they also carry significant risk, the UN health agency said in a policy brief. "Encoding of stereotypes, prejudice, or discrimination in AI technology or their manifestation in its use could undermine... the quality of health care for older people," it said.

### AI systems

The brief highlighted how AI

systems rely on large, historical datasets with information about people collected, shared, merged and analyzed in often opaque ways.

The datasets themselves can be faulty or discriminatory, reflecting for instance existing biases in healthcare settings, where ageist practices are widespread.

Doctor Vania de la Fuente Nunez, of the WHO's Healthy Ageing unit, pointed to practices seen during the Covid-19 pandemic of allowing a patient's age to determine whether they could access oxygen, or a bed in a crowded intensive care unit.

If such discriminatory patterns are reflected in the datasets

used to train AI algorithms they can become entrenched.

AI algorithms can solidify existing disparities in health care and "systematically discriminate on a much larger scale than biased individuals", the policy brief warned.

In addition, the brief pointed out that datasets used to train AI algorithms often exclude or significantly underrepresent older people. Since the health predictions and diagnoses produced are based on data from younger people, they could miss the mark for older populations, it said.

### True benefits

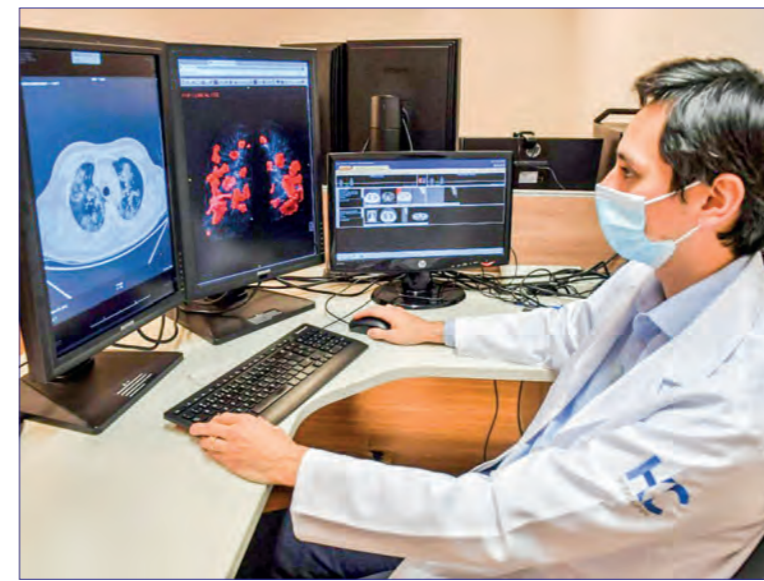
The brief meanwhile stressed

that there were true benefits to be gained from AI systems in the care of older people, including for remote monitoring of people susceptible to falls or other health emergencies.

AI technologies can mimic human supervision by collecting data on individuals from monitors and wearable sensors embedded in things like smart watches.

They can compensate for understaffing, and the continuous data collection offers the possibility of better predictive analysis of disease progression and health risks.

SOURCE: AFP



A platform that identifies lung injuries through artificial intelligence helps doctors diagnose the new coronavirus in Brazil. PHOTO: AFP



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 10 February 2022)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 11 February, 2022:** Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in upper Sagaing, Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Chin states. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in lower Sagaing, Mandalay regions and northern Shan, Kayin, Mon states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

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

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi region and Kachin state.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 February, 2022:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 February, 2022:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 February, 2022:** Generally fair weather.

# Trademark Caution

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## 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of task force on humanitarian aid management for 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of ASEAN humanitarian assistance through AHA centre held

THE fourth coordination meeting of the Task Force on Humanitarian Aid Management took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to coordinate the process and preparations for the second phase of ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance provided through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management-AHA Centre, yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Task Force Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing, Member of the Task Force Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Tun Khaing, secretaries and members of the Task Force.



At the meeting, Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing said the first phase of the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance provided through the AHA centre will be completed soon, and

he called on members must be done in all Task Force members to coordinate in policy-making on receiving ASEAN donations for Phase 2, for safe and convenient access to supplies those who dire need them and to receive materials that meet the needs of the country.

The deputy minister and attendees discussed the coordination status with the ASEAN Secretariat and the AHA centre, the completion status of the first phase of ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance, plan prepared by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement for the second phase, and coordination issues for the distribution of aid. — MNA

## MIFER holds pre-Union Day Ethnic Food Fair

THE Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations grandly inaugurated the pre-Diamond Jubilee Union Day Ethnic Food Fair on 10 February 2022 at office No 1 in Nay Pyi Taw, intending to strengthen the coordination among the government

staff personnel, realize the tradition and customs, food, literature and traditional costumes of the ethnic people and foster Union Spirit.

The ethnic government staff opened booths at the food fair and displayed a variety of traditional items.

They performed the traditional songs and dance and hosted with traditional food. All of them merrily participated in the fair.

The Best Ethnic Food Fair Award selecting on food representation, plating idea, display of the booths and

fresh and hygienic food practice was awarded at the event.

Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo, Deputy Minister U Than Aung Kyaw and officials concerned and the staff from the regions and states joyfully participated in the event. — MNA

## CRIME NEWS

### Illegal sawn timber, foodstuffs, vehicles seized this week

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

Officials from Amarapura Police Station raided the area on 7 February under the management of the Mandalay Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

A total of 240 bags of flour made in India (estimated value of K7,200,000) and one Fuso 12-wheeler truck carrying flour bags (estimated value of K22,000,000) totalling (estimated value of K29,200,000) without any official documents from Shwekyetyet, Amarapura Township were seized and action is taken under the Customs Law.

In addition, the Customs Department on duty at the Myanmar Port Container Inspection Station inspected the containers imported from China on 9 February.

A total of 38,400 sets of cotton socks and 10,924 packages of tiles

(estimated value of K34,104,728) with illegal import declaration ID were seized and action is taken under the Customs Law.

According to a report from the Customs Department and the combined Task Force near 21<sup>st</sup> mile of the Mandalay-Lashio Union Highway, illegal consumer goods and phone accessories (estimated value of K21,487,500, one Hino 12-wheeler vehicle carrying these items (estimated value of K22,000,000) and 15 items of cosmetics and food items (estimated value of K1,617,500), and 930 cartons of candies (estimated value of K3,720,000), one Isuzu six-wheeler (approximately K25,000,000) were seized and prosecuted under the Customs Law.

In addition, the Customs Department and the combined inspection team from Mawanchaung Permanent Checkpoint conducted a surprise check of various food items without any

official documents on 10 February.

A total of laptops (used) (estimated value of K20,328,500) and one Nissan UD 10-wheeler vehicle (estimated value of K15,000,000) were seized and a total of K35,328,500 was seized and action is taken under the Customs Law.

In addition, a combined inspection team led by the Forestry Department, led by the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, reportedly carried out a joint inspection on 10 February.

A total of 6.4472 tonnes of illegal teak (estimated at K1,934,160) was seized from the forest reserves in Toungoo and Pyay districts and action is taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, on 10 February, a joint team, including the police and the anti-trafficking task force of Sagaing Region, inspected one motorcycle without a licence in Myinmu Township, one motorcycle

without a licence from Monywa and one unregistered Surf vehicle from Dabayin Township (estimated value of K2,650,000) were seized and action is taken under the Import and Export Law.

Next, the Customs Department and the combined Task Force from the Yaypu Permanent checkpoint seized undocumented

consumer goods (estimated at K2,665,000) and one Toyota Isis vehicle (estimated at K4,000,000) and action is taken under the Customs Law.

Therefore, a total of 16 arrests were made on 7, 9 and 10 February and the estimated value is K183,707,388, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA



Confiscated sawn timbers.



## Onion growers from Myingyan Tsp expecting handsome price

ONION growers from Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region are anticipating reviving the market as some of them rarely bear the input cost.

The onions from Myingyan Township are delivered across the country. During the harvest time of monsoon onion, the price remains in the bear market, said Ko Shwe Ko, a grower from Myingyan Township.

The growers cannot cover the cultivation cost owing to the low pricing. As a result of this, they are expecting a good price, he added.

Onion fetches only K450-650 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) depending on the quality, said U Khin Zaw from the Myingyan Onion Depot.

Last year, onions were priced up to K750-1,000 per viss. The onion market remains



Farm workers are seen picking the onions.

sluggish compared with the previous years as the foreign demand has dried up, onion

traders stated.

In early 2020, the onion fetched K1,200-1,300 per viss.

The onion growers, as well as traders, have been experiencing market fallouts due to the

COVID-19 impacts, said the onion dealer from Mandalay.

Next, Bangladesh's demand for Myanmar's onions coupled with high demand in the local market hiked up prices, soaring up to K4,000 per viss on 15 November 2019, according to the Mandalay commodity depot.

The high demand by foreign markets and a remarkable price rise prompted the growers to expand the onion cultivation in 2020. Unfortunately, the market is getting worse amidst the COVID-19 negative consequences.

The prices of domestic onions exceeded K3,000 per viss in 2015, 2018, and 2019.

The onions are primarily grown in Mandalay, Magway and Yangon regions, Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State. — Kyaw Swar, KK/GNLM

## Fuel oil prices in Ygn market inching upward up to over K1,700 per litre



The fuel oil price in other states and regions are ranging between over K1,800 and K1,950 per litre depending on the transport charges.

THE fuel oil price in the Yangon market is inching upward up to over K1,700 per litre, according to the fuel oil stations.

The fuel oil price in other states and regions are ranging between over K1,800 and K1,950 per litre depending on the transport charges.

The retail prices of fuel in the Yangon market on 1 January stood at K1,375 per litre for diesel, K1,385 for premium diesel, K1,390 for Ron 92 petrol and K1,440 for Ron 95 petrol.

On 10 February, the fuel oil price in the Yangon market hit K1,690 per litre for diesel, K1,700 for premium diesel, K1,655 for Ron 92 petrol and K1,710 for Ron 95 petrol.

As a result, the cost per

litre of fuel oil rose from over K260 to K315 per litre in over one month.

A weakening kyat and rising international crude oil prices have combined to push the cost of fuel oil, it is learnt.

Currently, the exchange rate for the US currency has reached around K1,990.

The dollar exchange rate against Myanmar Kyat stood at around K1,330 per dollar in early February 2021. At that time, the price of fuel in the Yangon market fetched K590 per litre for diesel, K605 for premium diesel, K590 for Ron 92 petrol and K610 for Ron 95 petrol.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) is conducting an auction for foreign exchange to

reduce the sudden fluctuation of foreign exchange rates. This year, the bank has already sold K65 million in January and K15 million in February.

MPTA, in cooperating with the Ministry of Commerce has sold fuel at a fair price since 22 September, which is equivalent to the amount that the oil importers directly purchased the foreign currency from the Central Bank of Myanmar.

From 15 September to 19 January, about \$140.90 million were sold to the fuel oil sector at the reference rate of the CBM.

Myanmar imports around six million tonnes of fuel oil per year, according to the Ministry of Commerce. — NN/GNLM

## Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade drops \$307 mln amid pandemic outbreak

BILATERAL border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh declined by US\$307 million from 1 October to 28 January last year due to the spread of coronavirus, according to the monthly data issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the mini-budget period, Myanmar-Bangladesh trade through border checkpoints was touched at \$14.194 million, with exports worth \$4.12 million and imports amounting to \$0.007 million.

Compared with the same period last year, the value of exports between the two countries increased by \$7.17 million, while imports declined by \$315.07 million.

For the same period last year, the total trade between the two countries was valued at \$322.11 million, with \$315.15 million in imports.

Myanmar exports goods to Bangladesh through both maritime and land routes. Bilateral border trade is mainly conducted through the Sittway and Maungtau points of entry.

The products traded between the two countries include bamboo, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastics, wood, knitwear, and beverages. — ACM/GNLM



Cargos are loaded on the Myanmar-Bangladesh border.



## Philippines reopens to foreign travellers after 2-year COVID ban



Passengers wearing protective masks are seen inside the Terminal 1 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila, the Philippines on 17 March 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA/ROUELLE UMALI/FILE**

THE Philippines on Thursday reopened its borders to foreign tourists, lifting a two-year ban implemented to keep local COVID-19 cases under control.

Easing border restrictions to fully vaccinated foreigners from 157 countries with visa-free arrangements with the Philippines marks the beginning of the “next chapter in the road to recovery,” Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said.

The Southeast Asian country, popular for its tropical beach resorts, saw visitor arrivals plunge 82 per cent between 2019 and 2020, when the coronavirus pandemic began.

Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente said tourists now only have to present documents such as proof of vaccination and a negative COVID-19 test result.

The Philippine bureau of

immigration expected around 7,000 arrivals on Thursday alone and hoped for that number to reach 10,000 to 12,000 daily in the following months.

The Philippines initially planned to accept inbound foreign travelers from December but the plan was pushed back due to the surge of coronavirus cases fueled by the highly transmissible Omicron variant.

Philippine Airlines welcomed the government’s move, assuring its passengers of safety onboard through air filters and a fully vaccinated cabin crew.

Airline spokesperson Cielo Villaluna told Kyodo News the nation’s flag carrier used to have about 300 flights daily, but this has been reduced to around 140 daily since the pandemic began.

The Tourism Department said over 349,000 workers in the Philippines rely on tourism. The Philippines’ top tourist markets are visitors from South Korea, the United States, China, and Japan.—Kyodo ■

## Palestinians need to speed up digitalization: World Bank

THE Palestinian economy needs to speed up its digital transformation, the World Bank said in a report published Wednesday, urging institutional reform and pointing the finger at Israeli restrictions.

The past decade has seen progress on internet access and the development of digital businesses and platforms in the Gaza Strip and the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the report said.

But “much remains to be done to bring about an innovation ecosystem that translates into growth and job creation”, it added.

The World Bank said only around one-third of firms in the Palestinian territories had their own website, compared with an average of half in the Middle East and North Africa in 2019, while just 14 per cent of adults had “made or received digital payments”, according

to 2017 data.

The report called for strengthened competition, for the Palestinians to develop and update legislation including on e-transactions and cybersecurity, and improve institutional coordination.

“A full-fledged digital transformation of the economy” will require “internal policy reforms and financial resources by the Palestinian Authority”, a statement added, while the report urged the PA to increase the availability of online public services.

Israeli restrictions, including on technology imports and spectrum allocation, “have been a major impediment to the establishment of digital infrastructure, connectivity, and high-speed broadband access”, the World Bank said.

It said that bandwidth was limited to 2G in Gaza and to 3G in the West Bank, at a time when Israel is moving towards 5G.—AFP ■



Palestinians at a market in Gaza city. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Italy to invest more in circular economy related projects

ITALY’S government has received 222 project proposals for the circular economy from private companies to improve environmental protection, the Italian Ministry for Ecological Transition said Wednesday.

The ministry said that the proposals would involve 508 million euros (581 million US dollars) from a budget of 600 million euros (686 million dollars) earmarked for such projects via the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

The announcement from the ministry came a day after the parliament approved a new

law, requiring the state to shield the country’s environment, ecosystems, and biodiversity “in the interest of future generations”.

The new law states that the health of the environment must be taken into consideration in any private or public economic initiative.

In a statement, Ecological Transition Minister Roberto Cingolani called the new law an “essential step” as the country seeks to increase investment in low-impact sectors and technologies, and boost the circular economy.—Xinhua ■



The new law states that the health of the environment must be taken into consideration in any private or public economic initiative. Founder of the Sfera Agricola hydroponic farm Luigi Galimberti shows salad roots at the farm in Gavorrano, Italy. **PHOTO: ALBERTO PIZZOLI/AFP**

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### China’s central bank conducts 20 bln yuan of reverse repos

CHINA’S central bank Thursday conducted 20 billion yuan (3.14 billion US dollars) of reverse repos to maintain liquidity in the banking system.

The interest rate for the 7-day reverse repos was set at 2.1 per cent, according to the People’s Bank of China.

The move aims to keep the liquidity in the banking system reasonably stable, the central bank said.

A reverse repo is a process in which the central bank purchases securities from commercial banks through bidding, with an agreement to sell them back in the future.—Xinhua ■

#### Indonesia seeks 8.58 bln USD investment to close coal-fired power plants

INDONESIA is seeking 8.58 billion US dollars in investment to shut down a number of coal-fired power plants as the country is currently expediting the transition into green energy.

The country’s coordinating minister for maritime and investment affairs, Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, said at the Mandiri Investment Forum held virtually on Wednesday that the investment could help retire 5.5 gigawatts of the power plants, which was targeted to be completed by 2030.—Xinhua ■



## Germany's gas storage levels 'worrying': ministry

GERMANY'S gas stocks have fallen to a "worrying" level, an economy ministry spokeswoman said Wednesday, as fears over a possible invasion of Ukraine by Russia put further pressure on energy supplies.

"Of course we are monitoring the situation of the storage levels and that is certainly worrying," said the spokeswoman during a regular government press conference.

Stocks were now at

35-36 per cent, under the "critical level" of 40 per cent which the German government deems is necessary to withstand seven straight days of an extreme cold snap.

To overcome a 30-day streak of more moderate cold weather, the storage should be half full.

Stocks never slid below 71 per cent in 2020, according to data from the industry group Gas Infrastructure Europe.—

AFP ■



Germany's gas stocks have fallen to a "worrying" level as fears over a possible invasion of Ukraine by Russia put further pressure on energy supplies. PHOTO: MND GAS STORAGE/AFP

## White House warns consumer prices could top 7% in January



While the price increases were particularly severe for used cars and energy, particularly gasoline, they also hit items like food and rent. PHOTO: AFP

AN upcoming government consumer price report will likely show another lofty spike in US inflation in the first month of the year, the White House warned on Wednesday.

Consumer prices rose

by seven per cent throughout 2021, their fastest pace in four decades, and the Labour Department's consumer price index (CPI) data due for release Thursday is anticipated to show a large increase compared

to January 2021.

"We expect a high yearly inflation reading in tomorrow's data," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters. "Above seven percent, as I think some are predicting,

would not be a surprise."

Biden's approval ratings last year sank amid the spike in inflation caused by a combination of supply chain snarls, component shortages and the US economy's rebound from Covid-19. While the price increases were particularly severe for used cars and energy, particularly gasoline, they also hit items like food and rent. However, Brian Deese, head of Biden's National Economic Council, said inflation is a "global phenomenon" that will recede once the pandemic impact on spending shifts more consumption back towards services.

"What we're seeing is the impact of a pandemic-affected recovery that is playing out globally," Deese said during an event organized by the Council on Foreign Relations.—AFP ■

## Siemens sells mail business for 1 bn euros

GERMAN industrial giant Siemens said Wednesday it was selling its "mail and parcel" component to fellow German firm Koerber as it seeks to simplify its activities.

"Siemens has reached an agreement to sell the mail and parcel business of Siemens Logistics GmbH to the Korber Group... The purchase price totals €1.15 billion" (\$1.31 billion), it said

in a statement. "Closing is expected in the course of the current calendar year, subject to regulatory approvals." The unit—which makes equipment to sort parcels—has around 1,200

employees and generates annual revenue of about €500 million, Siemens said.

The firm added it would retain its airport logistics solutions business.—Xinhua ■

### PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGE ADVERTISING

The following three pesticides distributed by AGRO POWER CO.,LTD and here we would like to pesticide trade name change advertising. Anyone who would like to object or inquiry about new trade name contact within 14 days to Joint-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon.

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|-----|----------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------|
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### In the matter of the Insolvency Law 2020, and In the matter of MC AYEYAR MOTORS CO., LTD (In Members' Voluntary Winding-up)

[Under Section 201 of the Insolvency Law & Rule 87 of the Insolvency Rules]

#### Notice to Creditors for Proof of Debts or Claims

Notice is hereby given that the Creditors of MC Ayeyar Motors Co., Ltd (In Members' Voluntary Winding-up) (Company Registration Number 109622583) are required to submit a Proof of Debt or Claim in the prescribed form together with supporting documents and evidences at Room No. 2D, Rose Condominium, No. 182/194, 1st Floor, Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar or email address: hninsumon@winthinassociates.com on or before 28-2-2022, failing to which their claims will be excluded from the benefit of a distribution made before its debt or claim is admitted and objecting to that distribution.

Liquidator of MC Ayeyar Motors Co., Ltd (In Members' Voluntary Winding-up)  
Daw Hnin Su Mon (B.Com (Q), C.P.A, D.B.L, ACCA, Member of Myanmar Association of Insolvency Practitioners Inc.)

### In the matter of the Insolvency Law 2020, and In the matter of MC AYEYAR MOTORS CO., LTD (In Members' Voluntary Winding-up)

[Under Section 147 of Insolvency Law & Rules 9 & 15 (b) of Insolvency Rules]

The Special General Meeting of MC Ayeyar Motors Co., Ltd (In Members' Voluntary Winding-up) duly held via online on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, at 2:30 p.m the following resolutions were passed unanimously as Special Resolutions:

- (1) Resolved that the Company be and is hereby wound up voluntarily as Members' Voluntary Winding-up under the Insolvency Law.
- (2) Resolved that Daw Hnin Su Mon (B.Com (Q), C.P.A, D.B.L, ACCA, Member of Myanmar Association of Insolvency Practitioners Inc.), holder of Citizenship Scrutiny Card No. 12/Ma Ya Ka (Naing) 114749, Senior Manager of WIN Consulting Limited of Room No. 2D, Rose Condominium, No. 182/194, 1st Floor, Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar, be and is hereby appointed as Liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such winding-up and be authorized to carry on the business of the Company to such extent and for such period as may be necessary for the beneficial winding up thereof and be granted such other powers as may be deemed fit or proper.

S/d Liquidator of MC Ayeyar Motors Co., Ltd (In Members' Voluntary Winding-up)

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NEWS  
IN BRIEFUK readies 1,000  
more troops as  
Johnson visits  
NATO, Poland

BRITAIN said Wednesday it was ready to deploy 1,000 more troops to deal with any humanitarian crisis linked to Ukraine, as Prime Minister Boris Johnson headed to NATO and Poland.

His trip Thursday coincides with crisis talks in Moscow between British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss and her counterpart Sergei Lavrov, as the UK and other US-led allies demand Russia halt its threats against Ukraine. "As an alliance we must draw lines in the snow and be clear there are principles upon which we will not compromise," Johnson said ahead of his talks in Brussels with NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg.

"That includes the security of every NATO ally and the right of every European democracy to aspire to NATO membership," he said, rebuffing Russian demands to rule out Ukraine ever joining the alliance.—AFP ■

Black diamond,  
largest ever cut, sells  
for £3.2 million

"THE Enigma", the world's largest known cut diamond at 555 carats, went under the hammer in London on Wednesday for £3.16 million (\$4.3 million, 3.8 million euros) having recently gone on display for the first time.

The rare black, or carbadano, diamond is believed to have been created when a meteorite or an asteroid hit Earth more than 2.6 billion years ago.

The 555.55 carat, 55-faced diamond reached £3.16 million, excluding the buyer's premium, at an online sale held by London's renowned Sotheby's auction house.

Carbonados are usually found close to the Earth's surface, suggesting extraterrestrial origins. "It is thought that this specific type of black diamond was created either from meteoric impacts producing natural chemical vapour deposition or an extraterrestrial origin—from supernovae explosions that formed diamond-bearing asteroids which ultimately collided with the Earth," said the auction house.—AFP ■

US university to pay \$243.6m for sexual  
misconduct of ex gynaecologist

THE University of California (UC) system has settled a lawsuit by reaching an agreement with more than 200 women who alleged they had been sexually abused by a former gynaecologist working in UC Los Angeles (UCLA), and agreed to pay the victims 243.6 million US dollars, reported Xinhua.

However, this settlement reported Tuesday by the Los Angeles Times does not mean the UC system has concluded all the lawsuits involving James Heaps who worked in UCLA from 1983 to 2018. The huge compensation doesn't cover more than 300 patients who are continuing to sue, and Heaps is facing criminal charges.

The UC system was accused



Students are seen at the entrance of the Library on campus of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), in Los Angeles, the United States, 23 September 2021 PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

of acknowledging complaints against Heaps dating back to the 1990s but taking no action even

when it took a detailed report in 2017 and initiated investigations. UCLA only declined to renew his

contract in 2018 and notified law enforcement of the allegations the same year.

In June 2019, Heaps was arrested, and hundreds of women came forward to allege that he subjected them to sexually inappropriate comments and touched them sexually during exams. Heaps currently faces 21 felony counts, including sexual battery by fraud, sexual exploitation of a patient and sexual penetration of an unconscious person involving several female patients, and could be sentenced to more than 67 years in prison if convicted of all charges.

He has pleaded not guilty and his lawyer has said that Heaps maintains he acted in an appropriate manner.—Xinhua ■

Swiss eye tobacco  
advertising clampdown

THE Swiss will vote Sunday on whether to tighten their notoriously lax tobacco laws by banning virtually all advertising of the health-hazardous products.

Switzerland lags far behind most wealthy nations in restricting tobacco advertising—a situation widely blamed on hefty lobbying by some of the world's biggest tobacco companies headquartered in the country.

Currently, most tobacco advertising remains legal at a national level, except on television and radio, or ads that specifically target minors.

While some Swiss cantons have introduced stricter regional legislation and a new national law is pending, campaigners insist much tougher restrictions are needed to protect young people from falling into tobacco addiction. Under Switzerland's direct democracy system, the campaigners gathered enough signatures to call a popular vote on their initiative to ban advertising of tobacco products wherever minors might see it.

Recent polls indicate a significant majority of voters favour the initiative, which in practice



Poster advertising of tobacco products and e-cigarettes that can be seen from public places—for example, here in Zurich—will be banned. PHOTO: KEYSTONE / GAETAN BALLY/SWISS INFO/AFP

would effectively ban all tobacco advertising. But while winning a majority of votes may be easy, it could be more challenging to win

over enough of Switzerland's 26 cantons to secure the double-majority needed for the initiative to pass.—AFP ■

More Australian men taking parental leave to care  
for newborns: survey

DATA released from a government survey on Tuesday has shown that more and more Australian employers are offering paid parental leave to both parents, indicating a gradual shift away from traditional parenting roles.

The 2020-21 census data from the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) showed that three of every five employers in Australia with more than 100 employees now offered paid parental leave regardless of gender.

WGEA Director Mary Wool-



Data released from a government survey on Tuesday has shown that more and more Australian employers are offering paid parental leave to both parents, indicating a gradual shift away from traditional parenting roles. PHOTO: PINTEREST/XINHUA

dridge said the move would have far-reaching benefits for families

and the community, citing literature that adequate parental leave

improves outcomes for parents and their children.

"Employers can send an unequivocal message to their staff that they are valued and important for the future, and in return, employees will have increased job satisfaction, productivity and loyalty." The change in workplace policy has indicated the beginning of a shift to dad's taking on the role as the primary carer, and despite still being heavily outweighed by mothers, the number of fathers taking on the role nearly doubled from 2020 to 2021 from 6.5 to 12 per cent.—Xinhua ■



# Moon expects next S. Korean gov't to improve ties with Japan

SOUTH Korean President Moon Jae In has expressed expectations that the government led by his successor to be picked in an election next month will keep striving to improve ties with Japan, describing it as a leftover task from his presidency.

In a recent written interview with major news agencies, Moon, whose five-year term ends in May, called Japan “the closest of neighbouring countries,” adding that his government has tried to achieve stable relations with Japan by approaching history issues and future-oriented cooperation separately.

“I expect the next administration to work hard to develop Korea-Japan relations. It is necessary to strengthen dialogue



Moon called Japan “the closest of neighbouring countries,” adding that his government has tried to achieve stable relations with Japan by approaching history issues and future-oriented cooperation separately, symbolizing ‘comfort women’ in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul. PHOTO: KYODO

and communication between Korea and Japan to deal with such new challenges as climate change responses and issues related to global supply chains

as well as matters regarding the past and the Korean Peninsula,” said Moon. Seoul and Tokyo have long been at odds over wartime forced labour and the issue of

“comfort women”, a euphemism for women in Japan’s military brothels before and during World War II. Many of the women were from the Korean Peninsula, which was under Japanese colonial rule between 1910 and 1945.

Moon, therefore, voiced worries over Tokyo’s recent attempt to register a gold and silver mine site on Sado Island in Niigata Prefecture on the 2023 World Heritage list, as the island is one of the places where Koreans were forced to work before and during the war. South Korea’s Foreign Minister Chung Eui Yong expressed disappointment last week over Japan’s move in his phone talks with Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi.—Kyodo ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iran’s top leader calls for countermeasures against Western media

IRAN’S Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said Tuesday that Iranian media should take on the “absolute and immediate duty” to confront what he called the Western media’s invasion.

Khamenei made the remarks during a meeting with the Iranian air force commanders, according to Khamenei’s website.

Khamenei said that the definite policy of the Western media hostile to Islam and Iran is to distort the realities through telling “professional lies”.

The top Iranian leader accused the Western media of trying by all means to distort the realities of Iran’s 1979 Islamic Revolution and its founder, Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, while denying the revolution’s advancements and positive aspects.—Xinhua ■

# Hopes rise as efforts intensify to defuse Ukraine tensions



A Ukrainian military instructor teaches civilians holding wooden replicas of rifles, as they take part in a 6 February 2022, training session in Kyiv amid fears of a possible Russian invasion. PHOTO: AFP/SERGEI SUPINSK

HOPES are rising that efforts to stop Russia from invading Ukraine may be starting to pay off, as the diplomatic push picks up Thursday with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to meet Baltic leaders in Berlin and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson heading to NATO and Poland.

In the face of the worst standoff between Russia and the West since the Cold War, diplomatic action has kicked into high gear with European leaders zipping across the continent seeking to defuse the crisis.

Ahead of his huddle with Baltic leaders, Scholz said he saw “progress” on the diplomatic front. “The task is that we

ensure the security in Europe, and I believe that that will be achieved,” he said at a joint press conference with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen on Wednesday. The new German chancellor, who has been under fire over accusations that he has dithered over the crisis, will travel to Kyiv and Moscow next week for separate meetings with Ukraine and Russia’s leaders, including his first face-to-face with President Vladimir Putin.

Striking a less optimistic note, Britain said Wednesday it was ready to deploy 1,000 more troops to deal with any humanitarian crisis linked to Ukraine.—AFP ■

# Australian spy chief reveals election interference plot

AUSTRALIA’S intelligence chief has spoken for the first time of a recently foiled foreign interference plot, sounding a warning ahead of the country’s upcoming elections.

Mike Burgess, director-general of the Australian Security and Intelligence Organization, said the case involved a wealthy individual with “deep connections to a foreign government”. “I’ll call this person ‘the puppeteer,’” he said during an annual threat assessment speech.

The director-general described the scheme as “like a foreign interference start-up” in which the “puppeteer” funnelled hundreds of thousands of dollars to an employee, who set about

trying to influence an election.

Burgess did not specify which election was targeted.

The employee identified and targeted promising political candidates, who knew nothing of the scheme.

“The aim was not just to get the candidates into positions of power, but also to generate a sense of appreciation, obligation and indebtedness that could subsequently be exploited,” Burgess said.

The scheme may have seen allies placed into the offices of successful candidates, who could have both influenced the politician and filtered sensitive information back to the foreign government, if ASIO had not foiled the plot.—AFP ■



Voters are seen keeping a distance at Brisbane City Hall in Brisbane, Australia on 28 March 2020. PHOTO: JONO SEARLE/GETTY/AFP/FILE

### US envoy urges Lebanon, Israel to settle maritime border dispute

US envoy Amos Hochstein urged Lebanese authorities Wednesday to settle a maritime border dispute with Israel, saying it was the “last minute” for an agreement that could facilitate hydrocarbon exploration.

“I think that we’re at the moment of narrowing those gaps towards a deal,” Hochstein told Lebanese broadcaster LBCI in an interview.

“There’s no later anymore. This is the later. This is the last minute,” he added.

Hochstein, the State Department’s Senior Advisor for Global Energy Security, arrived in Lebanon on Tuesday to revive talks between Lebanon and Israel over a maritime border dispute that is holding up oil and gas explorations.

Israel and Lebanon had resumed negotiations over their disputed maritime border in 2020 but the process was stalled by Beirut’s claim that the map used by the United Nations in the talks needed modifying.—AFP ■



## Infantino says World Cup will be health 'benchmark' for global sporting events

FIFA president Gianni Infantino said Thursday this year's World Cup finals in Qatar will become a "benchmark" for holding future global sporting events during a health crisis.

The Qatari organizers of the 32 nation event that starts 21 November and runs till 18 December said they are "cautiously optimistic" it will be the first mass gathering of sports fans for a global sports event since the coronavirus pandemic erupted two years ago.

Spectators have largely been forbidden from attending last year's Tokyo Summer Olympics -- save for a few events outside the Japanese capital -- and the ongoing Winter Olympics in China.

FIFA announced this week that requests have been made for 17 million tickets for the first World Cup in the Arab region and sought to reassure fans about safety measures during an online health conference organized by the Qatar authorities.

Football has a duty "to make



FIFA President Gianni Infantino (L) says this year's World Cup finals in Qatar will become a benchmark for holding future mass events during a health crisis. **PHOTO: AFP**

sure this not only the best World Cup ever but also the healthiest World Cup ever," Infantino said in a recorded statement for the event.

He added that the health and security standards will be "a benchmark for future sporting events of this scale."

The same message was given by World Health Organi-

zation director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus who highlighted the "unique challenges" faced by organizers because of the pandemic.

WHO has been working with the Qatar government on health security, infectious diseases, food safety, co-ordination and communication during the World Cup.— 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.

## Austria's Strolz emulates father to win Olympic combined gold



Austria's Johannes Strolz won the Olympic alpine combined gold medal to emulate his father. **PHOTO: AFP**

AUSTRIA'S Johannes Strolz bounced back from being dropped from his team — even working as a traffic policeman for a time — to emulate his father in winning Olympic alpine combined gold on Thursday in Beijing.

Sitting fourth after the opening downhill, Strolz produced the fastest slalom run to clock a com-

bined time of 2min 31.43sec and top the podium, just as his father Hubert did at the 1988 Calgary Olympics.

Norway's Aleksander Aamodt Kilde added silver to his super-G bronze, finishing 0.59sec slower than the winner, with Canada's James Crawford taking bronze at 0.68sec, a just reward after he finished fourth in the

downhill and sixth in the super-G.

The result crowned a remarkable comeback for Strolz, whose poor form on the World Cup circuit saw him dropped from the demanding Austrian team. It resulted in the 29-year-old funding his own way on the circuit and working for a time as a traffic cop, but his rise in form was clear for all to see.

Strolz still prepares his own slalom skis, but this season had a breakthrough victory in the Swiss resort of Adelboden despite starting with the lowly bib number of 38 normally worn by rank outsiders. "It means the world to me because I was not on the team any more last summer, but I made it back into the team and got the full support again," said Strolz.

"Especially with the history of my father, it means so much to me. When I think about it, all the pictures and my father's gold medal, it's hard for me not to cry. It's just a dream coming true."— AFP ■

## Chloe Kim overcomes 'mental battle' to scorch to Olympic gold again

CHLOE Kim said she was "not in a good place" when she woke up for the women's snowboard halfpipe final at the Beijing Games on Thursday -- but she certainly was when it was all over.

The American sensation overcame a "mental battle" to successfully defend her Olympic title, virtually guaranteeing herself the gold with a scorching-hot start.



USA's Chloe Kim celebrates as she wins snowboard women's halfpipe. **PHOTO: AFP**

She claimed an unassailable lead of 94.00 points after her first of three runs, clutching her helmet and dropping to her knees as she slid into the finish area.

"I had the worst practice ever -- I probably landed my run twice when I'm used to landing it eight times normally and that kind of puts you in a weird headspace," said the 21-year-old.

"I just overflowed with emotion when I was able to land it on the first go and then it opened up a lot of opportunity for me to go try something new." Spain's Queralt Castellet took silver on 90.25, while Japan's Sena Tomita claimed bronze on 88.25.

Kim gave her rivals little chance of catching her after her phenomenal first-run performance, turning the rest of the competition into her own private victory lap.—AFP ■