

# 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.

## Yadana diamond orb, golden umbrella hoisted atop Maha Muni Buddha Image to mark its centennial anniversary, consecration held in Kengtung

As a centennial anniversary of Maha Muni Buddha Image in Kengtung of Shan State (East), the ceremony to hoist Yadana diamond orb and golden umbrella atop the Image in conjunction with the consecration ceremony on the full moon day of Tabodwe, 1383 ME, 2565 Sasana Era, yesterday morning, graced by Presiding Nayaka of Kengyin Monastery in Kengtung Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Khemacara and members of the Sangha.

Also present at the ceremony were Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and family members, Council members and Union ministers.

The Senior General and wife offered the Yadana diamond orb and alms to Kengyin Monastery Sayadaw and family members, the pennant shaped vane, golden umbrella and alms to Naga Hnakaung monastery Sayadaw. Council members and Union ministers donated offerings to members of the Sangha.

Presiding Nayaka of Hawkham Monastery of Laikha member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Subhoga delivered



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the event to hoist the Yadana diamond orb and golden umbrella atop the Maha Muni Buddha Image in Kengtung in southern Shan State on 15 February 2022.

a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

The Senior General, wife

and family members, and party, town elders and locals conveyed the Yadana diamond orb and

pennant shaped vane atop the Gandakuti Chamber.

Members of the Sangha

consecrated the Buddha image. The Senior General and wife, and

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## Objectives of 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Armed Forces Day

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

## Press Release

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

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

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

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

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Dated, 14 February 2022*

## Yangon mayor inspects urban sanitation activities



YANGON Mayor U Bo Htay, in his capacity as chairperson of the Yangon City Development Committee, accompanied by vice-mayor U Nyi Nyi, vice-chair of the YCDC, secretary U Nyunt Pe and committee members, ob-

served mobile market trucks in the compound of Kanbe YCDC Housing on Hninsi Street, Ward 8, Yankin Township at 6:30 am on 15 February.

He ensured the consumers can buy the commodities at fair-

er prices. He instructed relevant officials to make sure the accuracy of the measurement system and to have fresh meat and vegetable. He also added that those vendors and consumers must wear facial masks as COVID-19 preventive measures following the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health.

Afterwards, the team led by the mayor left for Mingala Lake in the corner of Shukhintha Road and Zingama Road in Thakayta Township. They observed the sanitation and wastewater management activities in the Lake and repairs of the brick ladder to the Lake to collect water and yard for cane ball sporting activity.

He directed them to dredge a drainage ditch on Zingama

Road with an excavator.

Later, the mayor inspected the sanitation and drainage cleaning activities on Shukhintha Road, cutting weeds, trimming lawns, land treatment and sanitation at the No. 4 playground in

Thakayta, with 100 YCDC staff. He also instructed them to fulfil the needs during the maintenance of the triangular traffic island at the junction of Gyophyu and Kungyan street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township. — MNA



## 2,467 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 15 February, total figure rises to 550,824

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **550,824** after **2,467** new cases were reported on 15 February 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **518,884** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **19,314** after **3** died.—MNA

## Further State Responsibilities to be discharged

- When the government declared State of Emergency and took State responsibilities under Section 417 of the Constitution, we put all our hearts and souls into the State responsibilities but we encountered domestic/foreign interferences.
- Individual human rights include respect for each other; Appreciation is the most important thing. Citizens can also claim their rights if they have a country.
- Despite the destruction of the country, there is no example in the world that protects the rights of individual citizens. The right of citizens can only be claimed unless there are destructive elements.
- The idea that one must prioritize than their own sake the interests of other people is such hypocrisy for democracy.
- The actions against the government seem to be an opinion that is also against the citizens who are working for the country conscientiously.
- The defence services of the country mean to protect the public at the lowest level and our three main national causes at the highest level. We, the military members, discharge defence duties for the sakes of people with our own wishes but not for private intentions.

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

## Yadana diamond orb, golden umbrella hoisted atop ...

### FROM PAGE-1

those present offered day alms to members of the Sangha and served the guests with a lunch.

The Senior General and party viewed the brief history of Maha Muni Buddha Image of Kengtung, propagation of Buddhism to Kengtung region, the emergence of Gon Shan language and literature, Saophas in successive eras and a brief history of Kengtung displayed at the museum to mark the centennial anniversary of the Buddha image.

The Buddha Image in Kengtung was cast by sculptor U Thit from Layeintan Ward, west of Myohaung Railway Station in Mandalay with the offer of Kengtung Saopha Sao Kawng Kiao Intaleng in 1921 AD, 1282 ME. After the casting, the parts of the Image were conveyed from

Mandalay to Kengtung by cart with goodwill despite difficulties along the road. The Vihara building was built for the image in 1288 ME, and the Buddha Image was conveyed into the building. The image was renovated by governments in successive eras with the contribution of local people and well-wishers for long term existence. At present, the Buddha image turns 100 years, and renovation is being carried out for sustainability.

As a gesture of honouring the centennial birthday of the Image, the Senior General who is the leader of the well-wishers, wife and family members, well-wishers and local people successfully hoisted the Yadana Diamond Orb and the golden umbrella and held the consecration ceremony yesterday. —MNA



The Senior General and wife offer the Yadana diamond orb to the Kengyin Monastery Sayadaw.



The Yadana diamond orb and pennant shaped vane are being conveyed atop the Maha Muni Buddha Image.

# Officials should emphasize the cultivation of crops in Kengtung with pumped water from the river and creeks through solar energy for growing crops the whole year: Senior General

**U**NDERGROUND water tapping must be reduced to efficiently use natural water stored in the dam, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in viewing the construction of Thatta Thattaha Maha Bodhi Pagoda in the precinct of Buddha Park near Pankwe Village, 15 miles southeast of Kengtung yesterday afternoon.

First, the Senior General and party paid homage to the Abhayarajamuni Buddha Image in the precinct and viewed the Buddhological images carved on the marble rocks.

The Senior General inspected the project site for the construction of a skytrain route to



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party pay homage to the Abhayarajamuni Buddha Image in the precinct of Buddha Park near Pankwe Village 15 miles southeast of Kengtung yesterday.



The Senior General observes the Buddhological images carved on the marble rocks.

link the Buddha Park and the Loimwe hill station and attended to the needs of officials.

The Senior General inspected the construction of the viewpoint in the precinct of the Buddha Park and the dams for the supply of water to nearby villages. Officials reported on dredging of sand in the creeks in respective financial years for the prevention of flooding in Kengtung Township and expanding of the creek.

In his response, the Senior General said that underground water tapping must be reduced to efficiently use natural water stored in the dam. Silt and sand must be removed from the watercourse in the open season for proper flow of water into the dam in the rainy season. Officials should emphasize the cultiva-

tion of crops in Kengtung with pumped water from the river and creeks through solar energy for growing crops the whole year. If the small-scale water pumping process achieves success, such a system will be distributed across the nation. As only when the agriculture sector meets success will farmers have improved socio-economic life, officials need to strive for securing success for the tasks.

The Senior General viewed the progress of Thatta Thattaha Maha Bodhi Pagoda and Kamma Visuddhi Khanta ordination hall under the auspices of Wasipeik Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kovida of Thiladhamma Kontha Yawya Monastery. The Senior General then visited the Buddha Park. — MNA



The Senior General inspects the project site for the construction of a skytrain track linking between the Buddha Park and the Loimwe hill station.

# MRTV celebrates its 76<sup>th</sup> Birthday

THE celebration of the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Myanmar Radio and Television was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aung Than Oo, Union Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint San, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, the permanent secretary, departmental heads, MRTV staff, guests and the staff of MRTV retransmission stations online.

First, the MRTV staff performed the “MRTV and A Good Day” song and the record video clip of the 76 years journey of the MRTV was played.

In his remark, Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn said the MRTV which was initiated with the name of Rangoon Radio established on 15 February 1946 reaches its 76 years now. It stands grandly so far due to the efforts of all staff.

The ministry is working hard to become one that the country relies on in addition to the main duties such as to inform, educate and entertain and also provide modern and active programmes. It also cooperates with various artistes and



The 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MRTV is celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 February 2022.

launched a new MRTV News Channel on 1 February. It makes plans to air new programmes and channels for the people.

The staff and artistes should work together when the ministry tries to ensure State stability and development from the corner of media.

The Union ministers and other relevant officials gave awards to the outstanding staff.

Then, Director-Gener-

al U Ye Naing handed over K16,607,000 worth of uniforms for MTRV staff to the deputy director-general.

The MRTV staff entertained the “Living MRTV” song and Pianist Kun Zaw music band, singers and Inzali Anyeint also presented their performances.

The Union minister then presented a flower bouquet to the artistes and concluded the ceremony.

The MRTV is the very first radio and broadcasting service of the country and running with the objectives to inform, educate and entertain.

On 15 February 1946, Rangoon Radio adopted the name of Burma Broadcasting Service-BBS and colourful TV broadcasting started on 1 November 1980.

Currently, there are MRTV HD, MRTV News, MRTV NRC,

MRTV Farmers', MRTV Parliament, MRTV Sports channels, including MITV (English language programme), Radio Myanmar, Thabyay Radio, Radio Myanmar (English language) and 17 ethnic channels.

There are 258 MRTV retransmission stations, 85 expansion stations with FM Radio and 153 stations of DVB T2 under the digital system across the nation. — MNA

# Magway Region Traditional Culture Troupe visits Gems Museum, Hluttaw

MAGWAY Region Traditional Culture Troupe, which participated in the celebration of Diamond Jubilee Union Day in Nay Pyi Taw, paid homage to Yanaung Chantha Pagoda and visited the Myanmar Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) and the Hluttaw yesterday.

In the morning, an ethnic cultural troupe led by Region

Social Affairs Minister U Soe Paing Myint paid homage to Yanaung Chantha Pagoda in Lewe Township. In the afternoon, they visited the Myanmar Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) and observed gems, pearl, silverware and natural resources.

Afterwards, they viewed the Hluttaw buildings and ob-



served the lacquerware and 92 types of wooden crafts, which are traditional Myanmar cultural monuments displayed at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

reception hall, and posed for documentary photos.

Then, they viewed round the meeting halls of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Amyotha

Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw, and the officials explained the functioning of each Hluttaw and parliamentary affairs. — MNA

# MoHT Union Minister attends "Tourism Vs Statistics" workshop



UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung presided over a virtual "Tourism Vs Statistics" workshop yesterday. The online workshop was joined by the president of the

Myanmar Tourism Federation, officials of travel agencies, teachers of the National Management Degree College and Mandalay University, officials of the Enlightened Myanmar

Research Foundation and guests among others. During the event, the Union minister talked about the instructions of the State Administration Council Chair-

man Prime Minister to keep the data of the ministries with systematic data record to be up to date, intensions of the workshop, digit expression on tourist arrivals and expenditure, cooperation works to ensure tourism development being a member country of UNWTO, PATA and WTTC, efforts of world countries to resume the outbound tours after running the inbound tours despite the COVID-19 impacts on tourism and systematic data collection on tourism-related sectors. Then, Myanmar Tourism Federation President U Yan Win, Director Daw Nwe Ni Win of the Central Bank of Myanmar, Director Daw Ni Ni Myint of the Central Statistical Organization and Research Manager Dr Khin Myo Wai of the Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation discussed

their relevant sectors. The officials then presented their discussions in four groups under four topics – tourism statistics, ASEAN and Greater Mekong tourism statistics, Tourism Satellite Account and tourism data collection and research. Then, the Patron of the workshop Deputy Director-General U Aung Aye Han briefed all on the discussions and the Union minister concluded the event. The Union minister received Mr Zhang Jun, president of the China-based South Asia Future Investment Group Pte. Ltd at noon and exchanged views on tourism investment and cooperation between Myanmar and China, tourism development programmes in Myeik Archipelago and other work plans. — MNA

## Announcement

THE Department of Trade under the Ministry of Commerce develops the Myanmar Tradenet 2.0 online system for export/import permits and covers required documents and the User Guide at the Homepage of Myanmar Tradenet Website and process summary in the announcement. The people can contact the undermentioned Hotline phones/emails if they find some difficulties.

Sr	Department	Nay Pyi Taw		Yangon	
		Ph	email	Ph	email
1	Pa-Ka-Tha (new, extension, related matters)	067-408416	dottradepolicy1@gmail.com		
2	Pa-Ka-Tha amendment			01-388294	pathakaygn2022@gmail.com
3	HS Code and Wine Card	067-408414, 067-408319	dottradepolicy1@gmail.com		
4	Member and Pa-Ka-Tha Binding		-	01-371219, 01-375668	dotictygn@gmail.com
5	Export Licence, Permit	067-408325	exportandimport2022@gmail.com	01-245084	dotyangonexport2016@gmail.com
6	Import Licence, Permit			067-408487, 067-408710, 067-408711	exportandimport2022@gmail.com
7	Export/import permit allowed by MIC				01-658024 micmoc400@gmail.com
8	Certificate of the country of origin			067-408233	roo.myanmar2014@gmail.com
9	Technical issues			067-408221, 067-408226	dot.ict.tradenet@gmail.com
					01-254536 ygnimport2019@gmail.com
					01-376057 ygnonlineco@gmail.com

Department of Trade

## CRIME NEWS

### Illegal vehicles, teak seized this week

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

On 14 February, a combined inspection team from the Customs Department and the responsible departments at the Mayanchaung Permanent checkpoint conducted a surprise inspection.

One unregistered Hino Ranger Tractor Head 18 wheel-er vehicle (estimated value of K25,000,000) was seized and action is taken under the Import and Export Law.

Similarly, a combined inspection team of the Customs Department from the Yaypu permanent checkpoint, and the responsible departments inspected 5J/2873 mini-bus (estimated value of K29,490,000) and various types of food items without any official documents (estimated value of K12,000,000) and (total estimated value of K41,490,000) were seized.

Action is taken under the Customs Law.

In addition, a combined inspection team under the management of the Rakhine State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted a surprise inspection.

A total of 28,813 tonnes of illegal timbers (estimated value of K2,016,938) were seized in Taungup and Gwa townships, and action is taken under the Forest Law.

On 15 February, a combined inspection team under the management of the Sagaing Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force seized 11.315 tonnes (approximately K565,750) in Tamu and Mawlaik townships and action is taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, a combined team of the Bago Region Forest Department reportedly seized 3.1122 tonnes of illegal timbers



Confiscated teak logs.

(approximately K668,800) in the forest reserves in the Bago and Toungoo districts and action is taken under the Forest Law.

As a result, a total of 13 ar-

rests were made on 14 and 15 February and the estimated value is K69,741,488, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

# Three-day decorated floats show concludes successfully in Nay Pyi Taw



Visitors throng at the honorary floats show on its final day.

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

The floats display the culture, traditions, living styles and local products of ethnic people and the students, government employees, monks, nuns and residents can study there. The visitors also took commemo-

orative photos with the parade floats and ethnic dance troupes. The souvenir shops were also crowded with people. The ethnic cultural dance troupes from regions and states entertained the visitors with songs and dances in front of the floats.

Myanmar Police Force conducted security measures together with Tatmadaw members and Nay Pyi Taw Public Health Department opened the clinic to provide medical services for the visitors.

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

Union Minister at the Union Government Office (2) U Chitt Naing enjoyed the performance of the Magway Region dance troupe that won first prize in the evening and gave presents to 108 members of the dance crew.

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



The event is packed with a large number of people. **PHOTOS : KO HTEIN AYE**



# Uplift both agriculture and livestock sectors for the people

**F**ERTILIZER is one of the important inputs for the cultivation of crops. In this regard, natural fertilizer can be made of animal dung from cattle farms, layer and broiler farms. These wastes to be taken from the cage system breeding farms are useful as bio-fertilizers in the agricultural sector.

Despite a dry region, the Magway Region sees the progress of breeding more than 1.3 million cows, over 38,000 buffalos, 1.6 million broilers, more than 200,000 layers, over 3.3 million domestic kitchen species. Hence, dungs can be taken from the breeding farms to the paddy fields as well as croplands to cut the cost of using fertilizers.

The breeding of cattle and poultry is interrelated to the agricultural sector. Livestock breeding farms need feedstuff. Local farmers can earn income from the cultivation of corns as well as the systematic processing of straws for feedstuffs. Fermented maize and straw can be fed to farming cattle the whole year.

Moreover, abundant cotton plantations in the dry region can produce cotton seeds which can be extracted for the production of cooking as well as feedstuffs. Although the Magway Region is located in the dry region, it has plentiful raw materials to be used for feedstuff.

The initiative of the local people can improve the situation for carrying out agricultural and livestock tasks in respective regions. The local people from the Magway Region can change the situation for both agriculture and livestock tasks for their development with reliance on each other by overcoming challenges.

To have high initiative skills, local farmers need to be educated. If so, they will have higher critical thinking on how to solve the problems and how to improve something. School education if they attended could be shifted into the knowledge-based on critical thinking. Hence, the government is implementing the education promotion programme for the people to have at least a middle school education.

As a result, they will have the basic knowledge for studying something related to agriculture and livestock tasks. To do so, the government arranges to establish more and more institutes of agriculture across the nation in order to disseminate agricultural techniques to local farmers.

If the agricultural sector improves, the livestock sector will follow it. If so, local farmers and breeders will have higher socio-economic status in their lives. It will be a partial achievement of the government plans for the people from respective regions and states.

If the agricultural sector improves, the livestock sector will follow it. If so, local farmers and breeders will have higher socio-economic status in their lives. It will be a partial achievement of the government plans for the people from respective regions and states.



# China's anti-pandemic approach suits national condition, benefits whole world

*In the face of the unprecedented health crisis, every response strategy comes with a cost. But for Chinese policymakers, saving people's lives is their top priority.*

**E**VERY now and then, some Western media criticized China's anti-pandemic approach of clearing COVID-19 infections in a timely manner, arguing it's too rigid to sustain and detrimental to global recovery.

Actually, the criticism has misinterpreted the approach and ignored its proven effectiveness and flexibility. As a matter of fact, by doing so, the world's most populous country has not only avoided a formidable caseload and death toll, but also ensured a swift recovery and remained a powerhouse for the global economy.

### APATHSUITABLEFORCHINA

China's anti-pandemic approach is by no means equal to zero tolerance for any new infections. As Chinese health experts have expounded, instead of achieving zero infections, China's regular prevention measures aim to ensure early detection, a swift response, targeted containment and effective treatment.

If China were to follow the model of "coexistence with the virus," it would be reporting "hundreds of thousands" of daily new cases "even in a highly underestimated outbreak scenario and under the most optimistic assumptions," according to a study of the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention. In the face of the unprecedented health crisis,



Aerial photo taken on 7 December 2021 shows vehicles before being loaded onto a freight ship at Yantai Port, east China's Shandong Province. PHOTO: TANG KE/XINHUA

every response strategy comes with a cost. But for Chinese policymakers, saving people's lives is their top priority. An effective control of the pandemic, they believe, serves as a prerequisite for reviving the economy, and that safeguarding people's health and promoting economic and social development are not mutually exclusive, but mutually reinforcing.

The strong domestic meas-

ures China has taken to control COVID-19 for the past two years have provided a solid basis to revitalize its economy, said Lawrence Loh, director of the Centre for Governance and Sustainability at the National University of Singapore.

Last year, in defiance of the impact of the pandemic, China recorded an 8.1-per-cent growth year on year, outpacing other major economies. In its latest

edition of the Democracy Index, the Economist Intelligence Unit, a research and analysis division of the Economist Group, said Chinese citizens seem to appreciate Beijing's success in containing the pandemic. The aforementioned facts can explain why.

### A CHOICE BENEFITTING WORLD

Globally, China's approach of

clearing COVID-19 infections in a timely manner has demonstrated its sense of responsibility as a major country.

Should China take the rather laid-back approach seen in some Western countries, the resulting impact on the global pandemic fight and economic development would be grave. In this regard, the United States' failed pandemic response is a reminder.

What's more, with its economic engines roaring, China has played a major role in stabilizing and energizing global growth.

"COVID has created an uncertain world, and therefore any country or supplier which can remove the clouds of uncertainty with the sunlight of certainty is to be welcomed and supported," said John McLean, chair of the Institute of Directors for the City of London.

Despite isolationism and protectionism stoked by the pandemic, China continues to expand its opening-up and promote international cooperation.

China's foreign trade reached 6.14 trillion US dollars in 2021, up 21.4 per cent year on year and crossing the 6-trillion-dollar threshold for the first time. Exports rose 21.2 per cent, while imports went up 21.5 per cent.

In the southern Chinese province of Guangdong, electrical appliance manufacturer Midea Group produces 47 per cent of the

world's magnetron, safeguarding the pandemic-battered global supply chain for microwave producers such as Panasonic and Bosch.

"Amid the spread of the coronavirus, China is demonstrating abilities to rapidly restore business activities and economic growth," said Yana Leksyutina, a professor at St. Petersburg State University. "With a high rate of economic recovery, China has become a driver of global economic growth."

### ABETTER UNDERSTANDING OF CHINA'S APPROACH

China's efforts to coordinate pandemic control and economic growth have convinced an increasing number of observers around the globe that China's strategy best suits its own national conditions and also benefits the whole world.

Over the past two years, China's anti-pandemic measures have prevented a huge number of deaths at home and ensured that everything from iPhones and Teslas to fertilizer and car parts continues to flow to the rest of the world, said a recent article published by Bloomberg.

"The alternative is a massive surge in infections and deaths that could bring global supply chains to a halt, sending inflation higher," it said.

SOURCE: Xinhua



# Oestrogen levels linked to COVID-19 death risk in older women, suggests study

**O**ESTROGEN is a category of sex hormone responsible for the development and regulation of the female reproductive system and secondary sex characteristics. Recent research has suggested that an older woman's oestrogen levels may be linked to her chances of dying from COVID-19, with higher levels of the hormone seemingly protective against severe infection.

The study was published in the open-access journal 'BMJ Open'.

### Hormone treatment

It may be worth exploring sup-

plemental hormone treatment to curb the severity of COVID-19 infection in women who have already gone through menopause, said the researchers.

Women seemed to have a lower risk of severe COVID-19 infection than men, even after accounting for potentially influential factors. And this was also true of other serious recent viral infections, such as MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome).

It has been suggested, therefore, that oestrogen may have a role in this gender discrepancy. To explore this further, the researchers compared the potential effects

of boosting and reducing oestrogen levels on COVID-19 infection severity.

They drew on national data from the Swedish Public Health Agency (all those testing positive for SARS-CoV-2); Statistics Sweden (socioeconomic factors); and the National Board of Health and Welfare (causes of death).

In all, 49,853 women were diagnosed with COVID-19 between 4 February and 14 September 2020 in Sweden, 16,693 of whom were aged between 50 and 80.

### On oestrogen blocker drugs

The study sample included



Elderly women wearing face masks attend a dance class re-opened for the first time since the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic at Seodaemun Senior Welfare Centre in Seoul on 1 July, as South Korea seeks to ease coronavirus restrictions. PHOTO: AFP

14,685 women in total: 227 (2 per cent) had been previously diagnosed with breast cancer and were on oestrogen blocker drugs (adjuvant therapy) to curb the risk of cancer recurrence (group 1), and 2535 (17 per cent) were taking hormone replacement therapy (HRT) to boost their oestrogen levels in a bid to relieve menopausal symptoms (group 2).

Some 11,923 (81 per cent) women acted as the comparison group as they weren't on any type of treatment, either to enhance or reduce their systemic oestrogen levels.

SOURCE: ANI

# Public Notice

15 February 2022

THE Rapid Response Teams (RRT) have been set up in each district of Yangon to provide COVID-19-related information and places for lab tests.

The district RRTs are organized for 24-hour information for the people living in Yangon Region who suffer from COVID-19 symptoms and have close contact with the positive patients, and the people can contact the following phone numbers of the districts.

### Daily COVID-19 tests

Those who want to take a test for COVID-19 can contact the district RRT and undergo the COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test (RDT) at the places recommended by the RRT from 9 am to 4 pm daily.

### District Bed Management Committees help for medical services at hospital/COVID-19 treatment centre

The district Bed Management Committees will help assist the patients who need to be treated at the hospital/COVID-19 treatment centre among the COVID-19 confirmed patients.

### Teleconsultation Programme launched

Teleconsultation teams have been set up in each district in Yangon Region to provide direct communication with COVID-19 Infectious Diseases (Home Isolation) and Teleconsultation Programme (CDC). Please be informed that the following telephone numbers of these professional groups can be contacted in each district.

# 24-hour COVID-19 service numbers for Yangon people

District	RRT (COVID-19 related information)	Teleconsultation Team (Direct communication for COVID-19 confirmed patients with the professional doctors)
Southern District	09 882555067	09 88 255 3605
	09 882555068	09 88 255 3606
	09 882555069	
Northern District	09 882555071	09 8825540 08
	09 882556338	09 8825540 09
	09 882556340	
Western District	09 882555063	09 8825540 10
	09 882555064	09 8825540 11
	09 882555065	
Eastern District	09 882555049	09 8825540 05
	09 882555061	09 8825540 06
	09 882555062	

Ministry of Health

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ဆောင်းစာ ဖြန့်ဖြူးပေးခြင်း အကူအညီ နေပြည်တော်  
09 454 237 515

ဆောင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာစံချိန်စီ  
ပုံနှိပ်ဖြန့်ဖြူးပေးခြင်း အကူအညီ နေပြည်တော်  
01 860 4530



## More than 59,000 acres of taungya paddy and lowland paddy grow in three districts of Chin State

MORE than 59,000 acres of taungya paddy and lowland paddy are grown in three districts of Chin State, according to the Chin State Agriculture Department.

“Chin state grows taungya paddy species. But the taungya paddy is mostly grown in Chin State. Currently, more than 36,000 acres of such paddy and over 23,000 acres of normal paddy have been grown in Chin state,” said U Aung Myo Oo, the director of Chin State Agriculture Department.

During the 2021-22 planting season, about 36,769 acres of taungya and 23,063 acres of lowland paddy have been cultivated

in Haka, Falam and Matupi districts in Chin State.

About 6,410 acres of terraced paddy and 7,448 acres of lowland paddy have been cultivated in Haka district, 5,560 acres of taungya paddy and 11,933 acres of lowland paddy in Falam district and 24,699 acres of taungya-paddy and 3,682 acres of lowland paddy in Matupi district.

About 78,038 acres of paddy are targeted to grow in districts of Chin State in 2021-22 cultivation season. So far, about 59,832 acres have been cultivated, which is covered over 76 per cent of the projected acres. — Lu Lay/GNLM



About 78,038 acres of paddy are targeted to grow in districts of Chin State in 2021-22 cultivation season. So far, about 59,832 acres have been cultivated, which is covered over 76 per cent of the projected acres.

## Exotic tomato growers in Kyunhla delight to earn good price



The officials from the Township Agriculture Department are providing the awareness and agricultural technology to get chemical-free crops. They also demonstrate how to use natural pesticides and insecticides.

TAIWAN tomato species growers from Magyi Inn village, Kyunhla township, Sagaing region enjoy good prices, according to the local growers.

“The local villagers cultivated

about 1,200 plants of Taiwan tomatoes plants starting from October. The cultivation cost of Taiwan tomato plantation is about K200,000 per acre including seeds, plough,

fertilizer and fuel oil price. About 200 visses of tomato are yielded per acre recently. It is expected that over 1,000 visses of tomato can be yielded as of March. The wholesale price of tomato is sold for K1,000 per viss,” said U Htay Tun, the tomato grower from Magyi Inn village.

The Taiwan tomato species can be cultivated in every season. The officials from the Township Agriculture Department are providing the awareness and agricultural technology to get chemical-free crops. They also demonstrate how to use natural pesticides and insecticides. — Myo Win Nyo (Kyunhla)/GNLM

## India changes import policy on green gram quota

INDIA imposed import restrictions on green gram which were previously traded with the relaxations, according to Notification S.O 624 (E) of India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued on 11 February.

For black gram and pigeon pea, India extended relaxations of conditions regarding clearance consignment until 31 March 2022. However, import restriction on the green gram as per the notification has been effective starting from 11 February.

The policy changes will wreak havoc on those green gram imported from Myanmar

that have the bill of lading after 11 February.

To tackle this problem and unnecessary price drop, Myanmar's Ministry of Commerce held a coordination meeting on 14 February to govern the market and have a steady export to India.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint San gave a remark that they will negotiate with Indian counterparts through the government-to-government relations.

Furthermore, the association concerned must strive for market stability and penetrate more external markets including

European Union, which can offer a better price, he added.

There are approximately 9.9 million acres of various beans and pulses across the country, with an annual production of 4.1 million tonnes. Myanmar shipped about 700,000 tonnes of green gram to 64 foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021 financial year. Between 1 October 2021 and 4 February 2022 of the mini-budget period, 147,326 tonnes of green gram were delivered to the global market. Of them, 18,842 tonnes were sent to the Indian market, constituting 12 per cent of overall green gram exports. — NN/GNLM

## Three-year konjac cultivation development plan implemented in Chin State

A three-year konjac agriculture development project is being developed in Chin State, said U Aung Myo Oo, the director of Chin State Agriculture Department.

“There are about 130 konjac species in Myanmar. Out of them, only five konjac species are cultivated in Chin State. The state mostly grows white, red and yellow konjac species. Our agriculture department is implementing a three-year konjac cultivation development project (2020-21 to 2022-23) intending to improve the lifestyle and to reduce the poverty in Chin State,” he added.

Last 2020-21 financial year, Chin state cultivated a total of 16,921 acres of konjac, including 3,784 acres in Haka district, 2,244 acres in Falam district,

5,593 acres in Matupi district and 5,300 acres in Mindat district.

In order to develop konjac agriculture and product in Chin State, the project has been implemented since the 2020-21FY's planting season. In this 2021-22FY, about 12,158 acres of konjac have been cultivated — 3,864 acres in Haka, 2,378 acres in Falam and 5,916 acres in Matupi districts.

Although konjac is a natural plant in Chin State, the three-year plan is set up from the 2020-21FY to 2022-23FY to increase the annual income for local farmers and to bring permanent farming from shifting cultivation because of the scarcity of konjac species by increasing the number of excavations. — Lu Lay/GNLM



In this 2021-22FY, about 12,158 acres of konjac have been cultivated — 3,864 acres in Haka, 2,378 acres in Falam and 5,916 acres in Matupi districts.

## Mongolia reopens borders for vaccinated travellers

MONGOLIA has reopened its borders to fully vaccinated international travellers, state media reported, rolling back coronavirus curbs that had kept the country isolated for two years.

The nation has implemented some of the world's toughest anti-Covid measures since the start of the pandemic, largely sealing off its borders and imposing several lockdowns.

The curbs have battered its economy as businesses closed, exports plunged and hundreds of thousands faced precarious employment.

Mongolia's cabinet approved a resolution downgrading the pandemic "state of readiness" from orange to yellow, effectively lifting all restrictions on business operations, state news agency Montsame reported Monday.

The move means the country of three million "fully opens its borders to international travel", Prime Minister Luvsan-namsrai Oyun-Erdene said, according to Montsame.



Mongolia has implemented some of the world's toughest anti-Covid measures since the start of the pandemic. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Declaring Mongolia open to fully jabbed tourists and investors, he reportedly said the government would "put efforts into creating the necessary conditions to ensure safety... for all those arriving in the country for business and tourism purposes".

Oyun-Erdene's predecessor

resigned last year during protests and public anger over the treatment of a coronavirus-positive woman and her newborn baby.

She had been transferred to a disease control centre in hospital pyjamas and plastic slippers despite temperatures of minus

25 degrees Celsius.

An aggressive Covid vaccination campaign has since helped turn the tide, with 92 per cent of Mongolian adults now fully inoculated and more than half in targeted groups having received a booster, according to Montsame.—AFP ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Numerous protests in German cities

TENS of thousands of people took to the streets in several German cities on Monday evening to protest against the country's health measures.

In Thuringia alone, around 23,000 participants took to the streets at 85 mostly unregistered meetings. 12,200 participants were counted in the districts of Görlitz and Bautzen in Saxony. According to police reports, the protests, which were often described as "walks," were mostly peaceful. In Weimar, a police officer was slightly injured in a "physical" attack. In Kaiserslautern, a man bit a police officer's hand when he was asked for his personal details. He resisted arrest.

In Hildesheim, a demonstrator "bared herself" during a check "down to her underwear". She was able to continue demonstrating after her personal details had been noted down.—AFP ■

## Pandemic-weary Australian nurses go on strike

THOUSANDS of nurses walked off the job in Australia's largest city Sydney on Tuesday, protesting against staff shortages and pandemic-related stresses and strains.

Defying a strike ban, thousands decked in scrubs and surgical masks marched on the state parliament over what they say are intolerable conditions.

Throngs of nurses cheered, clapped and chanted their anger at persistent shortages of hospital beds, equipment and the grinding toll of this protracted crisis.

For two years, Australia's medical staff have worked under



Nurses in Australia protesting against staff shortages and COVID-19 pandemic-related stresses and strains on 15 Feb 2022. PHOTO: TWITTER/@ANMF\_FEDERAL/AFP

strict Covid protocols, while trying to carry out day-to-day tasks and roll out an unprecedented

vaccination programme. But recent months have seen an explosion of coronavirus

cases — bringing more patients and depleting the ranks as staff get sick or are forced to isolate.

"The community needs to hear the truth — current staffing levels are inadequate, unsafe and putting patients at risk," said the New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association.

In a statement, the New South Wales Health Department thanked nurses for working "tirelessly during the two years of the Covid-19 pandemic."

But, it added, "there are more nurses and midwives in New South Wales public hospitals than at any other time in history."—AFP ■

### Camilla tests positive, days after Prince Charles

CAMILLA, the Duchess of Cornwall, has tested positive for coronavirus a few days after her husband Prince Charles, their office in London said Monday.

Camilla, 74, is self-isolating, a Clarence House spokesman said, after announcing on Thursday that Charles had tested positive and was self-isolating.

This sparked concerns over whether the heir to the British throne could have passed the virus to his mother Queen Elizabeth II, whom he had met two days earlier.—AFP ■



French actress Isabelle Huppert has a stack of trophies from the world's top film festivals. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

## Huppert to miss Berlinale after positive Covid test

FRENCH screen legend Isabelle Huppert has tested positive for Covid-19 and will be unable to pick up her lifetime achievement award at the Berlinale film festival, organizers said Monday.

One of France's best-known actresses, Huppert had been due to receive an honorary Golden Bear prize on Tuesday at the 72nd Berlin Film Festival, which has

also been screening a retrospective of her films. But Huppert has tested positive for the coronavirus in Paris and will be unable to attend, the festival said in a statement. Instead, she will take part in the ceremony remotely.

This year's Berlinale, the first major European film showcase of the year, has come under fire for going ahead as an in-per-

son event just as Covid-19 cases are surging in Germany.

The competition held over 11 days is due to wrap up on Wednesday after screening around 250 films, a quarter fewer than in previous years.

The festival has also stuck to limited cinema capacity, testing and mask requirements in a bid to keep audiences safe.—AFP ■

### Greek teacher breaks world rope-jumping records thanks to COVID lockdown

A Chinese language teacher in Greece has broken two world records for rope-jumping, after taking up the sport during the first COVID-19 lockdown in 2020. Panagiotis Polydoros was the first person to run a half-marathon (21 km) while skipping in Athens on 3 Oct 2021.—AFP ■

NEWS  
IN BRIEF

## G-7 warns Russia of economic sanctions if it invades Ukraine

THE finance ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized nations on Monday warned Russia of economic sanctions that would have “massive and immediate” consequences if it invades Ukraine.

The ministers said in a statement that Russia’s military buildup at Ukraine’s borders is “a cause for grave concern” and the seven countries – Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States – are “united in our resolve to protect the sovereignty, territorial integrity as well as economic and financial stability of Ukraine”.

While noting that their priority is to promote efforts to lower tensions, they warned that the G-7 nations “are prepared to collectively impose economic and financial sanctions which will have massive and immediate consequences on the Russian economy.”—Kyodo ■

## US considers \$1 bn in loan guarantees for Ukraine

THE United States could offer \$1 billion in credit guarantees to help Ukraine weather the threat of war against Russia, the White House said Monday. White House principal deputy press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters that the loan guarantee “is something we are considering as part of the additional macro-economic support we are exploring to help Ukraine’s economy in this pressure resulting from Russia’s military build-up.”

She did not give details of what steps it would take to approve the US backing, which if it goes forward would make it far easier and likely cheaper for Ukraine’s government to borrow money. Ukraine is one of the poorest countries in Europe and its corruption-plagued economy has suffered from heightened tensions over the possibility of an invasion by Russia, which has sent over 100,000 troops encroaching from three directions.

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan briefed congressional leaders Monday on the plan, according to a source familiar with the matter.—AFP ■

## Japan 4th-qr GDP up 5.4%, spending recovers as virus emergency ends

JAPAN’S economy in the October-December period grew a real 1.3 per cent from the previous quarter, or an annualized 5.4 per cent, as personal consumption recovered with the end of a COVID-19 state of emergency amid low infections, government data showed Tuesday.

Real gross domestic product, the total value of goods and services produced in the country adjusted for inflation, increased for the first time in two quarters following a 2.7 per cent contraction in the previous quarter, according to the preliminary data released by the Cabinet Office.

The annualized figure was worse than the average projection of a 5.5 per cent expansion in a poll of private-sector economists conducted by Kyodo News.



A visitor takes a photo at Kenrokuen, one of Japan’s top three landscape gardens, in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, on : 20 June 2020, PHOTO: KYODO /FILE

Private consumption rose 2.7 per cent, up for the first time in two quarters. More people went to restaurants and bars, and took trips after the state of emergency was fully lifted on 1

October as the number of new coronavirus cases remained at low levels.

During most of the previous quarter, Tokyo, Osaka and some other areas were under

the state of emergency due to a resurgence of infections. People were asked to stay at home, and restaurants and bars were requested to close early and refrain from serving alcohol.

In the reporting quarter, car purchases also expanded in line with a recovery of vehicle output as the effects of a global semiconductor shortage and parts supply disruptions in Southeast Asia caused by the pandemic eased.

“Real GDP has almost recovered to its pre-pandemic level,” economic revitalization minister Daishiro Yamagiwa told a press conference, with annualized GDP in the October-December period at 541.39 trillion yen (\$4.7 trillion), compared with 542.24 trillion yen in the same quarter of 2019.—Kyodo ■

## EU Trade ministers discuss trade partnerships with AU, US



Algeria’s main commercial harbour for importing and exporting goods in Algiers. PHOTO: AFP

TRADE ministers from the Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union (EU) have discussed the EU’s trade policy priorities, and partnerships with the African Union and the United States.

EU countries should have strategic autonomy to respond to global economic threats and challenges, while respecting the environmental sustainability goals of the Union, Franck Riester, French minister delegate for foreign trade and economic attractiveness, said during the meeting held in Marseille, France, from Sunday to Monday.

The ministers’ first session

of talks concerned the French priority during its presidency of the EU to enhance trade relations between the African Union (AU) and the EU. This means increased investment and broader trade arrangements, Riester explained.

For Valdis Dombrovskis, European Commissioner for Trade, the upcoming summit between the two continental unions must result in a “new deal” for digital transformation in African economies and free-trade areas. “African countries are key partners for the EU,” he added. The ministers’ second session of talks focused on transatlantic trade relations, and preparation for the upcoming meeting of the EU-US Trade and Technology Council in France in May. Ministers discussed the EU-US partnership, and how both partners should focus on resolving “common vulnerabilities,” Riester said.—AFP ■

## Automakers resume production after Canada bridge protest ends

SEVERAL car factories that saw operations disrupted last week after protests in Canada blocked a key border crossing with the United States resumed activities on Monday, but some issues lingered.

Trucker-led demonstrations

against Canada’s Covid-19 restrictions disrupted traffic on the Ambassador Bridge for seven days, but authorities on Sunday cleared out the protestors.

The bridge, which connects Windsor, Canada with Detroit on the American side, is a key route

for automakers to ship parts and vehicles back and forth across the border during the manufacturing process. General Motors, which had to cut shifts at some plants last week amid a shortage of materials, said work resumed as normal on Monday.

“No issues to report,” a company spokesperson told AFP.

Stellantis, which also shortened several shifts in Canadian and US plants due to the bridge closure, resumed normal operations, a spokesperson said.—AFP ■

NEWS  
IN BRIEF

Boeing reaches annual record of 2 bln USD e-commerce sales

BOEING announced Monday that it achieved an annual record for e-commerce parts sales in 2021 with more than 2 billion US dollars in online orders.

Boeing Distribution Inc. (formerly Aviall) sold nearly 70,000 parts products through its e-commerce site to commercial and government customers, eclipsing pre-pandemic levels. Commercial orders accounted for 1.5 billion dollars in sales, reflecting the continued recovery in the airline industry, the company said.

Boeing Distribution Inc.'s online revenue last year was 15 per cent higher compared to pre-pandemic levels, while orders were 20 per cent higher. The stronger sales came as the company rolled out new tools to improve the customer experience, including a new homepage, a live chat feature, and an online knowledge centre, according to the announcement.—Xinhua ■

Industry execs urge easing of curbs as Singapore airshow opens

ASIAN governments must ditch tough coronavirus travel restrictions to help beleaguered airlines recover, industry executives urged Tuesday on the opening day of the region's biggest airshow in Singapore.

Hundreds of carriers, manufacturers and other aviation executives have descended on the city-state for the four-day industry event that takes place every two years.

Top of the agenda is how to spur a recovery in a region where international travellers still face a gauntlet of tests and lengthy quarantines, and foreign tourists remain barred from many countries.

Bo Lingam, group CEO at AirAsia, one of the region's top budget carriers, said there was "pent-up demand" across

the region.

"I think it's time to open up borders," he told a panel discussion, adding that many in the region were now fully vaccinated.

He called on Southeast Asia's regional bloc to work together to harmonize a chaotic patchwork of rules for travel across the 10-country region.

"You can't have different rules for entry for different countries," he said.

The region, home to tourist hotspots like Thailand and the Philippines, was long a favourite with international travellers but visitor numbers have collapsed due to border closures during the pandemic. Captain Izham Ismail, group CEO of Malaysia Airlines, echoed the sentiment, saying current efforts to lift curbs were "disorderly".—AFP ■

China-Thailand railway signals connectivity, opportunity, prosperity

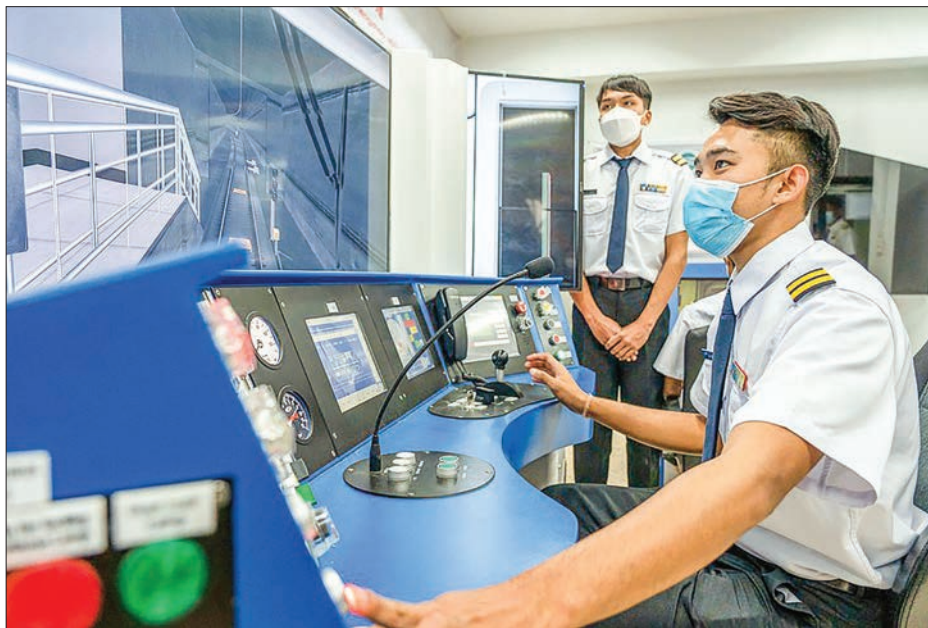
"WHEN the China-Thailand railway starts operation, it will enable Thai people to travel more conveniently and boost Thailand's economic growth," said Trin Phuanglamchiak.

As the deputy chief engineer of a section of the railway in Ayutthaya Province, 80 kilometres north of Bangkok, Phuanglamchiak noted there are "advanced railway technologies that China brings to Thailand."

The China-Thailand railway, an important part of the trans-Asian railway network, will be Thailand's first standard-gauge railway.

When completed, the line will carry trains from Bangkok to the border town of Nong Khai, where a new bridge will connect it with the China-Laos railway, making it possible to travel by train from Bangkok, through Laos, to Kunming in southwest China's Yunnan Province.

"Once the railway is open, I would like to take



Students of the Banphai Industrial and Community Education College practise train simulation driving in Khon Kaen province, Thailand, 17 Nov 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA/LIN HAO

a train from my hometown Bangkok all the way north to Kunming. Then I'll take my family to visit the Great Wall in Beijing," said Phuanglamchiak, who works for the China State Construction Engineering Corporation Ltd. "We are pleased to see the construction of the China-Thailand railway continue apace.

We hope China's state-of-the-art railway technology will help us develop railway infrastructure," said Pichet Kunadhamraks, deputy director-general of the department of rail transport.

A Sino-Thai high-speed rail training programme gave Kantithat Danaut, 24, the chance to take Chinese lessons with

the Confucius Institute at Khon Kaen University. He went to Wuhan in central China's Hubei Province for an eight-month course on high-speed railway technology. Kantithat then went to Japan as an intern, but hoped to go back to China to continue his studies after finishing the internship.—Xinhua ■

Mining giant Glencore sets aside \$1.5 bn for graft probes

MINING and commodities trading giant Glencore said Tuesday it set aside \$1.5 billion as it expects to resolve corruption investigations in the United States, Britain and Brazil this year.

The Switzerland-based company made the announcement in a company results statement showing that it returned to profit last year, pulled up by higher commodity prices after a loss when the Covid pandemic emerged in 2020.

Glencore disclosed in 2018 that the US Justice Department had launched a corruption investigation linked to the group's business in Nigeria, Venezuela and the Democratic Republic of Congo. A year later, the UK's Serious Fraud Office said it was investigat-

ing suspicions of bribery by the Glencore group of companies and staff.

Brazil also opened a probe in 2018 into Glencore and trading groups Vitol and Trafigura over alleged bribery of employees at state-run oil company Petrobras. "Glencore has been cooperating extensively with the various authorities in order to resolve

these investigations as expeditiously as possible," the company said.

"While Glencore cannot forecast with certainty the cost, extent, timing or terms of the outcomes of the investigations, the Company presently expects to resolve the US, UK and Brazilian investigations in 2022," it added.—AFP ■



People watch as a Boeing 777-9 aircraft flies past during the Singapore Airshow. PHOTO: AFP

Notice for Change of Pesticides Trade Name

The foreign manufacturer Chrysalis Crop Pte., Ltd will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	A.I	Reg: Type	Reg: No.
1	Evo Chit Sar Poe 10EC	Than Dote 10EC	Cypermethrin 8% + Emamectin benzoate 2% EC	Provisional	P2018 - 2679
2	Evo Phan Sinn Shin 550SC	Benxa 550SC	Chlorothalonil 45% + Cymoxanil 6.5% + Hexaconazole 3.5% SC	Provisional	P2020 - 5180

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address- Evogro Co., Ltd

No.(95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8<sup>th</sup> mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, The Republic of Union of Myanmar.

NEWS  
IN BRIEF

## Hundreds wed at Valentine's Day ceremony in Mexico

WITH tears in their eyes and smiles beneath their face masks, more than 660 couples tied the knot Monday at a Valentine's Day mass wedding in Mexico.

The newlyweds included Francisco Calvo, 74, and Rosalba Silva, 67 — two widowers who met five years ago.

"I didn't think I would have another chance, but love arrived because love arrived," Silva said, smiling next to her new husband at the ceremony in a suburb of Mexico City.

For Jonathan Garcia, a mass wedding is almost a family custom. — AFP ■

## US relocating Ukraine embassy from Kyiv to Lviv: Blinken

THE United States said Monday it is relocating its embassy in Kyiv to the western Ukrainian city of Lviv, citing a "dramatic acceleration" in the buildup of Russian forces at the country's border.

"We are in the process of temporarily relocating our Embassy operations in Ukraine from our Embassy in Kyiv to Lviv due to the dramatic acceleration in the buildup of Russian forces," Blinken said in a statement.

"The embassy will remain engaged with the Ukrainian government, coordinating diplomatic engagement in Ukraine," he said. "We are also continuing our intensive diplomatic efforts to deescalate the crisis," he said.

Blinken "strongly urged" any remaining US citizens in Ukraine to leave the country immediately. — AFP ■

## US farms on alert as several cases of bird flu found



The disease is already widespread in Europe and affecting Canada, Africa and Asia, like here in Israel where chicken eggs were being thrown away at a quarantined farm. PHOTO: AFP

THE US Department of Agriculture said Monday it had detected bird flu in two more farms after a first case came to light last week, putting the industry on guard.

After having already detected the virus in wild birds on several occasions on the east coast in recent weeks, the department said on February 9 it had found the disease in birds on a farm in Indiana.

On Monday it reported that two more farms had been affected, in Kentucky and Virginia.

The authorities have

placed the sites in quarantine and the birds will be slaughtered to avoid possible spread throughout the country, which according to the USDA is the largest producer of poultry in the world.

No cases have been detected in humans so far and the disease does not present an immediate public health threat, authorities said.

But the agricultural sector will remain vigilant to avoid a repeat of the 2015 avian flu outbreak, which affected 211 farms in 15 states, from California to Indiana.—AFP ■

## 'Now or never': Victims of Italy's predator priests urge inquiry

VICTIMS of paedophile priests in Italy will unveil Tuesday a campaign dubbed "Beyond the Great Silence", pushing for an independent investigation into clerical abuse carried out on the Vatican's doorstep.

As inquiries across the United States, Europe and Australia have exposed the scale of the sex abuse problem within the Church — and also a decades-long cover-up — many groups say Italy can no longer avoid scrutiny.

"The government must act, must take advantage of the momentum created by impartial investigations elsewhere," Francesco Zanardi, founder of Rete l'Abuso (Abuse Network), told AFP.

"If Italy doesn't do it now, I fear it never will," said Zanardi, who was abused by a priest as a young teen.

Nine groups are now forming a consortium aimed at putting pressure on the country to launch a probe, like the ones seen recently in France and Germany.

Cristina Balestrini, who set up a support group for families



Inquiries across the United States, Europe and Australia have exposed the scale of the sex abuse problem within the Church -- and also a decades-long cover-up. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

after her son was abused by a priest, told AFP that the most important thing for survivors was "to make sure it never happens again".

Not all those molested will survive, "there are many victims who commit suicide, and no one knows about it," Balestrini said.

## 'Total silence'

Rete L'Abuso has recorded more than 300 cases of priests accused or convicted of child sexual abuse in the past 15 years

in Italy, out of a total of 50,000 priests across the country.

Giada Vitale is just one example the group cites. She was a shy 13-year old organ player when her parish priest, Marino Genova, abused her in the vestry. She would be molested for three years.

Vitale's tormentor was convicted in 2020, but victim groups say such a conviction is rare because Italy lags behind other countries in tackling predators.—AFP ■

## Italy woos UNESCO with 'magical' espresso coffee rite

A shot of dark, velvety coffee is more than just a quick caffeine hit: Italy's espresso is a prized social and cultural ritual the country considers a national heritage worthy of UNESCO status.

Italians knock back some 30 million espressos a day, from Venice to Sicily, in porcelain cups or little glasses, with or without a splash of milk — and see each one as a gesture of friendship.

"The espresso is an excuse to tell a friend you care," says Massimiliano Rosati, owner of the Gambrinus cafe in Naples, which helped prepare the bid for a place on the UN's list of the world's intangible heritage.

"They are drunk every day, at any hour. It's a shared moment, a magical moment," he told AFP.

The gleaming machine behind the marble counter clanks and hisses as the barista tamps the ground coffee into the portafilter, clicks it into place and

flicks a switch to shoot near-boiling water through it.

## 'Flowers, fruits, chocolate'

To be the real deal, the espresso has to have a "round, substantial and velvety" taste and "hazel-brown to dark-brown foam, characterized by tawny reflexes", according to the Italian Espresso Institute.

It must have a long-lasting

aroma which has "notes of flowers, fruits, toasted bread and chocolate", says the institute, set up in 1998 to safeguard espresso.

The bid for heritage status has been sent by the agricultural ministry to Italy's national UNESCO commission, which must submit it to the UN body's headquarters in Paris by 31 March.—AFP ■



The bid for heritage status has been sent by the agricultural ministry to Italy's national UNESCO commission. PHOTO: AFP/ALBERTO PIZZOLI

## Israel PM to meet Bahrain king on landmark visit

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Naf-tali Bennett will meet Bahrain's king on Tuesday after arriving for the first visit by an Israeli head of state to the Gulf country, 17 months after they defied decades of tensions to normalize diplomatic ties.

Bennett was welcomed by Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani at Manama airport, which was decorated with the flags of both countries, late on Monday. He will meet King Hamad and Crown Prince Salman, who is also prime minister, on Tuesday.

Bennett's visit is the latest such initiative following the US-brokered 2020 Abraham Ac-cords, which ran counter to the longstanding Arab consensus that ruled out ties with Israel in the absence of a solution to the



Bennett is the first Israeli head of state to visit Bahrain. PHOTO: AFP

Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Bahrain and its close ally the United Arab Emirates be-came only the third and fourth Arab states — following Egypt and Jordan — to establish ties with Israel when they signed on to the pacts negotiated under

US president Donald Trump. Bennett visited the UAE in De-cember.

"In these tumultuous times it's important that from this re-gion we send a message of good-will, of cooperation of standing together against common chal-

lenges," Bennett said before his departure.

The trip follows a visit to Ma-nama by Israeli Defence Min-ister Benny Gantz earlier this month that saw the two coun-tries sign a defence agreement.

That deal covered intelli-gence, procurement and joint training, with Gantz boasting that it further solidified the fledg-ling diplomatic relationship.

### Absolutely' about Iran

The visit also comes at a time of regional tensions over Iran's nuclear programme.

Iran is engaged in negotia-tions with Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia directly and with the United States indi-rectly to revive the deal formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.—AFP ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### German chancellor to meet Putin as Ukraine's fate in the balance

GERMAN Chancellor Olaf Scholz was due in Moscow Tuesday in search of a diplo-matic solution to avoid a war in Ukraine as the West and Russia signalled tentative hopes of an easing in the tense standoff.

His talks with Vladimir Putin are the latest in an in-tense diplomatic scramble to dissuade the Russian leader from attacking his ex-Soviet neighbour Ukraine.

Western leaders consid-er the Russian troop build-up on its border with Ukraine to be the worst threat to the continent's security since the Cold War, and have prepared a crippling package of economic sanctions in response to any attack on its neighbour.

While Western intel-ligence officials warned Wednesday could mark the start of an invasion, comments from Putin and his foreign and defence ministers seemed to offer hope of a de-escalation.—AFP ■

### US asks Honduras to extradite ex-president suspected of drug trafficking

THE United States has asked Honduras to extradite former president Juan Orlando Her-nandez who is suspected of drug trafficking, a Honduran official who declined to be named told AFP on Monday.

The official added that Hernandez, who left office last month, is currently in Honduras as police special forces could be seen encircling his residence in the capital Tegucigalpa on Mon-day evening.

The Honduran Foreign Min-istry had said earlier on Twitter that an "official communication from the US Embassy" was sent to the Supreme Court formally asking for the provisional arrest of an unnamed "Honduran poli-tician" for extradition.

News channel CNN broad-cast images of the document, which made a "formal request for provisional arrest for the pur-pose of extradition to the United States of America of Juan Orlan-do Hernandez Alvarado."—AFP ■

## Russia opens door to diplomacy in Ukraine standoff

RUSSIA appeared to open the door Monday to a diplomatic res-olution of the deepening Ukraine standoff, as the United States said it believed Vladimir Putin had yet to make a final decision on invading the ex-Soviet state.

While Russia said it was ending some military drills, sig-nalling a possible easing of the crisis, in Washington the alert level remained high—with a top official calling the threat of inva-sion "more real than ever before".

As speculation mounted that Russian troops massed on the Ukraine border could launch an attack this week, German Chan-celler Olaf Scholz was due in Mos-cow on Tuesday for talks with the Russian president—the latest in



Two Ukrainian soldiers carry a defence missile on the Boryspil military base in Kiev, this Sunday, 13 February. PHOTO: SERGEI SUPINSKY / AFP

a series of visits by European leaders aimed at avoiding a full-blown conflict. Previous visitors

have been given short shrift by the Russian leader and his top aides, who have consistently ar-

gued that the current crisis is the result of the United States and western Europe ignoring Moscow's legitimate security concerns. But a carefully cho-reographed meeting Monday between Putin and his foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, seemed to signal a change in tone, with the latter stressing there was "al-ways a chance" for agreement with the West over Ukraine.

Exchanges with leaders in European capitals and Washing-ton showed enough of an opening for progress on Russia's goals to be worth pursuing, he told Putin.

"I would suggest contin-uing," Lavrov said in televised remarks. "Fine," Putin replied.—AFP ■

## Lee more hardline on Japan than Yoon in S. Korea presidential race

WITH South Korea's presidential election drawing near, analysts are watching whether a new leader and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida can put history behind them and move relations forward in the face of an increas-ingly assertive China and North Korea's nuclear and missile de-velopment. This is particularly the case when the United States is calling for closer coordination with the two allies to deter any attempt to destabilize East Asia

such as Beijing's ambition to seize Taiwan and Pyongyang's threat to end its self-imposed moratorium on nuclear tests and long-range missile launches.

With bilateral ties sinking to the lowest level in decades under South Korean President Moon Jae In, ruling party nominee Lee Jae Myung and main opposition candidate Yoon Suk Yeol -- the two front-runners for the 9 March election — share the need to im-prove relations with Japan.



Combined photo shows Lee Jae Myung (L) and Yoon Suk Yeol. PHOTO: KYODO

However, it is not known whether Lee of the liberal Democratic Party and Yoon of the conservative People Power Par-

ty would go so far as addressing thorny, protracted disputes with Tokyo over wartime history and territory.—Kyodo ■



The Myanmar U-23 squad seen at their training session before conducting the COVID-19 test. **PHOTO: MFF**

## Myanmar team withdraw from ASEAN U-23 due to COVID-19 situation

THE Myanmar U-23 team, which will compete in the 2022 ASEAN U-23 Championship to be held in Cambodia, had to withdraw from the competition due to the situation of COVID-19, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The Myanmar team will play against Malaysia on 15 February for the first match of the group stage, PCR and RDT tests were performed on the same day, and some players tested positive.

There were only a handful of fit players and most of the play-

ers were suffering from fever, nausea, sore throat, diarrhoea and fatigue.

“If the team is positive in the match against the Malaysian team, the infection can continue to infect coaching staff and event organizers. It can affect the whole race. The Myanmar team inevitably withdrew from the current ASEAN U-23 Championship due to conditions that could worsen the health of the players,” the Myanmar Football Federation officials said.

The MFF said in a statement

that ASEAN Football Federation has accepted the resignation.

In the current ASEAN U-23 Championship, the Indonesian team withdrew just before the start of the tournament due to the COVID-19 epidemic, and the Myanmar team next.

Malaysia and Laos teams left in the Group B and Cambodia, the Philippines, Timor Leste and Brunei are included in Group A.

Thailand, Singapore and Viet Nam are placed in Group C.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

## Move aside Gu, here comes Su — teenager wins ‘insane’ Games gold

STEP aside Eileen Gu. Hosts China have a new teenage hero at the Beijing Olympics after 17-year-old Su Yiming on Tuesday added an emphatic snowboard Big Air gold to his controversial silver.

Su scorched to the Big Air title with a runaway score of 182.50 to win his second medal at the Games, having been unlucky to

only come away with silver in last week’s slopestyle. The former child actor was so good that he had the title firmly in the bag even before his third and final run.

Su’s latest remarkable success went viral on China’s Twitter-like Weibo, where a hashtag about it clocked up about 750 million views in just a few hours.

He took a dominant gold ahead of Norway’s Mons Røisland, on 171.75, with Canada’s Max Parrot — the slopestyle winner — taking bronze with 170.25.

Su has competed in just six World Cup events and last week already became the first men’s snowboarding Olympic medallist in China’s history.

“This feels insane, it’s something I’ve never experienced before... I can’t believe I got this gold,” said Su, for whom this was an early birthday present — he turns 18 on Friday. “I trained every day for the past four years. Every night I was dreaming about this moment.” When he was eight, Su appeared in the epic action movie “The Taking of Tiger Mountain”, before deciding to fully dedicate himself to snowboarding.

With hair that tumbles down below his ears, he still has something of the film star about him.—AFP ■



China’s Su Yiming celebrates winning the snowboard Big Air gold medal at the Beijing Olympics. **PHOTO: 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.

## Dzeko faces off with Salah as Liverpool lay in wait for Inter



Edin Dzeko’s performances have allowed Inter fans to forget departed Romelu Lukaku. **PHOTO: AFP**

EDIN Dzeko will take to the San Siro pitch with old friend Mohamed Salah when Inter Milan take on Liverpool in the Champions League last 16 on Wednesday, a reminder of the havoc the pair used to cause together at Roma.

After an anonymous time at Chelsea and signs of promise at Fiorentina, Salah’s career really started to take off after arriving in the Italian

capital in 2015.

Once firmly established as strike partners under Luciano Spalletti, Dzeko and Salah hit it off in a big way, scoring 58 goals in all competitions in 2016-17 and helping Roma to second in Serie A as an ageing Francesco Totti was shunted aside.

Salah’s inconsistent but at times unstoppable performances earned him a move to Merseyside, where under Jurgen Klopp he quickly became one of the world’s best, for what now looks a paltry 50 million euros (at the time £43 million).

“I must say, in some little way, I helped Momo become what he is now,” Dzeko said in an interview published by the Daily Mail last week.

“We had a great time together in Rome... I’m so happy for him, a great guy who deserves everything he has achieved.”—AFP ■