

NATIONAL

SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses coordination meeting of COVID-19 control and emergency response committee

PAGE-6

NATIONAL

Pa-O traditional lighting ceremony held on full moon of Tabodwe

PAGE-11

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.

All need to carry out all tasks with their capability holding a concept that Tatmadaw is a guardian for implementing multiparty democracy to be firm and maintaining all situations of the State: Senior General

CURRENTLY, the Tatmadaw is serving the State responsibilities and implementing the five-point road map and nine objectives. The Tatmadaw will firmly stand in line with the road map and objectives and implement them to have accomplishments. It is necessary to carry out the tasks to have a firm and guarantee democracy, and all need to carry out all tasks with their capability holding a concept that Tatmadaw is a guardian for implementing multiparty democracy to be firm and maintaining all situations of the State, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with officers, other ranks and families of Mongpyin Station of Triangle Region Command and Kholan Station of Eastern Central Command separately yesterday.

In his speeches, the Senior General said that local military units, departmental personnel and local people are to



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla cordially greets the officers, other ranks and family members of the Mongpyin Station in eastern Shan State on 17 February 2022.

harmoniously join hands in carrying out the controlling the regions and the peace and stability. Some persons misunderstand the national political role of the Tatmadaw in successive eras and non-coincidence of attitudes and did not accept the declaration of the State of Emergency in accord with the Constitution (2008) for unavoidable

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
4.5-foot-long tiger seen at Maei Creek Settawya
PAGE-2

NATIONAL
Myanmar attends tourism disaster management planning, awareness seminar
PAGE-6

NATIONAL
UEC inspects political parties under Election Commission Law
PAGE-7

NATIONAL
MoC oversees daily imports of essential anti-COVID-19 equipment
PAGE-10

LOCAL BUSINESS
Thilawa SEZ attracts over US\$2.149 bln so far
PAGE-12



UEC informs to inspect political parties

THE Union Election Commission (UEC) is supervising the registration of political parties under Section 10 (l) of the Union Election Commission Law.

Party membership of political parties, raising party funds and resources, maintenance, use, auditing and liquidation and whether the party activities are carried out under the law are being inspected. In the last week of February 2022, the Lahu National Development Party, a Shan State-based party, was informed by an inspection team of departmental representatives led by the Union Election Commission. — MNA

2,692 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 17 February, total figure rises to 556,256

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **556,256** after **2,692** new cases were reported on 17 February 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **520,804** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **19,319** after **1** died.—MNA

Issuance of the Union Supreme Court: the Key Performance in 2021 and Priority Actions for 2022

THE Supreme Court of the Union issues the key performance in 2021 and priority actions for 2022 on 17 February 2022.

The Key Performance in 2021

- Improving clearance rate of cases at the different levels of court up to 114 per cent
- Expanding the implementation of the National Case Management Programme (NCMP) in 22 district courts and 83 township courts.
- Implementing the Court-led Mediation Pilot Programme in all courts of Mandalay Region and Yangon Region.
- Introducing the Commercial Judgement System (CJS)
- Supporting the enactment of the Law Amending the Civil Procedure Code for Mediation
- Issuing the Method of Operation of the Video or Live Television Link System for taking Evidence

Priority Actions for 2022

- Complete the implementation of the National Case Management Programme (NCMP) in 10 district courts and 58 township courts
- Expand nationwide the Court-led Mediation Programme
- Establish electronic library system at the Supreme Court of the Union
- Develop database system for digitized case files and documents at the Supreme Court of the Union

The Performance of the Supreme Court of the Union in 2021 was available in the 2021 Annual Report and Actions for 2021 are available in the Year 5 Action Plan (2022) of Judicial Strategic Plan.

*Supreme Court of the Union
Nay Pyi Taw*

Call for Nominations: ASEAN Prize 2022

THE ASEAN Secretariat is calling for nomination for the ASEAN Prize 2022, a prestigious regional award which aims to acknowledge the inspiring and outstanding individual or organization that has risen to the challenge of empowering lives and connecting communities across the region amid a challenging journey towards pandemic recovery.

Nominees should have exceptional merit in contributing to the following designated focus areas:

- Outstanding collaboration between the ASEAN Member States;
- Outstanding collaboration between ASEAN and the world;
- Outstanding people-to-people engagement among the ASEAN Member States;
- Outstanding economic integration and promotion of standards between ASEAN Member

States;

- Other outstanding contribution to ASEAN Community building

A judging committee, consisting of eminent high-level members, including incumbent and former ASEAN Secretaries-General will select a recipient who will be awarded the ASEAN Prize Trophy and a cash prize of US\$ 20,000 at the ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The nominee must be an ASEAN citizen or an ASEAN-based organization, and must produce valid/verifiable documents. In the nomination form, the nominee needs to elaborate within three to five pages in English highlighting his/her achievements contributing to the building of a rules-based, people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community and intra-ASEAN collaborative efforts. The nominee should also share

future plans in continuing the work after winning the prize. The nomination form for ASEAN Prize 2022 can be downloaded at the ASEAN Secretariat website <https://asean.org/asean-prize/>.

Submissions for ASEAN Prize 2022 are open from 4 February to 25 April 2022. The nominee must submit the duly filled-in form to the ASEAN Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No. (9) Nay Pyi Taw or dgasean@gmail.com no later than the dead line.

Since its establishment in 2018, the ASEAN prize has been awarded to four recipients from the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, Myanmar citizens or organizations based in Myanmar are encouraged to seize this opportunity to showcase their outstanding efforts in ASEAN Community building. For further information, please visit the aforementioned ASEAN Secretariat Website.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

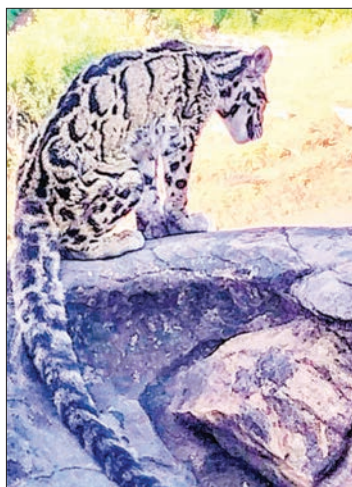
4.5-foot-long tiger seen at Maei Creek Settawya

A 4.5-foot-long tiger was found at Maei Creek Settawya, 16 miles and six furlongs from Maei, Rakhine State, yesterday evening.

The incident took place on the full moon night of Tabodwe when a 4.5-foot-long tiger arrived near the base of Maei Creek Settawya.

The tiger was captured and fed by the Maei Settawya Board of Trustees at the Thalika Farm of the Uruvela Tawya Monastery.

This tiger is a (Formosan clouded leopard) species. A local stated that the tiger is a rare member of the cat family.—Min Thein Tun/GNLM



The tiger is kept and fed at the Thalika Farm of the Uruvela Tawya Monastery.

Further State responsibilities to be discharged

- There are many examples of the consequences of the instability of the state in the world.
- Tatmadaw is not an institution for seeking its own sakes or for only one organization. It is an institution to protect all national people. It conducted defence services by cooperating with the people in successive eras and it faithfully served to be a firm multiparty democracy pathway for 10 years. I pledge that we will carry out it in line with such a process.
- If we review the situations, the desires of the local/foreign terrorists and their supporters lead to the absolute destruction of the country rather than democracy. The state defence is to protect the people and we cannot let the anarchy and we cannot neglect it. Therefore, we have to sacrifice in some places.

(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)

All need to carry out all tasks with their capability holding a concept ...



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets the officers, other ranks and family members of the Kholan Station in southern Shan State on 17 February 2022.

FROM PAGE-1
occurrences in the 2020 election, and they are committing instigation between the Tatmadaw and the people. Since its establishment, the Tatmadaw has been protecting the State with prestige and so, the Tatmadaw does not accept these misunderstandings.

The organizational measures with practical performances help develop the socio-econ-

omy of the people, focusing on the improvement of education and health sectors. Now, the Tatmadaw is serving the interests of the people.

The Tatmadaw has been carrying out the national politics in line with the national history so as to ensure integration of sovereignty of the State since the time of regaining the Independence of the nation. So, it is necessary to avoid the

satiation to politically utilize the Tatmadaw. As Myanmar is located in the two big and populous countries, the Tatmadaw must have high defence capability.

The Senior General stressed the need to take pride in discharging duty in the Tatmadaw for its fine traditions. **As all Tatmadaw members joined the Tatmadaw with patriotic spirit and the spirit**

The Senior General stressed the need to take pride in discharging duty in the Tatmadaw for its fine traditions. As all Tatmadaw members joined the Tatmadaw with patriotic spirit and the spirit loving the nation, they have to take pride in these spirits for dutifully serving the assigned tasks. As the Tatmadaw is a family, all Tatmadaw members and families are to live together in unison.



The wife of the Senior General presents cash assistance for the Maternal and Child Welfare Associations of the Kholan Station (left photo) and of the Mongpyin Station (right photo).

loving the nation, they have to take pride in these spirits for dutifully serving the assigned tasks. As the Tatmadaw is a family, all Tatmadaw members and families are to live together in unison. The Senior General then explained voting frauds in the 2020 multiparty democracy general election, social, economic and peace process of the democratic governments in their terms, and legally solving the terrorist acts based on political events.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs for

Tatmadaw members and families of Mongpyin and Kholan stations through the Mongpyin station commander and the Commander of Eastern Central Command, and the wife of the Senior General gave cash assistance for Maternal and Child Welfare Associations through the wife of the Mongpyin Station commander and the wife of the Eastern Central Command Commander.

After the meetings, the Senior General, wife and party cordially greeted the Tatmadaw members and families. — MNA

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends ceremony to lay cornerstones for building Kengtung Manor replica



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the ceremony to lay cornerstones for building the Kengtung Manor replica near Naungton Lake in Kengtung Township on 17 February 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the ceremony to lay cornerstones for building Kengtung Manor replica near Naungton Lake in Kengtung yesterday.

The ceremony was graced by Presiding Nayaka of Kengyin Monastery in Kengtung Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Khemacara and members of the Sangha, and attended by SAC members, the Shan State Chief Minister, Commander of the Triangle Region Command, relatives of Kengtung Saopha Sao Kawng Kiao Intaleng, well-wishers, town elders, departmental officials, Shan, Lahu, Wa, Akha and Lisu ethnic people and guests.

First, departmental officials, town elders and locals welcomed the Senior General and wife with their traditional dance by playing Shan Ozi.

Then, the SAC Chairman and party led by Kengyin Sayadaw took positions at the designated places respectively and placed

the cornerstones in central, eastern, western, southern and northern parts of the places. They then sprinkled scented Paritta water on the cornerstones.

Next, the event is successfully marked with the grand ceremonial gold and silver confetti.

The Chairman of the State Administration Council, wife and

members asked after health issues of the Sayadaws. They inspected the facts of Kengtung Manor and left there.

The construction of the Kengtung Manor replica begun following the wishes of the relatives of Kengtung Saopha Sao Kawng Kiao Intaleng and locals. Moreover, the Mongpun Manor of



The Senior General views around the Thittabin Taung garden where the resin tree (right picture) was planted in the reins of King Alaungphaya in 1753.

Manor building completed cent per cent while Hsenwi Manor building 60 per cent on 5 February 2021.

Moreover, the Baptist Church in Panmu Village of Momaik Township in Kachin State was damaged in armed conflicts in 2011 and repaired in its original structure according to the instructions of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. Such renovations of the historical and religious building can show the great history of the country and support the friendliness, trust, peace and socio-economic status of the national brethren of the country.

Then, the Senior General and party went to the Thittabin Taung garden in Kengtung and inspected the resin tree (*Dipterocarpus alatus*) planted in the term of King Alaungphaya in 1753 and other plants.

After hearing the explanation of officials, the Senior General instructed officials to conserve the historical place and make arrangements for the travellers. — MNA



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

Myanmar needs to emphasize the development of the region and the State, and the emergence of good human resources: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets the departmental personnel and town elders in Kengtung Township on 17 February 2022.

KHOLAN, Namsang, Hopong, Aungban and Heho are plain regions with chances for operating agriculture and livestock farms, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with departmental officials from Kengtung and Mongpyin townships of Shan State (East), Namsang Township and Kholan of Loilem District in Shan State (South), town elders in respective townships separately yesterday.

First, Chairman of Shan State (East) Administration Council Branch U Ye Naing and local authorities from Mongpyin and Namsang Townships reported on prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19, development tasks, construction of roads and bridges, issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to local people in Pankhinn Project, regular operations of border trade, efforts for increasing per-acre yields of agricultural products, farming of livestock tasks, needs to generate hydropower for local electricity sufficiency, and education and health measures.

Union ministers replied to the reports on plans of respective ministries to fulfil the needs of regions. Local people also reported on manufacturing of value-added agricultural products in Shan State (East), needs of modern machinery,

improvement of livestock farming works and requirements of departmental assistance.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said that departmental personnel, local military units and local people need to join hands in undertaking the socio-economic development of the local people. The government will assist with regional development tasks as

traditions. Upon completion of the Kengtung Manor, the equipment and accessories will be displayed in order to export the history for lifting the prestige of the country and ethnics.

The Senior General said that he had strived for the development of transport facilities for Kengtung. Moreover, the proposals were submitted at different levels for

to participate in the projects.

In the past, some persons who were not ethnics held citizenship scrutiny cards while the authorities restricted CSCs and household registrations. Now, officials need to systematically issue the CSCs to the people under the Pankhinn project.

The border trade process needs to consider administrative, political and security measures. So, it is necessary to take regional development into consideration. Kholan, Namsang, Hopong, Aungban and Heho are plain regions with chances for operating agriculture and livestock farms. Hence, it is necessary to strive for development tasks based on agriculture and livestock businesses.

The Senior General said that he emphasizes two national tasks such as prosperity and food sufficiency. Two political tasks are to ensure firm multi-party democracy and build the Union based on democracy and federalism. To do so, as peace is of importance, the policy was adopted to restore peace and integrate sovereignty.

It is necessary to promote education standards for turning out the educated persons so as to develop agriculture and livestock tasks. As today is a knowledge era, Shan State needs to encourage education more than now. As a larger number of educated persons

is designed to own the future of the country for democratization, global countries are striving for the improvement of educational qualification in their respective countries. Hence, Myanmar needs to emphasize the development of the region and the State and the emergence of good human resources.

Efforts are being made for the development of border trade. Now the country has a trade surplus. The Senior General stressed the need to export quality agriculture and livestock products. If the job opportunity is plentiful in the country, the number of job seekers abroad will decline.

COVID-19 does not disappear at present and the infection rate of COVID-19 reaches some six per cent in the nation. Vaccination for the people hits more than 50 per cent across the nation. As COVID-19 does not clearly disappear, preventive measures will be the best tactic. The Senior General urged the departmental personnel and local people to coordinate with each other in carrying out the tasks which will really benefit the regions.

The Senior General presented gifts for departmental personnel at different levels of Kengtung and Mongpyin townships and Kholan of Shan State (South) and town elders through respective administrators. — MNA

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much as possible.

All ethnicities have histories. Myanmar's independence struggle was led by General Aung San whereas there were many ethnic leaders who served the State interests. The histories of those leaders should be expressed fully. In other countries, the regalia of their kings is displayed in their

upgrading the Kengtung Airport. Shan State (East) is full of water sources to generate hydropower. But, various projects of hydropower could not be implemented. So, the electricity generation projects will be implemented for ensuring the electricity sufficiency of the region. Departmental personnel and local people need

SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses coordination meeting of COVID-19 control and emergency response committee



Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the coordination meeting of the COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, in his capacity as the Chairman of the COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee, addressed the coordination meeting of the committee held yesterday afternoon at the office of the Chairman of the State Administration Council.

Those present at the meeting included Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the chair of Nay Pyi Taw Council and Chief Ministers of respective regions and states attended the meeting through video conferencing.

While addressing the meeting, the Vice-Senior General said COVID-19 cases has been gradually increasing since January 2022 and more positive cases have been found from Myanmar returnees and those who arrived to work in Myanmar. He highlighted that

the current Omicron variant is spreading faster than other variants and the national infection rate rose from 1.45 per cent on 3 February to 8.98 per cent on 16 February.

Despite the strict control measures, the infection rate has been steadily escalating, especially in Yangon, which has the highest percentage of infection with 20.99 per cent, due to high inflows and outflows, and the gathering of people coming in from the border gates, he said. A separate Standard Operating Procedure has been issued to control the spread of the disease in the Yangon Region, he added.

Under the guidance of the Prime Minister, quarantine centres and COVID-19 treatment centres have been set up in military hospitals and public hospitals, in addition to the arrangements made to prevent the shortage of oxygen supplies.

He said the State Government and the Ministry of Health have made necessary arrange-

ments, rules and regulations for the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19. He urged the people to strictly follow the COVID-19 rules and regulations issued during the COVID-19 fourth wave, adding that this led to a significant reduction of the infection rate

during the third wave.

He also called on the respective region/state Chief Ministers to work together with relevant organizations to step up awareness campaigns and control activities in each ward and township in regions and states, including the Nay Pyi

Taw Council Area, to make the people aware of the presence of COVID-19 virus in their immediate area.

At the meeting, Secretary of the Committee Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut explained the status of the Omicron variant infection rate, mortality rate, the spread of the variant in neighbouring countries, COVID-19 disease prevention and control activities and health check-ups at checkpoints, the completion status of the COVID-19 immunization, the completion of booster planting in Ministries, Union-level organizations, domestic oxygen production, and arrangements for the treatment of positive patients and quarantine centres.

The meeting also discussed the processes to be implemented in order to prevent, control and treat the Omicron variant in each sector, and the Vice-Senior General coordinated the meeting. — MNA



Myanmar attends tourism disaster management planning, awareness seminar

THE Asia-Pacific Regional Office of the World Tourism Organization and the Japan Tourism Agency held a joint paper-reading on tourism disaster management planning and awareness-raising yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Hotels

and Tourism Dr Htay Aung along with the Directors-General from the Ministry, Subjects officials, the president of the Myanmar Tourism Federation and enthusiasts from the affiliated associations, attended the seminar online.

Vice-Commissioner of

the Japan Tourism Agency Mr Tomohiro Kaneko gave an opening speech and a video of the director-general of the Department of Sustainable Tourism Development of the World Tourism Organization Dr Dirk Glaesser's message was released.

Tourism experts gave a talk on "Tourism Disaster Management Awareness", "Tourism Disaster Management Plan Guidelines and Response Procedures". Tourism officials from Japan and Australia discussed the response to volcanic eruptions and natural disasters

in Japan and tourism rehabilitation and emergency response to wildfires in Australia.

Afterwards, the CEO of the Asia-Pacific Regional Office of the World Tourism Organization Mr Yoshiaki Hompo delivered the concluding remarks. — MNA

22nd coordination meeting of Union Supreme Court with State/Region High Courts, Self-Administered Division Court, Self-Administered Zones Courts, District Courts held online

CHIEF Justice of the Union Supreme Court U Htun Htun Oo attended the 22nd virtual coordination meeting of the Union Supreme Court with the State/Region High Courts, Self-Administered Division Court, Self-Administered Zones Courts and District Courts online yesterday.

During the meeting, the Chief Justice of the Union said the courts should examine the cases as quickly as possible and make fair and right decisions. The higher courts need to supervise the low-rank court to complete the cases quickly.

Moreover, it also should scrutinize whether the low-rank courts make fair and right decisions in line with the law and should correct the wrong things. Only then, there would be right and fair judgements in line with the law.

The efforts should be made for the proceedings heard at the separate courts to complete without any delays. Being government employees,

they should show loyalty to the country, responsibility, respect and unity. All should try hard to compete in the fifth year (2022) of the Judicial Strategic Plan (2018-2022).

Between 1 January and 31 December 2021, the Union Supreme Court received 566 criminal cases and completed 1,051 cases (including the remaining 485 cases of last year) while there were 1,107 civil suits and completed 1,494 cases (including the remaining 390 cases of the previous year. The Region/State High Courts received 2,137 criminal cases and heard 3,935 cases (including 1,798 cases of last year). It also accepted 1,689 civil suits and completed 3,875 cases (including 2,186 cases of last year.

The Self-Administered Division, Self-Administered Zones and District Courts had 12,921 criminal cases and finished 13,545 cases (including 624 cases of last year) and also received 7,243 civil lawsuits and completed 6,350 cases.



The Chief Justice of the Union Supreme Court gives the opening remark.

The township courts accepted 115,798 criminal cases and completed 135,844 cases (including 20,046 cases of last year).

They also received 13,019 civil lawsuits and completed 14,531 cases (including 1,512 cases of last year).

The juvenile court (Yangon and Mandalay) received 290 cases under the Child Law and completed 388 cases (including 98 cases of last year).

The Municipal Court (Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay) accepted 1,790 cases under the Municipal Law and com-

pleted 1,859 cases (including 69 cases of last year).

The Motor Vehicle Court (Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay) completed 29,379 traffic rules violations.

The meeting will be organized from 17 to 19 February. — MNA

UEC inspects political parties under Election Commission Law



At the office of the National Democratic Force

THE Union Election Commission (UEC) is supervising the registration of political parties under Section 10 (1) of the Union Election Commission Law.

Party membership of political parties, raising party funds and resources, maintenance, use, auditing and liquidation and whether the party activities are carried out under the law are being inspected.

An inspection team consisting of

departmental representatives from the Internal Revenue Department and the Bureau of Special Investigation led by members of the Union Election Commission U Myint Oo and Daw Nu Mra Zan investigated the Yangon-based Karen People's Party, National Democratic Force, New National Democracy Party and the People's Party from 7 to 11 February 2022. — MNA



At the office of the Karen People's Party.



At the office of the People's Party.

Preserve own culture, prevent alien culture, protect ourselves

THE month of Tabodwe in Myanmar colander is one of the significant months in the history of Buddhism. The month has been leaving memorable events concerning Buddhism and Myanmar culture in its history.

In Tabodwe, Buddhist people hold the bonfires on the platform of the pagodas and in front of the Buddha images as a tradition but it does not focus on any festivities. Setting the bonfires aims to give the heat from the fire to members of the Sangha against the cold season. So, well-wishers arrange the fire or stoves to the Buddhist months. Before the month of Tabodwe, local people searched Thanakha and other fragrant firewood to be set fire for members of the Sangha.

On the full moon day of Tabodwe, Buddhist people try hard to offer alms to the Buddha images as well as members of the Sangha. Their alms are made of glutinous rice. Such a meal is made as a snack using the early-harvested glutinous rice.

The snack named Htamane is made through the united strength of young people. Groups of young people make Htamane with earnest efforts. They show their united strength, compassion over each other and respect for the religion. They are satisfied with donating Htamane snacks dedicated to the Lord Buddha and members of the Sangha. Their efforts and unity in making Htamane reflect the nationalistic spirit of the Myanmar people.

Indeed, all the people residing in Myanmar together need to foster their own culture and traditions without exhortation of any others against penetration of alien culture. Everybody can ordinarily consider that their own strength and unity polish images of their respective lives. These acts do not bear any hostilities and assaults.

The yearly process of making Htamane snacks to be offered to the Buddha image as well as Buddhist monks in Myanmar's traditional culture. Only when the people adore their own national culture will they have the spirit to develop and sustain the natural culture. It is an only example. More and more examples can be found in Myanmar's traditional cultural arena.

As such, now is time for the people to preserve their own culture for existence as long as the country stands tall among the global countries. They need to seek the best ones from the globalization process but carefully set aside the measures not in conformity with the nature of Myanmar.



The Sunset

By Yin Nwe Ko

THE sunset scene is always pleasing in nature. Everywhere in the world, people love it. Some places of the world are renowned for their especially unique view of their sunset views. Dear Readers, you will think I am going to compose a sunset view of somewhere in my surroundings. Please, be patient and read my short article since I will mention the ones whose lives are ugly indeed. It is natural but everyone will definitely meet one day in great bitterness. When we meet it, can we able to withstand the very horrible experiences?

We know the people who step into their 60s are aged ones. Some of their physical appearances and mental appearances become rather frail. However, they usually think as they have had many experiences in their lives and they

know and understand everything. It is somewhat right but they have not been really ready to face the infirmity yet. When one gets old, he must prepare everything for his future days so that he will not tremble when he or she meets the difficulties in future.

First, we will get fewer and fewer companions. The people who are older than us have already passed away. Those who are the same age as us are also encountering their difficulties by themselves. Moreover, those who are younger than us are also busy with jobs. Some wives or husbands might have left the family earlier than the respective person. At such moment, the only companions for us will be the lonely days and nights. Therefore, what we have to do is we have to try to be able to live alone at

home. Then, we will encounter again a thing in which we get gradually neglected by our surroundings. How famous or successful one has been before, when one gets old, one becomes an ordinary old man or woman. Besides, we have to practice to be able to stay peacefully in one corner of the house alone. The ceremonies held with all friends will get less and less. What is more, we have to be able to try to tolerate those ceremonies happily held by the younger people and keep our mind not to blame them for holding.

Moreover, another harm is that we might fall somewhere and one of our bones might get broken. Our coronary arteries might be blocked. Our memories might be weak. Various types of cancer

might be greeting us in any way. In place of companions before, the diseases now become new companions. Do not be shallow in your thoughts that you are still steadfast and healthy. It will be a major task to loosen our mind a little by doing some able exercises.

Furthermore, we must think in advance that we will have to pass our remaining life on bed. It can be said that we resume our lives in which our moms first brought us to bed. Finally, we got there (in bed) after we have experienced a variety of happiness and all kinds of difficulties throughout our whole life. In addition, we have to accept the nursing of the others which would not be identical to our moms' nursing.

We will have to accept the situation in which we were brought up under the looking after of our moms when we came to the world but it will not be certain that the people who will nurse us are our children or our close relatives when we are about to leave that world. If so, it will not be kind and warm as much as our moms did. The most possible situation will be that we will meet those who are wearing smiles on their faces but cursing in their mind. However, it is the situation we will have to thank them who are nursing us pretending we know nothing.

Another unpleasant situation will also be met. This time, they will be the deceives who might lie to the people of infirmity guessing their own extra saved money for their ageing days by cheating with phone calls or letters saying about

the medicine that can cure every kind of disease or something done in keeping with the astrologer's advice. Therefore, we will have to seize our nest egg for old age firmly and with great care.

Finally, all the lights get reduced in the life of sunset of a man. Even walking will be difficult day after day. As soon as we are in our 60s, we should prepare to abandon many things in life. We have to value those who have been good to us for ages. We have to try to feel our lives with good senses. It is also necessary not to argue with anyone. We have to stay with arguing even with our children and grandchildren. The most important thing is not to be self-arrogant. Being old and infirmity must be accepted. We should take care of in talking that seems to be giving an order. If possible, it will be best we should avoid the words that will hurt others. We should prepare to pass the remaining days lightly and with ease.



Treatment centre in a box and other new ideas

The first project being rolled out under the initiative is a rapidly deployable infectious diseases treatment centre.

A treatment centre that can be set up within hours, a kit to convert a regular vehicle into an ambulance, ultra-cold chain and solar energy technologies, and a basecamp for emergency responders. These are all ideas that could speed up emergency response and save

lives. To this end, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) launched INITIATE2 in 2021, to strengthen partnerships among emergency responders and humanitarian agencies and to develop innova-

tive solutions that can be quickly deployed in health emergencies. The first project being rolled out under the initiative is a rapidly deployable infectious diseases treatment centre. This centre will be able to provide for high-quality care for a range of diseases through all stages of an outbreak.

Once the specifications are validated, a prototype of the centre will be tested and fine-tuned, to be eventually used in a large-scale emergency simulation exercise. During the simulation, logisticians will be trained on how to deploy and dismantle the facilities; while health responders will be trained on their use and management.

The initiative will leverage the existing infrastructure of the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in Brindisi, Italy which hosts a dedicated humanitarian training centre and the UNHRD Lab, a research and development unit where innovative emergency response products are developed and tested.

"INITIATE2 combines the expertise and the experiences of WHO and WFP and their partners, to create standardized technical solutions to support relief efforts — with a holistic and inclusive focus on people, skills, and technology. Partners complement each other's needs with their own unique and specialized capacities or resources in this new out-of-the box approach," says Dr Ibrahim Soce-Fall, WHO Assistant Director-General for Emergency

Response. INITIATE2 enables humanitarian actors to gain and share knowledge, and translate these skills in local communities to improve country-level emergency response. It builds on the integrated, end-to-end technical and operational capacities of the COVID-19 Supply Chain System, also led by WHO and WFP.

It also creates a space for innovation to grow, as partner organizations can propose their own projects and ideas and benefit from their collective expertise, and from their dedicated resources.

WHO develops the standards on emergency response and preparedness, provides technical guidance, develops the health components of trainings, and prepares the teams to be deployed in times of emergencies. WFP supports the design, development and sourcing of the prototypes and makes available the space and the facilities for innovations and trainings.

Partner organizations in INITIATE2 will have an active role in developing the technical specifications and bringing their respective sectoral expertise into, the training content. These

partners include ALIMA, Bring Hope Foundation, CUAMM, DG ECHO, FAO, FDFA Switzerland, GOAL, IOM, ICRC, IFRC, IRC, IMC, Medair, Medical Aid Films, MSF, Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children International, UNICEF, USAID, and Word Vision International.

"It's about using collective knowledge and expertise to find solutions that will work across a range of settings and that will support the needs of the community of health and humanitarian partners in future health emergencies," says Alex Marianelli, WFP Director of Supply Chain. "COVID-19 showed us just how much we could achieve when we all rallied together to respond, and it's in this spirit that we want to build further on this collaboration through the INITIATE2 project." This holistic and collaborative approach creates a fully end-to-end process that will support readiness, response and resilience. "Working with our partners, we will be able to empower international and national technical experts and emergency responders for a lasting positive impact in the communities we serve," says Dr Fall. SOURCE: WHO



A team of WHO technical and health experts setting up a COVID-19 treatment centre in a football field in São Tomé and Príncipe, which was subsequently run by an Emergency Medical Team. PHOTO: WHO/2020/JEAN PIERRE VEYRENCHÉ

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

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

ဝတ်စားစာ ဖုန်ယူလို့ပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
09 454 237 515

ဝတ်စားစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာဝံ့ချိန်ဖို့ ပုံနှိပ်လို့ပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
01 860 4530

MoC oversees daily imports of essential anti-COVID-19 equipment

THE Ministry of Commerce is facilitating the importation of essential medical supplies plus anti-COVID devices that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities,

including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, through trading posts, international airports and seaports.

A total of 9.51 tonnes of masks were imported by two

vehicles of one company via the Chinshwehaw trade zone yesterday.

Officials from relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the

standard operating procedures for the import process.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments and treatment of

COVID-19 as well as contact persons for inquiries can be reached through the Ministry's Website — www.commerce.gov.mm. — MNA

Bago Region ex-chief minister U Win Thein charged under Section 55 of Anti-Corruption Law gets sentence

THE Anti-Corruption Commission inspected the complaints against Bago Region ex-chief minister U Win Thein.

According to the inspection, Bago Region former chief minister U Win Thein used more than K239 million contributed by business people and companies to the country for his own sakes and party without following the financial procedures on Regional Development Fund issued by Notification 58/2019. He received K10 million from a private company

to facilitate the work processes on land areas returned by the military in Bago. He did not add a K20 million donation by a private company chairman for COVID-19 preventive measures on donation lists. He took K5 million from a business person in early September 2020. A company chairman gave him a car as a bribe in October 2020 for receiving 200 acres of land use permits out of 400 acres in Bago Region.

The ex-Chief Minister U Win Thein neglected the objec-

tions of the Union Government, Ministry of Construction and Region Hluttaw and organized Bago Region Construction Control Authority (BRCCA) and allowed the association to use land in government compound, building, office materials, water/electricity and vehicles for free and accepted more than K1,136 million which was two per cent of the permitted budget, an inspection fee for local construction projects, in the bank account of the association. Of these amounts,

he failed to inspect cutting 0.3 per cent as service charges. Therefore, he managed illegal opportunities for his BRCCA/BRCB(T).

Moreover, regarding the installation of lamp-posts using surplus funds in four budget years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, he did not call tender as per the procedure of the President's Office Directive No 1/2017 and permitted 15 projects worth about K2,000 million to only one company. Therefore, it caused losses in the tender surplus

fund for the State budget and he was prosecuted under Section 55 of Anti-corruption Law at Bago Region High Court on 8 July 2021 and it accepted seven cases from case No 1/2021 to 7/2021.

He was found guilty and Bago Region High Court sentenced him to 20 years in prison with hard labour under seven cases – three years imprisonment for each case 1/2021, 2/2021, 3/2021, 4/2021, 5/2021 and 7/2021 and three years imprisonment for case 6/2021. — MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, motorcycle, consumer goods confiscated

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

On 15 February, a combined inspection team under the management of the Rakhine State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted a surprise inspection in Kyaukpyu, An, Thandwe, and Taungup townships, and a total of 12.2686 tonnes of illegal timbers (estimated value of K718,837) was seized and action is taken under the Forest Law.

On 17 February, a combined

inspection team under the management of the Sagaing Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted a surprise check and seized one Canda 125 motorcycle without a licence (approximately K300,000) in Kanbalu Township, and action is taken under the Import and Export Law.

In addition, a combined inspection team from the Customs Department and the duty inspection team at the Mayanchaung Permanent checkpoint seized a total of various consumer goods and business equipment (estimated at K11,156,000) without any

official documents, and the action is taken under the Customs Law.

Similarly, under the management of the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, the Bago Region Forest Department and combined teams reportedly inspected a total of 11.0554 tonnes of illegal timber (estimated value of 1,334,142) in the forest areas of Toungoo and Thayawady districts, and action is taken under the Forest Law.

Next, a combined inspection team of Kayin State conducted a search operation at the Tadakyoe Joint Checkpoint in Kawkareik



Seized consumer goods.

under the auspices of the Anti-Trafficking Task Force.

Consequently, a total of K4,500,000 worth of consumer goods was seized without any official documentation and are prosecuted under the Customs

Law.

As a result, a total of 11 arrests (estimated value of K18,008,979) were made on 15 and 17 February, stated the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA



Stimulant tablets seized in Myawady, Mawlamyine

A combined team of anti-narcotics police inspected Myint Aye (alias) Me Gyi and Wai Phy (alias) Joker in Ward No. 4, Myawaddy at 3:15 pm on 15 February and 3,900 stimulant

tablets from Myint Aye (alias) Me Gyi were seized.

At 11 am on the same day, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and

searched a motorcycle driven by Nyi Nyi Thaw (alias) Nyi Thaw on Thukha Road, Kween Ward, Mawlamyine, resulted in the seizure of 1,550 stimulant tablets.

They are being prosecuted under the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to the Myanmar Police Force. — MNA

Two arrestees are seen along with seized drugs.

State Administration Council Press Release

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

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

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

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

Pa-O traditional lighting ceremony held on full moon of Tabodwe



The Pa-O traditional lighting ceremony was held on the full moon of Tabodwe in the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone in southern Shan State.

THE Pa-O traditional lighting ceremony was held on the full moon of Tabodwe in the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone in southern Shan State.

The lighting ceremony was collectively held by sev-

en villages on the hill of the Buddha Park in Naungpi village-tract, Pinlaung Township in the self-administered zone, with one flambeau representing each village.

The Pa-O traditional light-

ing ceremony is slowly disappearing, and is only held by children, said local people in Hteeyekayin village. At the ceremony, villagers from each village participated in full Pa-O traditional dress and lighted

the pole which is locally known as “Mae Tin”. The ceremony aimed to pay homage to Buddha.

Although it was held by old people before, it is now being held by young people in Pa-O

villages. The ceremony was resumed last year at the Lwebaung Buddha Park with the purpose to preserve the Pa-O tradition, said a local. — Khun Aung (Naung Tayar)/GNLM

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

Thilawa SEZ attracts over US\$2.149 bln so far

A total of 112 enterprises from 18 countries have ploughed in over \$2.149 billion into Thilawa Special Economic Zone under the Special Economic Zone Law as of end-December, 2021 since its establishment, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration's statistics indicated.

At present, approximately 102 factories are running in the Thilawa SEZ. The SEZ has employed more than 12,000 permanent workers, including permanent and construction workers, according to the management committee.

The businesses are primarily operating in Thilawa Zone A, and the development activities in Zone B is underway.

Myanmar is currently implementing three Special Economic Zones — Thilawa, Kyaukpju, and Dawei. Out of the three, Thilawa is leading with better infrastructure and successful businesses. More than 60 per cent of businesses in Thilawa is domestic-oriented manufacturing enterprises, while 40 per cent are



The businesses are primarily operating in Thilawa Zone A, and the development activities in Zone B is underway.

export-oriented manufacturers, according to Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Ltd.

There are free zones, promotion zones and other zones in the SEZs. A company exporting at least 75 per cent of the production in value is registered as a Free Zone investor and is exempt from paying income tax for seven years from the time it starts commercial operations. Companies such as logistics, which support export-oriented manufacturing, can also be listed as free zone companies.

Domestic-oriented manufacturing companies are regarded as promotion zone companies, and they are eligible for a five-year holiday on income tax.

Promotion zones are mainly based on the domestic market and the markets in SEZs. In this zone, investments can be made in manufacturing, housing, departmental stores, banking, insurance, schools, hospitals and recreational places.

The central body and central working committees have been reestablished to enhance

the SEZs. The meeting of the Central body for Myanmar Special Economic Zone was convened on 14 February 2022, highlighting the development of the three SEZs, proceeding in line with international regulation regarding the contract, implementation of the Kyaukpju SEZ which can create job opportunities and help contribute to the State's economy.

While the manufacturing sector absorbed the largest share of foreign investments, the investments were also

pumped into the trading, other services, logistics, hotel and tourism, and real estate sectors. Japan has topped the list of foreign investors so far, accounting for over 33 per cent of the overall investment, followed by Singapore and Thailand. FDI also flowed into the SEZs from the Republic of Korea, Hong Kong (SAR), the UK, Australia, the UAE, Malaysia, Austria, China (Taipei), Denmark, Brunei Darussalam, Viet Nam, France, Switzerland, and the Netherlands as well. — KK/GNLM

Dollar worth K1,900 at under-the-counter rate as CBM's reference exchange rate at K1,778



The CBM sold US\$80 million at its auction market within two months, to govern the market volatility. A total of \$443.8 million were sold in 2021 as well.

MYANMAR'S currency black market witnessed a dollar traded at K1,900 although the Central Bank of Myanmar set the reference exchange rate at K1,778, according to local forex traders.

To strengthen the Kyat value in the local forex market, the CBM set the exchange rate margin within 0.5 per cent of the reference rate for the transaction, selling or buying, according to a notification issued by the CBM on 9 November last year.

Consequently, the informal money exchanges set a dollar value at K1,781 for buying and K1,786 for selling.

Nevertheless, the dollar was traded only between K1,982 and 1,990 on 16 February in the informal financial market.

The CBM sold US\$80 million at its auction market within two months, to govern the market volatility. A total of \$443.8 million were sold in 2021 as well.

Last 28 September 2021, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K3,000 in the black market and consequently, the pure gold reached a record high of K2.22 million per tical in history.

Under the guidance of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods,

the Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market was formed on 17 December 2021 as the market stability of gold and currency plays a crucial role in the trade facilitation.

The objectives of the committee are inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation, checking if there is compliance to payment rules or not in the domestic market, proceeding against those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere with the free and fair operation of the market under the existing laws, by-laws and regulations in line with the official directives, illegal procurement of foreign currency, illegal trade and taking legal actions against price manipulators.

Furthermore, the officials concerned will crack down on those people involved in charging a percentage for money withdrawals at banks as shadow money.

The foreign exchange counter rates were at K2,130 for euro, K1,425 for Singapore dollar, K450 for Malaysian ringgit, K59.30 for Thai Baht, K310 for Chinese Yuan and K16.70 for Japanese Yen on 16 January. — NN/GNLM

Export rice price spikes

MYANMAR rice's export price is mounting, said U Than Oo, the secretary of the Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Depot.

Currently, the trading of export rice price is K25,000 per bag (containing 108 pounds) for 25 markets, K25,800 per bag for Manawthuka (80 marks), K27,500 per bag for Ah Twe (90 marks) from Mandalay Madaya and K27,500 per bag for summer rice (95) which is recently produced.

"The current rice's export price reached an all-time high. These prices are very high in the export raw market," said U Than Oo.

Besides, whether the price of rice export will continuously rise or not is depending on the foreign currency and international trading. Currently, the dollar exchange rate stood at around K1,980 in the foreign exchange market, he added.

At present, there is a less stockpile of monsoon paddy in the rice market and the newly harvested summer paddy will enter the market pretty soon.

"Our monsoon paddy is yielded in October. Now, the yield of the monsoon paddy is

almost less stockpiled in the regions. There are only a few exports raw paddy to mill except for the rice stored for the domestic consumption," said U Than Oo.

About 30,000 or 40,000 bags of rice and low-quality rice flowed daily into the Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Depot, one of the main export markets through the maritime route.

From 1 October to 31 January in this financial year, the country exported over 1 million tonnes of rice and low-quality rice, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Of these exports, the country exported over 723,653.997 tonnes of rice and 348,194.21 tonnes of low-quality rice, totalling 1,071,848.21 tonnes of rice to the international market.

Myanmar exported over one million tonnes of rice and low-quality rice via the maritime route and over 60,000 tonnes via the border route.

In the 2020-21FY, the country generated over \$700 million from rice and low-quality rice export with an estimated volume of about two million tonnes. — NN/GNLM

Record low January car sales in EU: data

NEW car registrations in the European Union hit a record low for the month of January, according to industry data released Thursday, as the sector continues to be hamstrung by a lack of semiconductors. "With the ongoing semiconductor shortage still negatively affecting car sales across the region" the registration of new vehicles last month fell by six per cent from January 2020, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association said in a statement.

The 682,596 vehicles

registered last month marks "a new historic low in EU car sales for the first month of the year" since the trade association began keeping records in 1990.

Following the strangling of sales in 2020 by pandemic restrictions closing dealerships, automakers found it hard to meet a rebound in consumer demand last year as semiconductor manufacturers couldn't supply enough of the chips critical to the operation of numerous systems in modern cars.—AFP ■

Singapore Airlines flight lands in Indonesia's Bali for 1st time in 2 years

A Singapore Airlines flight landed on Indonesia's resort island of Bali for the first time since the country closed international borders to tourism in March 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, an official said on Wednesday.

Flight SQ938 took off from Singapore's Changi Airport and landed at Bali's I Gusti Ngurah Rai Airport, carrying 156 passengers including 109 foreigners, said Nia Niscaya, deputy for marketing of Indonesia's Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy.



Bali has reopened to foreign tourists and welcomed its first international flight in two years on February 16. PHOTO: XINHUA

"This will increase the accessibility of foreign tourists to Indonesia, especially to Bali, and is expected to encourage

the recovery of the national economy through the tourism sector," Niscaya added.

Singapore Airlines'

general manager for Indonesia, Alvin Seah, said that the airline operates seven Singapore-Bali flights a week with Boeing 787-10 aircraft with a seating capacity of 337.

"We hope that the situation in Indonesia will continue to improve and remain under control so that the tourism industry will recover," Seah said.

It is the first foreign commercial airline to have activated flights to Bali in the last two years, although the resort island officially reopened to international tourists in October 2021.—Xinhua ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Cathay United Bank Co., Ltd., a company incorporated and existing under the laws of Taiwan, and having its registered office at 1F., No. 7, Songren Rd., Xinyi Dist., Taipei City 110, Taiwan (R.O.C.) hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following Trademarks:



The above Trademarks are used in respect of "Financial services including banking services, bills financing, credit cards, trust, insurances, securities, future, venture capital, third-party payment" in Class 36.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the above Trademarks or other infringements whatsoever thereto will be dealt with according to law.

Daw Aye Tha Zin Myo, (H.G.P)
For Cathay United Bank Co., Ltd.
c/o Baker & McKenzie Limited
Suite 28, Level 14, Junction City Tower,
No. 3/A Bogyoke Aung San Road,
Pabedan Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Tel: +95 9 44918 9060
Dated: 18 February 2022

TRADEMARK CAUTION

COSMECREATE PRODUCTS, INC, a company incorporated in Japan and having its office at 9-36, Tsukuda 6-chome, Nishiyodogawa-ku, Osaka, Japan, hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trademarks:



Reg. No.4/3603 (10.07.1997)



Reg. No. 4/1324 (23.03.2001)



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Daw Aye Nyein Naing
(LL.B, LL.M, DIPL) (Advocate)
For COSMECREATE PRODUCTS, INC.
c/o TNY LEGAL(MYANMAR) Co., Ltd.
#Central Tower 1, Level UG2, Unit C, Corner of Kabar
Aye Pagoda Road and Kanbe Road, Yankin
Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Dated: 18 February 2022

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PACIFIC GRACE VOY.NO. (2204S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACIFIC GRACE VOY.NO. (2204S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-2-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK NORBERG VOY.NO. (204S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK NORBERG VOY.NO. (204S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-2-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

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09 974 424 848

NEWS
IN BRIEFHonduran ex-president to remain in custody
as US seeks extradition

HONDURAN ex-president Juan Orlando Hernandez, wanted on drug trafficking charges in the United States, will remain in prison for at least a month as the extradition case against him proceeds, a judge in Tegucigalpa ruled Wednesday.

The judge decided to keep Hernandez in preventative detention “in order to guarantee his presence” at the second hearing in the case next month, Supreme Court spokesman Melvin Duarte said.

Hernandez, who was still in office just three weeks ago, was brought to court for his first hearing in the case in a convoy that included armored vehicles and a helicopter from the police station where he had spent the night.

Outside the court building, supporters from his rightwing National Party (NP) shouted, “He is not alone!” while backers of the leftist Libre party that recently ousted the NP from power celebrated Hernandez’s fall from grace. The 53-year-old is accused of having facilitated the smuggling of some 500 tonnes of drugs mainly from Colombia and Venezuela to the United States via Honduras from 2004 until as recently as this year. In turn, he allegedly received “millions of dollars in bribes... from multiple narcotrafficking organizations in Honduras, Mexico and other places,” according to a document from the US Embassy in Tegucigalpa.—AFP ■

Sandy Hook families settle
with gunmaker for \$73 mn
over school massacre

FAMILIES of nine victims of the Sandy Hook school shooting have reached a \$73 million settlement with US gunmaker Remington, in a landmark deal for a country traumatized by campus massacres.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs said the settlement marks the first time a gun maker has been held liable for a mass shooting in the United States.

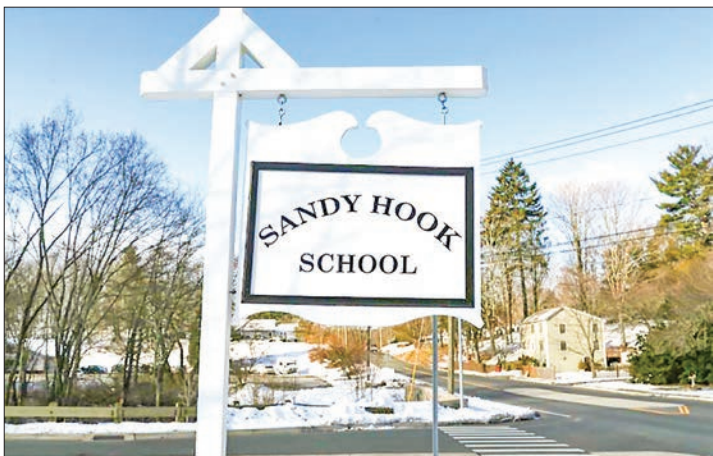
Twenty-six children and teachers were shot dead in 2012 at the elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut by Adam Lanza, a 20-year-old with known developmental disabilities. The killings — the second-deadliest school massacre in US history — stunned Americans, with many thinking they would mark

a watershed moment that would lead lawmakers to tighten gun control.

A “settlement agreement has been executed between the parties,” a notice from lawyers for the families said Tuesday.

Calling the move “historic,” US President Joe Biden said it begins “the necessary work of holding gun manufacturers accountable.” Manufacturers and dealers must either change their business models or “bear the financial cost of their complicity,” he said in a statement.

Lanza’s mother, a gun enthusiast, had bought him an AR-15-style Bushmaster XM15-E2S semi-automatic rifle more than two years before the shooting.—AFP ■



Adam Lanza shot dead 20 six- and seven-year-olds along with six teachers at Sandy Hook school in Connecticut in December 2012. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Prince Andrew’s settlement ‘worth
£12 mn’ as anger mounts in UK

Virginia Giuffre’s lawyer said she and Prince Andrew had ‘reached an out-of-court settlement’, without revealing the financial terms. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

DISGRACED British royal Prince Andrew faced a call Wednesday to “live out his retirement in ignominy” after reportedly settling a sexual assault lawsuit for a whopping £12 million (\$16.3 million, 14.3 million euros).

The lawyer for US accuser Virginia Giuffre revealed on Tuesday that both parties had

settled out of court, sparing Andrew the public humiliation of a trial. The details were not revealed.

Giuffre has said she had sex with Andrew when she was 17 and a minor under the US law, after meeting him through the late US financier Jeffrey Epstein, who took his own life in prison while awaiting trial for

sex crimes.

The prince has not been criminally charged and has denied the allegations.

The Daily Telegraph newspaper reported that Andrew was to pay £10 million to Giuffre and £2 million to a charity for victims of sex trafficking.

His team told AFP they would not comment on the contents of the deal.

The settlement raised questions of who is footing the bill for the perennially cash-strapped prince, with the Telegraph reporting it would come from one of the private estates belonging to his mother Queen Elizabeth II.

The scandal has threatened to overshadow the queen’s Platinum Jubilee this year, marking her 70 years on the throne. Any jury trial could have coincided with nationwide jubilee celebrations due to take place in the summer. It also means Andrew, 61, will no longer be questioned under oath by Giuffre’s lawyers, who had been due to travel to London next month.—AFP ■

Glencore mine expansion at sacred
Aboriginal site blocked

MINING giant Glencore has been blocked from expanding mining operations near a sacred Aboriginal site in Australia, where it had hoped to dump vast quantities of combustible, toxic rock.

The Northern Territory government this week halted expansion plans for the Anglo-Swiss company’s McArthur River mine, with memories still fresh of Rio Tinto’s 2020 destruction of a 46,000-year-old sacred rock shelter in Juukan Gorge, Western Australia.

Glencore wanted approval to dump the flammable rock to a height of 140 metres (460 feet) beside the sacred site known as Barramundi Dreaming over the next 15 years to double the size of the lead and zinc mine it operates through a subsidiary.

The miner argued it had permission from six local Aboriginal custodians to do so, a claim a larger group of traditional owners challenged.

Northern Territory Heritage Minister Chansey Paech on Tuesday rejected Glencore’s application to overturn a decision by



An aerial view taken on 22 September 2015 in Voh, in North Province, New Caledonia shows the Koniambo Nickel SAS (KNS) metallurgical plant belonging to Glencore and Societe miniere du Sud Pacifique. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority, which ruled Glencore should have consulted with a much larger group of up to 180 custodians.

The Authority’s chief executive, Benedict Scambary, said the minister’s decision “puts all developers on notice that lip service to consultation is not good enough”.

“Protecting sacred sites is not a box to be ticked, or an obstacle to be sidestepped,” he said.

Glencore’s subsidiary on

Wednesday said it will continue to negotiate a land-use agreement with traditional owners.

“We remain committed to these negotiations and broad consultation with Traditional Owners,” it said in a statement. Last year, Australian politicians investigating Rio Tinto’s dynamiting of the sacred rock shelter at Juukan Gorge also visited the Indigenous community near the McArthur River mine. Residents raised concerns about Glencore’s expansion plans.—AFP ■

Macron hosts African leaders ahead of expected Mali withdrawal

PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron welcomed African leaders for dinner in Paris Wednesday ahead of an expected announcement that France is withdrawing its troops from Mali after nearly 10 years fighting a jihadist insurgency.

Multiple sources have told AFP that Macron will announce that French forces will leave Mali and redeploy elsewhere in the Sahel region, following a breakdown in relations with the ruling junta.

Macron is to travel to Brussels Thursday for a two-day EU-Africa summit. But the French presidency announced he would hold an 0800 GMT press conference at the Elysee on the “engagement of France in the Sahel”, where he is likely to make the formal announcement.



Of the 53 soldiers killed serving in France's Barkhane mission in West Africa, 48 of them died in Mali. A French soldier from the Barkhane mission in Africa's Sahel region, points a machine gun from a NH90 helicopter between Gao and Menaka, Mali, on 21 March 2019. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

The Mali deployment has been fraught with problems for France. Of the 53 soldiers killed serving in its Barkhane mission in West Africa, 48 of them died in Mali.

France initially deployed

troops against jihadists in Mali in 2013 but the insurgency was never fully quelled, and now new fears have emerged of a jihadist push to the Gulf of Guinea.

The deployment in Mali of a European force known as Taku-

ba -- a project driven by Macron to spread the security burden in the troubled region -- will also end, the sources said.

The expected announcement of the withdrawal comes at a critical time for Macron, just days ahead of a long-awaited declaration from the president that he will stand for a new term in April elections.

It also coincides with Macron seeking to take a lead role in international diplomacy as he presses Russia to de-escalate in the standoff over Ukraine.

Multiple missions

The working dinner hosted by Macron on Wednesday, starting at 1930 GMT, will bring together the leaders of France's key allies in the Sahel region — Chad, Mauritania and Niger. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Netanyahu prosecutors say witness phone was hacked with 'spyware'

PROSECUTORS in former Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu's corruption trial said Wednesday that “spyware” hacked one witness's phone but no relevant material was uncovered and urged the trial to go ahead. The Jerusalem district court had ordered prosecutors to conduct an audit on the potential use by investigators of the controversial Pegasus malware, made by Israel's NSO group, following media reports Pegasus has been used against multiple figures in the case.

The prosecution's disclosure did not directly mention Pegasus, the programme reportedly used on journalists, dissidents and activists worldwide. It can switch on a phone's camera or microphone and harvest its data. —AFP ■

Kuwait army allows women in combat roles, but without guns



Kuwait's military decided women need the permission of a male guardian to enlist and are banned from carrying weapons. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

KUWAITI women are angry after the military, having allowed

female soldiers in combat roles, decided they need the permission

of a male guardian and banned them from carrying weapons.

Activists have decried the policy as “one step forward, two steps back” after the defence ministry also decided that women in the armed forces, unlike civilians, must wear head coverings.

The moves have sparked an online backlash in Kuwait, usually regarded as one of the most open societies in the Gulf.

“I don't know why there are these restrictions to join the army,” Ghadeer al-Khashti, a sports teacher and member of Kuwait Football Association's women committee, told AFP.

“We have all kinds of women working in all fields, including the police force.”

She said her mother had helped the resistance when Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in 1990 invaded Kuwait and occupied it for seven months before being pushed out by a US-led international coalition. “My mum during the Iraqi invasion used to hide weapons under her abaya and transport them to members of Kuwait's resistance, and my father encouraged it,” said Khashti.

“I don't understand on what basis they see women as weak.”

The ministry decided in October to allow women in combat roles but then imposed the restrictions after the defence minister was questioned by conservative lawmaker Hamdan al-Azmi. —AFP ■

Russian planes intercepted US Navy aircraft over Mediterranean: Pentagon

THREE US Navy aircraft were intercepted by Russian planes in an “unprofessional” manner over the Mediterranean Sea last weekend, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

“While no one was hurt, interactions such as these could result in miscalculations and mistakes that lead to more dangerous outcomes,” US Navy Captain Mike Kafka said in a statement.

The three P-8A maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft “experienced unprofessional intercepts by Russian aircraft” while “flying in international airspace over the Mediterranean Sea,” Kafka said.

He said the United States has “made our concerns known to Russian officials through diplomatic channels.

“The US will continue to operate safely, professionally and



The Pentagon said Russian planes intercepted three US Navy P-8A aircraft over the Mediterranean in an ‘unprofessional’ manner. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

consistent with international law in international waters and air-

space,” Kafka said. “We expect Russia to do the same.” —AFP ■

Italy court vetoes referendum to liberalize cannabis

ITALY'S Constitutional Court on Wednesday rejected a request to hold a referendum on legalizing cannabis cultivation despite a corresponding petition garnering a large number of signatures.

The referendum proposal sought to legalize the growing of cannabis for personal use and ease sanctions on other related crimes, with offenders no longer risking prison sentences for selling small amounts of the drug. Constitutional Court president and former prime minister, Giuliano Amato, told a news conference that the referendum would have been sufficient “to make (Italy) violate multiple international obligations”.

One of the advocates for liberalization — Benedetto Della Vedova of the centrist + Europa party — countered that the court's ruling would “deprive Italy of a public debate and of a process of electoral reform on freedom and responsibility.”

The organizers of the planned referendum had garnered more than 630,000 signatures, arguing that cannabis was no more than dangerous than other legal substances like tobacco or alcohol. —AFP ■

Paris to hold new model of Olympics in 2024, says chief organizer



The Olympic Rings are placed in front of the Eiffel Tower in celebration of Paris winning to host the 2024 summer Olympic Games, 14 September 2017. PHOTO: VCG/XINHUA/FILE

PARIS is determined to hold the 2024 Olympic Games in some ways never tried before, Tony Estanguet, head of the Paris 2024 organizing committee, told Xinhua in an interview.

The 2024 Olympics will be games open to the public, said Estanguet, who won Olympic gold in C1 canoe slalom at Sydney 2000, Athens 2004 and London 2012.

“Through an open Games,

we have the ambition to bring sport into the heart of Paris, closer to the fans. The first-ever mass participation marathon on the same day and same course of the Olympic marathon, and an Opening Ceremony on the River Seine, are just some of the ways we plan to open up the Games to a wider audience than ever before,” he said.

“As of today, I can say that we haven’t lost sight of that am-

bition and that our preparations continue to be on track and on budget,” said the former Olympic champion.

Some competitions of the Paris Olympics will take place in the spectacular heritage, culture and historic landmarks of Paris. For example, The Grand Palais will hold fencing and taekwondo, the Champ-de-Mars Arena will stage judo and wrestling.

“We know we are blessed with one of the most beautiful cities in the world and so our ambition right from the very start was to integrate the Games into the City of Paris as much as possible,” said Estanguet.

“Paris is our field of play, and we plan to make the most of it. This will also create some iconic backdrops for television for the benefit of all fans watching from home,” he said. Estanguet revealed how the Paris 2024 organizers came up with the plan to hold the opening ceremony on the Seine.—Xinhua ■

‘Redemption’ as Canada beat US for fifth women’s ice hockey gold

CANADA beat fierce rivals the United States 3-2 to win women’s Olympic ice hockey gold on Thursday, avenging a loss in the final four years ago and capping a dominant run in Beijing.

Canada led 3-0 in the second period and held on to win, despite being out-shot in the game 40-21, to collect the country’s fifth Olympic gold medal in the event.

Canada suffered heartbreak in Pyeongchang in 2018 when they came into the gold medal match on a 24-game winning streak but ended up losing to the US in a shootout.

“Coming off 2018 and having that silver medal, it felt like the weight of the world was on our shoulders,” said forward Sarah Nurse.

“Having this gold, it’s going to feel as light as ever.”

No other country has won women’s ice hockey gold in the seven Olympic Games since the event debuted in Nagano in 1998. Canada have won five of those and the US two.



Canada beat old rivals the US for gold. PHOTO: AFP

“It was one hell of an effort. This is redemption,” said Marie-Philip Poulin, who scored twice in the game.

The United States arrived in Beijing ranked number one in the world, but a gold medal for the second-ranked Canadians soon seemed inevitable.

Canada blitzed the field, finishing 7-0, including an earlier

4-2 win over the Americans.

After that game, Canada’s Natalie Spooner cranked the rivalry up a notch by saying the US “do not belong on the ice with us”.

Canada outscored their opponents 57-10 and Canadian players occupied the top six spots on the Beijing points leaderboard.—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.

PGA players considering team-event series: reports

MEMBERS of the US PGA Tour’s Player Advisory Council are considering the creation of a three-event team series for top players starting in 2023, according to multiple reports Wednesday.

Golf Channel and Golf Digest, each citing unnamed sources, said the idea was tossed around during a council meeting Tuesday at Los Angeles ahead of Thursday’s start of the Genesis Invitational at Riviera.

A team format was an idea from one of the potential PGA rivals looking to start over the past couple years, the Premier Golf League.

The group drawing the greatest attention lately has been the Saudi-backed Super Golf League led by Greg Norman.

The team idea in development by the council, according to Golf Channel, would begin

in 2023 as a three-event series late in the calendar year using a team format similar to US collegiate golf.

The tournaments would be staged in Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

Under the plan, the US PGA Tour would back away from its current wrap-around schedule and shift back to a calendar-year season.

The top 50 players in the US PGA’s season points standings would qualify for the team events with their spots secured for the following year’s campaign.

Golf Digest reported the current nine events played from September to November to launch new seasons would become a seeding series for players who reached the US PGA playoffs but failed to crack the top 50, with status for the next campaign based on those events.—AFP ■