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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.

Senior officer trainees to strive for broadening their horizons to have political, economic, administrative and defence outlooks as the vision of the National Defence College in their practical fields: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds the virtual meeting with senior officer instructors and senior officer trainees of the National Defence College yesterday.

THE National Defence College is important for the State and the Tatmadaw, giving lectures to trainees for having the skills to consider the national cause based on political, economic, administration and defence outlooks in order to adopt the correct and precise decisions with correct concepts and to know the

actual situation of the country with correct perception, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in the videoconferencing with senior officer instructors and senior officer trainees from the NDC yesterday morning.

Speaking at the videoconferencing, the Senior General said that as those trainees are discharging not only the defence duty but administrative functions, they need to have four correct outlooks. The training is conducted for trainees with the purpose of serving the national cause

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Myanmar has possessed sovereignty, firm territorial land and waters and a strong history.

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Objectives of 77th 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

8th 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds second-day meeting of 10th Plenary Meeting



The second day meeting of the tenth Plenary Meeting of the eighth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee in progress.

THE second-day session of the tenth plenary meeting of the 8th 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was organized at the Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

The meeting was attended

by the members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee led by Chairman Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa, the Director-General of

Religious Affairs Department under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and other officials of departments concerned.

Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa presided over the meeting and Joint

Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Setthila acted as the master of ceremonies.

During the meeting, Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Visuddhaca Bhivamsa discussed the Vinichaya matters during the term of the eighth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Group (First Subcommittee) while Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Candavamsa Lankara Bhivamsa reported on religious activities and Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sihanada on education sector.

At the second session of the second-day meeting, Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita, Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dvipitakadhara Bhaddanta Vagita presented the Vinichaya activities during the third term of the eighth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Group (First Subcommittee) while Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Indacariya discussed religious matters, Agga Maha

Ganthavacaka Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Dr Bhaddanta vicakhana Linkara Bhivamsa about education-related matters.

Then, Joint Secretary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Setthila sought approval for the reports of activities conducted during the third term of the eighth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Group (First Subcommittee).

Afterwards, the Sayadaws successfully concluded the tenth plenary meeting of the 8th 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

Disciples under the auspices of Kyaikkasan Weiluwn (Shwegyin) Monastery Sayadaw Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Manita, the Good Familiar Co, Ltd family and donors offered alms for the whole day for 32 times to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws who attended the ceremony yesterday. — MNA

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

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

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

On 8 March and yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 1,958 people from eleven townships in Shan State (North), 7,296 people from twelve townships in Mon and Kayin States, 725 people from Myeik and Palaw Townships in Taninthayi Region, 583 people from Yankin and Tamway Townships in Yangon Region, 20,619 people from 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region, 4,881 people from eight townships in Rakhine State, 4,520 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, 478 people from four townships in Bago Region respectively.



Locals get vaccinated against COVID-19 in Tamway Township in Yangon Region.

Similarly, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 294 students from three townships in Shan State(North) and 182 students from 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region on 8 March and yes-

terday.

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

Promote education as a priority for strengthening democracy

As a larger number of educated persons is designed to own the future of the country for democratization, ...

(Excerpt from the speech made by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with departmental officials and town elders from Kengtung and Mongpyin townships of Shan State (East), Namsang Township and Kholan of Loilem District in Shan State (South) on 18-2-2022)

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Thai Ambassador to Myanmar

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mrs Suphatra Srimaitreephithak, who had completed her tour of duty, at the parlour of the Office of the Chairman of the State Administration Council in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they exchanged views on Myanmar-Thailand diplomatic relations and friendship, the adaption of Baht-Kyat direct payment to further develop bilateral trade and investments, the assistance of the Thai government for oxygen supply in the second wave of COVID-19 and humanitarian aids.

After the meeting, the Prime Minister exchanged gifts with the Thai Ambassador.

Also present at the meeting were Joint Secretary of the SAC Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and officials of the Thai Embassy. — MNA



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mrs Suphatra Srimaitreephithak at the parlour of the Office of the Chairman of the State Administration Council in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Senior officer trainees to strive for broadening their horizons to have ...

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with good perception but doing politics.

The Senior General emphasized the measures of Myanmar's political history and current Myanmar politics. Trainees have to know the correct political history of Myanmar. In history, Myanmar has possessed sovereignty, firm territorial land and waters and a strong history.

The Senior General stressed the terms of successive governments from 1948 to date, approval of constitutions in 1947, 1974 and 2008, ethnic armed conflicts, paving of the Tatmadaw government for the path of multiparty democracy, political, economic, adminis-

... as those trainees are discharging not only the defence duty but administrative functions, they need to have four correct outlooks. The training is conducted for trainees with the purpose of serving the national cause with good perception but doing politics.

tration and defence histories of the State.

For the **political outlook**,

the Senior General noted that the election is the lifeblood of democracy. Elected represent-

atives must directly or indirectly elect the president and those to serve the executive, judicial and legislative duties. So, the elected representatives must correctly represent the people.

In the **economic outlook**, the economic outlook is inter-related with the political outlook. So, if efforts can be made for economic growth, a peaceful and prosperous country will be built. Only when the economy booms will the people have a higher living standard. In the democratization process chosen by the people, the country will require well-versed human resources.

The State Administration Council is emphasizing two na-

tional processes as the prosperity of the State and food sufficiency and two political processes as strengthening the genuine, disciplined multiparty democracy and building the Union based on democracy and federalism. Hence, it is necessary to implement the Union country exercising federalism for sharing equal power and rights with the ethnic people residing in the Union.

In conclusion, the Senior General urged senior officer trainees to strive for broadening their horizons to have political, economic, administrative and defence outlooks as the vision of the National Defence College in their practical fields. — MNA

All stakeholders need to participate in the harmonization process for the national land law and the land management laws: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the second meeting of the National Land Utilization Council in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 March 2022.

VARIOUS projects of land utilization for cultivable lands, groups of factories, industrial zones, satellite towns, new farmlands, and watershed areas for sufficiency of drinking water must be implemented on priority for the improvement of socio-economy of the people to efficiently utilize the natural resources of the nation, said Chairman of the National Land Utilization Council Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the second meeting of the national land utilization council at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General noted that Myanmar is facing many challenges in land utilization management with land disputes, needs for amending the existing laws and procedures, weakness and inharmonic processes of laws, a misunderstanding over the laws, need of accuracy for land sources and restricted procedures in coordination with relevant departments.

Hence, he added that all stakeholders need to participate in the harmonization process for the national land law and the land management laws.

Land management is related to the majority of 17 sustainable development goals of the United Nations and No 15 goal is primarily concerned with the protection of global ecosystems and management for all living beings across the world.

In Myanmar's sustainable development plan (2018-2030)'s five strategic goals and its paragraph 5, the plan has been adopted to implement the land management and improvement of sustainable management for the natural resources-based businesses for the people to enjoy the profits of natural resources.

Various projects of land utilization for cultivable lands, groups of factories, industrial zones, satellite towns, new farmlands, and watershed areas for sufficiency of drinking water must be implemented on priority for the improvement of socio-economy of the people to efficiently utilize the natural resources of the nation.

... the most important role of the relevant work committees, technical advisory team, the land utilization committees of regions and states and Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory for implementation of the prioritized programmes such as drawing the national land law, harmonization of the land management laws, setting the national land utilization projects and land utilization zones and establishment of the land information management system based on the main guideline of the national land utilization policy.

The Vice-Senior General pointed out the most important role of the relevant work committees, technical advisory team, the land utilization committees of regions and states and Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory for implementation of the prioritized programmes such as **drawing the national land law, harmonization of the land management laws, setting the national land utilization projects and land utilization zones and establishment of the land**

information management system based on the main guideline of the national land utilization policy.

Secretary of the National Land Utilization Council Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi reported on the progress of implementing the minutes of the previous meeting.

Officials clarified the progress of their respective sectors. Members of the national land

utilization management council Union ministers, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council and region and state chief ministers discussed systematic drawing the Myanmar national mapping system, no use for cultivable lands in other ways, the emergence of the national land law, and utilization of land by relevant ministries.

After reviewing the discussions, the Vice-Senior General gave a concluding remark. — MNA

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MoI Union Minister holds meeting to reform Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn met the Board of Directors of the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung and officials, the chairman, the vice-chairmen and members of the Board of Directors.

At the meeting, the Union minister said the purpose of the meeting is to upgrade the Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper from its current status and distributed it internationally and to spread the truth about the current situation in Myanmar to the international community.

He said the real situation

of the country and the development need to reach the international community, urging them to make the newspaper to be a more widely read media and to be a newspaper of international interest. He added the need to be able to publish news with more unique features, Myanmar's strong political, business, social goals and activities, news that is currently of interest.

He urged the meeting attendees to discuss practical requirements of becoming a newspaper of international interest. Afterwards, officials from the Global New Light of Myanmar discussed the issues that will be addressed jointly for the reform and transformation of the newspaper. The deputy minister, the permanent secretary and those present at



The meeting between the MoI Union Minister and the Board of Directors of the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily in progress.

the meeting discussed the real news to be informed internationally, improving the layout

and quality of news and market expansion.

Upon the discussion, the

Union minister added requirements and concluded the meeting. — MNA

MoRAC Union Minister attends research paper-reading session for archaeology, museum maintenance



THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Yangon) and the Yangon National Museum under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture jointly held a research paper-reading session related to archaeology and museum maintenance at the Yangon National Museum on 9

March, in line with the COVID-19 health guidelines.

Present at the ceremony are Union Minister U Ko Ko for Religious Affairs and Culture, the director-general, rector, chairpersons, directors, invited persons, the media, researchers, enthusiastic individuals, and officials

concerned.

At the event, the Union Minister delivered that six research papers were read. Those resource persons engaged in archaeological and museum-related matters were required to enhance knowledge exchange and collaboration to generate

valuable ideas.

He also encouraged to make efforts for museums to go digital through virtual tours. Digital platforms have become common for museums across the globe these days. As a result of this, all must strive to improve digital engagement in museums.

Later, Director-General Dr Kyaw Oo Lwin of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum gave the remark regarding the intradepartmental research paper-reading session. The reading session was held accordingly.

In the morning, U Htoo Aung Chun, deputy staff officer of Bago Region Branch, presented a paper entitled the epigraphs in Bago, Daw Tin Thet Thet Zaw from the National Museum Yangon "The Throne with cultural relations between Myanmar and India", and deputy staff officer U Khin Maung Lay of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Yangon) "the architecture and artworks of pagodas on Setkya hill near Pyar Village,

Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region".

In the afternoon, U Khin Maung Soe, assistant director of the department (Dawei Branch) presented a paper on the initial survey and research process in laterite ores extraction in Taninthayi city, deputy staff officer Daw Tin Nu Nu Moe of the National Museum (Yangon) revealed a paper entitled digital museum, and U Hla Pyone, deputy staff officer of Yangon Branch (Yangon) read a paper on cultural heritage study in Ywathitgyi village and the surroundings in Sagaing District.

Prof Dr Thin Thin Aye, head of the Department of History at the University of Yangon, Prof Dr Soe Ni Tun, head of the Department of Archaeology, Daw Thi Thi Thauang, assistant director of the National Museum (Yangon), staff officer Daw Hnin Hnin, assistant director Daw Cherry Thin and the professionals shared the ideas and knowledge. Dr Kyaw Oo Lwin also analyzed the papers at the event. — MNA

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

Kachin State ministers inspect preparations to open Rawang National Museum



The Rawang National Museum in Putao.

A team comprising Kachin State Minister U Kyaw Min Khaing for Ethnic Affairs, Kachin State Minister for Natural Resources U Teint Hsaung, officials of Putao district administration body and members went on a survey to check the preparations for the opening of Rawang National Museum at Dotehtan Ward, Putao city at 1 pm on 7 March.

The ministers and officials concerned conducted the readiness assessment at the Rawang National Park and the displays

of Rawang ethnic people's traditional and cultural artefacts. They are directed to fulfil their needs.

Afterwards, the ministers met with the officials of the Rawang Literature and Culture Association and U Kyaw Min Khaing instructed them to fulfil the needs in measuring readiness before the opening ceremony. The chair of the Rawang Literature and Culture Association requested the officials to construct the archway

of Rawang National Park and Rawang National Museum. He also called for supply of electricity infrastructure and cement requirements.

The Rawang National Museum was constructed with the National Disaster Management Fund of K400 million. The museum aims to maintain Rawang ethnic people's cultural heritage and contribute to the tourism industry. It is hoped to become one of the landmarks in Putao city. — District IPRD/GNLM

Hopong Township cultivates over 750 acres of coffee plantations, exporting products to both local, foreign markets

THERE is over 750 acres of coffee plantations in Hopong Township of the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone in Shan State (South), and the production is shipped to local and foreign markets.

The yield of coffee beans is between 1,000-1,500 visses per acre. Two coffee varieties are grown as substitution crops supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UN-ODC) Project and the Hopong Township Agriculture Depart-

ment.

It is mostly cultivated in the Menei Hill region in Hopong. The current plants are about seven years old. The production is exported not only to the local market including Taunggyi, Yangon, Mandalay, Magway and Pakokku but the external market like Thailand, France, Singapore, Australia, Japan and the United States and the Netherlands, as well.

In addition, the product of

coffee is sold as an instant coffee powder in the local market and as coffee beans in the overseas market. The 1,000-gramme instant coffee is valued at K2,500 and the one-kilogramme coffee beans are sold at K8,500.

The cost of a one-acre coffee plantation will be over K2.8 million in the first year in addition to the annual maintenance cost. The speciality coffee product from Vansauk village, Menei Hill region in Hopong Township



The 1,000-gramme instant coffee is valued at K2,500 and the one-kilogramme coffee beans are sold at K8,500.

has received the first award of Competition 2018. — Pa-O region the Myanmar Coffee Quality (IPRD)/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, textiles, unregistered sports car, vehicles seized

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, action is being taken against illegal trades across the country.

On 6 March, combined inspection teams led by the Rakhine State Department of Forest conducted inspections and seized 3.8332 tonnes of illegal timbers (estimated value of K268,324) in An Township, Kyaukpyu District, and action is taken under the Forest Law.

On 8 March, the customs team on duty at the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Inspection Station seized ingredients used in traditional medicines (estimated at K66,000,000) which were in excess of the declared amount, and action is taken under the Customs Law.

During the inspection on

the vehicles left for Yangon from Myawady at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint, in Mon State, undocumented textiles (estimated at K2,310,000) and a motorcycle carburetor (estimated at K2,640,000) were seized under the Customs Law.

An unregistered Lamborghini (sports car) (estimated value of K400,000,000) and the vehicle (estimated at K15,000,000) which carried the sports car were confiscated at the Yepu Permanent Checkpoint in Shan State, and action is taken under the Customs Law.

In Yekyi Township, Thaboung Township, and Myanaung Township in Ayeyawady Region, 61.842 tonnes of illegal timber (estimated value of K4,328,933) were confiscated under the Forest Law.

On 9 March, a truck carrying 7.7332 tonnes of illegal timber (total estimated value of K31,546,640) was seized near the milepost (8/0) on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway, Hlegu Township, Yangon.

Similarly, in Bago Region, 15.5780 tonnes of illegal timber (estimated at K1,122,130) were confiscated from the forest reserves in Bago District, Toungoo District, and Thayawady District. In Sagaing Region, 4.2720 tonnes of illegal teak (estimated value of K640,800) in Mawlaik township and action is taken under the Forest Law. Therefore, a total of 20 arrests (estimated value of K523,856,827) were made on 6, 8, and 9 March, the Anti-illegal Trade Steering Committee stated. — MNA

Illicit drugs seized in Nay Pyi Taw, Shan State (North)



An arrestee is seen together with seized drugs.

MYANMAR police force seized illegal drugs in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw and Mongyai Township, Shan State (North).

On a tip-off, a combined team comprising members of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force

searched room No. (K-7) of a Motel, where Zaw Lin Oo stayed in, in Aungzabu Ward, Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw on 8 March, and the team confiscated 11,704 stimulant tablets and 0.018 kilogramme of Ice.

Similarly, on that day, a combined team consisting members of Anti-Narcotic Drug Squad searched a house owned by Lone Lone in No. (1) Ward of Mongyai Township, Shan State (North), and the police confiscated 2,000 ecstasy tablets. The Police has filed the charge against the suspects under-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

Myanmar ships over 710,000 tonnes of various pulses as of 25 Feb

MYANMAR delivered US\$556 million worth of over 710,616 tonnes of various pulses to foreign trade partners between 1 October 2021 and 25 February 2022 in the half of the current six-month mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022), according to statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Nearly the past five months, the country shipped \$515.656 million worth of 662,169 tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through sea routes, and \$40.3 million valued 48,446 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through the land borders.

India is the main buyer of Myanmar beans, especially black beans, green grams and pigeon peas. Besides India, Myanmar's beans are purchased by Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, UAE, Malaysia, Indonesia, China

(Taipei), Japan, and European countries. But, the volume of demand by those countries is small, according to the domestic beans market.

India's Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare approved to import of not only black gram but also other pulses from Myanmar, with relaxations of conditions regarding clearance consignment up to 31 March 2022.

The prices of beans are positively related to the exchange rate. Last September, the bean price reached an exorbitant high tracking the Kyat weakening in the local forex market.

The price of black gram hit an all-time high of K2 million per tonne on 29 September 2021 following Kyat weakening against the US dollar (K3,000) in the local forex market. At present, the exchange rate of a US dollar is over



Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy and it contributes to over 30 per cent of Gross Domestic Products.

K2,000. The price of black beans (Fair Average Quality) stands at K1.428 million per tonne. Similarly, the price of pigeon peas rises slightly to K1.415 million per tonne.

More than two million

tonnes of various pulses and beans were delivered to foreign markets in the previous financial year 2020-2021 (October-September), with an estimated value of US\$1.57 billion, the Commerce Ministry's data indicated.

At present, the demand for green gram slips due to border trade restrictions amid the COVID-19, with an estimated value of around K125,000 per three-basket bag.

Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy and it contributes to over 30 per cent of Gross Domestic Products. The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane, various pulses and beans. Its second-largest production is the pulses and beans, counting for 33 per cent of agro-products and covering 20 per cent of growing acres. Among them, black beans, pigeon peas and green grams constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans including peanut, chickpea, soybean, black-eyed beans, butter bean and rice bean are also grown in the country. — KK/GNLM

Muse border trade drastically plummets to \$1.78 bln as of 25 Feb



The Muse border trade zone.

THE value of cross-border trade between Myanmar and China via a major trading hub Muse border post plunged to US\$549.8 million as of 25 February 2022 of the current mini-budget period (Oct 2021- Mar 2022), indicating a sharp drop of \$1.78 billion as against the year-ago period, Myanmar Customs Department's statistics indicated.

The figure significantly dropped from \$2.3 billion recorded in the corresponding period of last Financial Year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October 2021 and 25 February 2022, Myanmar's exports to China through the Muse land border were valued at \$525.9 million, while imports are worth \$23.9 million. The trade showed

a slump in both exports and imports against the year-ago period.

At present, the traders are anticipated for the resumption of the Kyalgaung post which performed the largest trade volume between Myanmar and China in the previous years. The post has been shut down since March 2021.

China shut down all the checkpoints linking to the Muse border amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The checkpoints next to the Muse border are Nantaw, Sinphyu, Man Wein (Kyalgaung), Kyinsankyawt-Wan Ding and Panseng- Wan Ding. Of the checkpoints, Kyinsankyawt has resumed trading activity from 26 November on a trial run. Myanmar daily delivers rubber,

various beans and pulses, dried plum, watermelon, muskmelon and other food commodities to China through Kyinsankyawt with the use of a Chinese short-haul trucking service.

Only when China eases the restriction can the trucking rate drop, U Min Thein, vice chairman of Muse Rice Wholesale Centre said.

Additionally, China's new Customs Regulation and mandatory quarantine process posed some hurdles in the border market. Traders cannot expect trade facilitation according to the changes in China's policy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Myanmar exports agricultural products including rice, beans and corns, and fishery products such as crab, prawn, etc. Furthermore, Myanmar's natural gas export to China is also conducted through the Muse-Ruili border. The raw CMP materials, electrical appliances and consumer goods are imported into the country.

Muse border post witnessed \$4.057 billion worth of Sino-Myanmar border trade last financial year 2020-2021, including exports worth \$2.9 billion and imports worth \$1.15 billion. — KK/GNLM

Foreign demand, Kyat depreciation drive corn price up to over K1,000 per viss

THE price of corn soared to over K1,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), according to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung).

The rise in corn prices is attributed to the steady foreign demand and Kyat weakening against the US dollar in the local forex market.

At present, the corn FOB price stands at US\$310-330 per tonne.

The corns fetch approximately K1,010-1,030 per viss depending on the corn quality.

Thailand gives green light to corn imports through Mae Sot under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August.

Thailand has granted tax exemption on corn imports between February and August. However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn import to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

From 1 February 2022, more than 100 trucks carrying

corns have been conveyed to Thailand.

The corn traders have a full inventory in the warehouses in Myawady border city, Chairman U Min Khaing of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association said.

Myanmar is targeted to deliver 1.5 million tonnes of corn to Thailand in the current 2021-2022 corn season.

Last 2020-2021 financial year, the country shipped more than 1.7 million tonnes of corns to Thailand, U Min Khaing continued.

Myanmar exported 2.3 million tonnes of corns to foreign trade partners in the previous FY. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to China, India and Viet Nam.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons — winter, summer and monsoon. The country yearly produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn. —NN/GNLM

Put out the tangible and intangible fire

ONCE, the Lord Buddha had preached eleven kinds of fire in the vicious circle: the fire of lust, the fire of anger, the darkness of ignorance, the root cause of rebirth, the fire of decrepitude, the time of death, the fire of sorrow, the fire of lamentation, the fire of suffering, the fire of grief and the fire of tribulation.

These are universal truths that all the living beings including humans are facing before attaining the Nibbana and are struggling in the vicious circle of life afterlife. The life of humans cannot embrace pleasure, peace and prosperity until they cannot put out these kinds of fire.

Now is summer. Everybody should take care of both tangible and intangible fires in society. Necessary preparations must be made for the prevention of tangible fire with the gathering of fire extinguishers and giving training to the youths to form the firefighter troops to protect the society to be free from the danger of such a fire.

training to the youths to form the firefighter troops to protect the society to be free from the danger of such a fire.

For the time being, all people need to avoid the misdeeds and wrongdoings which may fuel the flames of intangible fire. They all should perform meritorious deeds but evil acts by forging the best nature of spirits, compassion, loving-kindness, sympathy, rejoicing for others' success and equanimity. If so, all the people can escape from both tangible and intangible fires forever.



New study suggests causal link between blood group, severe COVID-19

A NEW study has analyzed over 3,000 proteins to identify which are causally linked to the development of severe COVID-19. This is the first study to assess such a large number of proteins for their connection to COVID-19.

The findings of the study will provide insight into potential new targets for approaches to treat and prevent severe COVID-19.

The study was led by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre and was published in the journal, 'PLOS Genetics'. The study used a genetic tool to screen over 3,000 proteins. Researchers identified six proteins that could underlie an increased risk of severe COVID-19 and eight that could contribute to protection from severe COVID-19.

One of the proteins (ABO) that was identified as having a causal connection to the risk of developing severe COVID-19 determines blood groups, suggested that blood groups play an instrumental role in whether people develop severe forms of the disease.



The analysis identified that an enzyme (ABO) that determines blood group was causally associated with both an increased risk of hospitalization and a requirement for respiratory support. PHOTO: RIS.WORLD/ANI

Purely genetic approach

Co-first author Dr Alish Palamos from Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (IoPPN) King's College London said, "We have used a purely genetic approach to investigate a large number of blood proteins and

established that a handful have causal links to the development of severe COVID-19.

Honing in on this group of proteins is a vital first step in discovering potentially valuable targets for development of new treatments."

Assessing how blood proteins

are linked to disease can help understand the underlying mechanisms and identify potential new targets for developing or repurposing drugs. Protein levels can be measured directly from blood samples but conducting this type of research for large numbers of

proteins is costly and cannot establish causal direction. This is where genetics can play a role. Mendelian randomization, a method of comparing causal relations between risk factors and health outcomes, using large genetic datasets can assess the relationship between genetic variants connected with an exposure (in this case high levels of individual blood proteins) and genetic variants connected with disease outcome (in this case severe COVID-19).

Inherited from parent to offspring

Co-first author Dr Vincent Millischer from the Medical University of Vienna explained, "Causality between exposure and disease can be established because genetic variants inherited from parent to offspring are randomly assigned at conception similar to how a randomised controlled trial assigns people to groups.

In our study the groups are defined by their genetic propensity to different blood protein levels, allowing an assessment of causal

direction from high blood protein levels to COVID-19 severity whilst avoiding influence of environmental effects."

The study considered two incremental levels of severity of COVID-19, hospitalization and respiratory support or death. Using data from a number of genome-wide association studies the researchers found six proteins that were causally linked to an increased risk of hospitalization or respiratory support/death due to COVID-19 and eight causally linked to protection against hospitalization or respiratory support/death. Analysis showed some distinction in types of proteins linked to hospitalization and those linked to respiratory support/death, indicating different mechanisms may be at work in these two stages of disease.

The analysis identified that an enzyme (ABO) that determines blood group was causally associated with both an increased risk of hospitalization and a requirement for respiratory support.

SOURCE: ANI

Health groups press for more wildlife SARS-CoV-2 tracking

IN A joint statement on 7 March 2022, three global health groups urged countries to prioritize monitoring SARS-CoV-2 in wildlife, given growing concerns that continued spread could create virus reservoirs in animals.

Steps to curb transmission

The statement on animal surveillance came from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and the World Health Organization (WHO). They said though wildlife doesn't play a key transmission role in humans, SARS-CoV-2 spread in animal populations can affect their health and lead to the emergence of new variants.

So far, farmed mink and pet hamsters have shown the capacity to infect humans, and scientists are reviewing a possible case of transmission between white-tailed deer and a human. And in the United States, large numbers of white-tail deer have been shown to carry the virus, underscoring concerns about establishment of an animal reservoir.

The groups urged countries to adopt

new steps aimed at those in close contact with wildlife, especially hunters and butchers, and the public. For example, they said people working closely with wildlife that continued spread could create virus reservoirs in animals.

Also, they recommend that hunters avoid tracking sick animals or harvesting ones that are found dead. As a basic precaution, they said the public should not approach or feed wild animals or eat animals that are found orphaned, sick, or dead. People should also safely dispose of uneaten food, masks, tissues, and other waste to avoid passing the virus to animals.

Global cases top 6 million

Over the weekend, the global COVID-19 total passed 6 million cases, according to the Johns Hopkins online dashboard. The five countries with the highest fatality counts include the United States, Brazil, India, Russia, and Mexico.

China, one of the few countries with



White-tailed deer can transmit the coronavirus to each other, and in one recent case in Canada, apparently back to humans. PHOTO: WIKTIONARY/AFP

a "zero COVID" policy today reported its highest daily total in about 2 years, with 214 local cases, in addition to 312 asymptomatic local cases, according to the

country's National Health Commission. The provinces with the most cases are Guangdong, Jilin, and Shandong. The port city Qingdao is experiencing an Omicron

spike centred in middle school students in Laixi county, where a second wave of mass testing is planned, according to Reuters. In vaccine developments, Moderna has signed a memorandum of understanding with Kenya's government to establish the first mRNA vaccine manufacturing facility in Africa, the health ministry said in a statement. The goal is to produce 500 million vaccine doses a year.

In a separate development, global health groups and vaccine manufacturers who met on 1 March to discuss the current COVID-19 vaccine situation released a joint statement, which said vaccine supply problems have eased, but low-income countries are facing challenges delivering them, such as weak healthcare infrastructure and lack of trained vaccinators.

They said each country faces unique challenges, and more efforts are needed to align supply with demand in ways that overcome each nation's obstacles.

SOURCE: Statement by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and World Health Organization (WHO)

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations confirmed and appointed

1. The State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of U Myo Min, Director-General of the Administration and Human Resources Development Department of the Central Bank of Myanmar, after a one-year probationary period.
2. The State Administration Council has appointed Daw Hnin Kyi, Deputy Director-General of Yangon Region Education Office of the Ministry of Education, as Director-General of the Department of Teacher Training of the same ministry from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

1,301 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 9 March, total figure rises to 602,321

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 602,321 after 1,301 new cases were reported on 9 March 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 552,616 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 19,398 after 4 died.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 8-3-2022, a total of 24,322,148 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 21,336,252 people have been fully vaccinated and 2,985,896 people are yet to get the second shots.—MNA



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 9 March 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and southeast Bay and generally fair elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 10 March 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi region and isolated in Kayin, Mon states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be generally fair in lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway regions and Chin, Rakhine states and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi region and isolated in Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 March 2022: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 March 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th/March 2022: Generally fair weather.

NEWS
IN BRIEF

IAEA says loses contact with Chernobyl nuclear data systems

THE Chernobyl nuclear power plant is no longer transmitting data to the UN's atomic watchdog, the agency said Tuesday, as it voiced concern for staff working under Russian guard at the Ukrainian facility.

On 24 February Russia invaded Ukraine and seized the defunct plant, site of a 1986 disaster that killed hundreds and spread radioactive contamination west across Europe.

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi "indicated that remote data transmission from safeguards monitoring systems installed at the Chornobyl NPP had been lost", the agency said in a statement.

"The Agency is looking into the status of safeguards monitoring systems in other locations in Ukraine and will provide further information soon," it said.—AFP ■

US announces new emissions standards for trucks and buses

THE United States on Monday announced tougher emissions standards for trucks and buses starting from 2027, and said it would spend almost \$1.4 billion on expanding green public transit.

The proposed new standards for gasoline- and diesel-heavy vehicles would place stricter limits on nitrogen oxides (NOx) that cause smog and soot, and set new greenhouse gas standards from 2030.

"Seventy-two million people are estimated to live near truck freight routes in America and they're more likely people of colour and those with lower income," Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) director Michael Regan told reporters at an event for the announcement.

"Those overburdened communities are directly exposed to pollution that leads to respiratory and cardiovascular problems."

The new limits will apply to new vehicles made in 2027 onwards, and include school buses, transit buses, commercial delivery trucks and short-haul tractors.—AFP ■

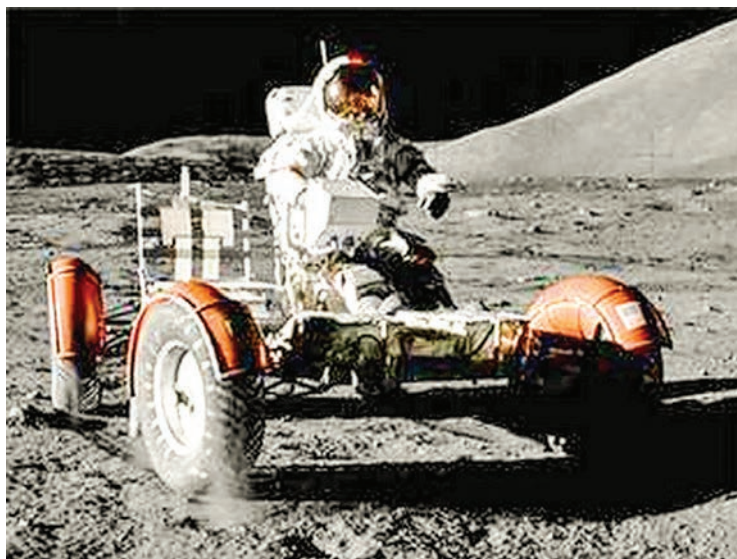
First photos from the Moon under the hammer in Denmark

THE first NASA photographs taken on the Moon, including the first shot of an "Earthrise" and Buzz Aldrin walking on the surface, will be auctioned off in Copenhagen on Wednesday.

"One of my favourite photos from this fantastic collection depicts a photo of Buzz Aldrin taken by Neil Armstrong, and you can actually see Neil Armstrong being reflected in Buzz Aldrin's visor", Kasper Nielsen, the head of the Bruun Rasmussen auction house's valuation team, told AFP.

A total of 74 unique NASA photographs are up for sale, including 26 taken on the Moon during the Apollo missions in the 1960s and 1970s.

"Of course, the highlight is the Apollo mission reaching the Moon for the first time" on 20



A total of 74 unique NASA photographs are up for sale, including 26 taken on the Moon during the Apollo missions in the 1960s and 1970s. Astronaut Eugene A. Cernan on the surface of the moon during the Apollo 17 mission. PHOTO: NASA/AFP/FILE

July 1969, said Nielsen.

Bruun Rasmussen -- which was contacted by a foreign col-

lector who wanted to sell the photos and who has asked to remain anonymous -- has esti-

mated the collection at 1.4 million kroner, or almost 190,000 euros (\$205,000).

Each photograph is up for sale individually.

The most valuable item, the first "Earthrise" photographed by US astronaut William Anders while orbiting the Moon in December 1968 on Apollo 8, is valued at between eight and 12,000 euros.

The collection also includes photos from the dramatic Apollo 13 mission, which never landed on the Moon due to a malfunction, instead looping around it before splashing down in the South Pacific Ocean after six days.

Several of the photos are on public display for the first time, having previously been part of NASA's archives.—AFP ■

Protesters rally as Australian PM tours flood disaster



Residents steer boats around flooded houses next to the old Windsor Bridge along the overflowing Hawkesbury River near Sydney.

PHOTO: AFP

SCORES of protesters in a flood-wrecked city in eastern Australia vented their fury Wednesday as Prime Minister Scott Morrison visited the heart of the disaster zone.

Demonstrators demanded more help and stronger climate action as Morrison toured Lismore, which endured some of the worst flooding in a near two-week deluge along the east coast that has killed 20 people.

"We need help!" protesters chanted as Morrison visited the city.

Many of them held placards with messages blaming the climate crisis including: "Coal and

gas did this" and "This is what climate change looks like."

After the second major floods in a year, chunks of rubble and discarded, water-damaged furniture were piled high along the city's streets.

Many people had to clamber onto their corrugated metal roofs to escape the fast-rising water last week as floods peaked in the city in northern New South Wales.

Some waited for hours to be rescued by locally improvised boat patrols, emergency services vessels, or army helicopters as the waters surged around them.—AFP ■

Fukushima region forges renewable future after nuclear disaster

SOLAR farms along tsunami-ravaged coastlines, green energy "micro-grids" and the experimental production of non-polluting hydrogen: 11 years after its nuclear nightmare, Japan's Fukushima region is investing in a renewable future.

On 11 March, 2011, an earthquake unleashed a deadly tsunami on northeastern Japan, triggering a meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear plant and forcing mass evacuations over radiation fears.

One year later, Fukushima's regional government set a goal of meeting all its energy needs with renewable power by 2040, a policy intended to help

residents "reclaim" the place they call home, officials say.

Substantial progress has been made, in part thanks to hefty financial support from the national government.

Renewables accounted for 43 per cent of Fukushima's energy consumption in fiscal 2020, up from just 24 per cent in 2011.

But obstacles remain, from the higher cost for consumers to lingering concern over contamination. "A strong desire to never see a repeat of such an accident was the most important starting point" for the green energy drive, Noriaki Saito, energy director at the prefecture's planning department, told AFP.—AFP ■



Fuel produced at the "Fukushima Hydrogen Energy Research Field" in Namie has so far been used for small-scale purposes including at the Tokyo Olympics last year. PHOTO: AFP

Chinese economy enjoys bright prospects for high-quality development

By He Yin, People's Daily

CHINA'S gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 8.1 per cent year on year to more than 114 trillion yuan (about \$18 trillion) in 2021, with an average two-year growth of 5.1 per cent, said a statistical communiqué on China's national economic and social development released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on 28 Feb.

China has remained the second-largest economy in the world. Despite multiple challenges including a complex international environment, prolonged COVID-19 pandemic and extreme weather events, China's national economy has continued to recover and its development continuously reached new heights, which fully demonstrated the great prospects of the Chinese economy for high-quality development.

The Chinese economy can only be fully understood with a comprehensive, dialectical and long-term perspective.

Though under huge pressure brought about by changes in the domestic and international economic environment, China's economy maintained sound momentum, with major macroeconomic indicators remaining within a reasonable range and the characteristics of the economy, including strong resilience, ample potential and sound momentum in the long-term, becoming more evident.

The international community generally believes that China's economy will continue with recovery and growth this year and inject impetus into world economic recovery.

The promising prospects of the Chinese economy derived from the country's high-quality development with greater resilience.

Last year, while responding with composure to changes and the pandemic both unseen in a century, China has made new advances in fostering a new development paradigm and pursuing high-quality development and got off to a good start in implementing its 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025).

In 2021, the country maintained a leading position in the world in economic development



The liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal of Sinopec Tianranqi Company in north China's Tianjin municipality, the first LNG terminal with two berths in China, receives two batches of LNG at the same time, 26 Feb 2022. (Photo by Hu Qingming/People's Daily Online)

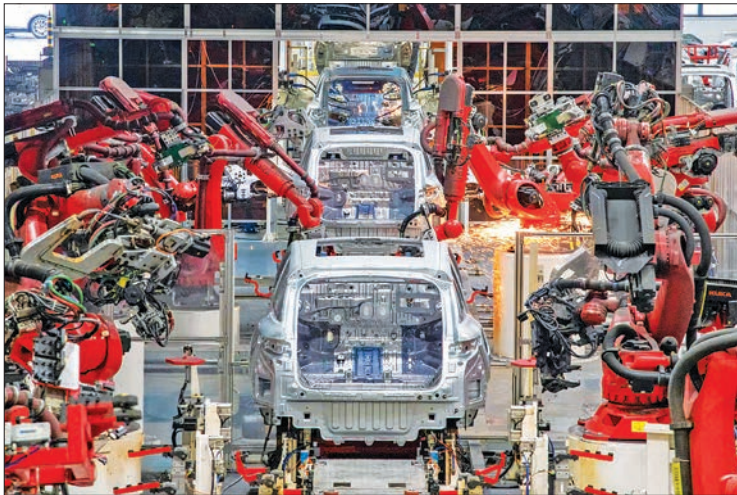


Photo taken on 17 Feb 2022 shows an intelligent production line of new-energy vehicles in a factory of Chinese electric-vehicle maker Leapmotor in Jinhua city, east China's Zhejiang province. (Photo by Hu Xiaofei/People's Daily Online)

and epidemic prevention and control, while intensifying its national strategic strength in science and technology, improving industrial chain resilience, continuously deepening supply-side structural reform, and making solid strides toward green and low-carbon transition and common prosperity.

The bright prospects of the Chinese economy stemmed from constant improvement in the country's industrial structure.

Last year, China accelerated the transformation and upgrading of its economic structure and continuously improved its industrial structure. While investment in high-tech industries increased by 17.1 per cent year on year and the value-added of the high-tech manufacturing industry rose 18.2 per cent over the previous year,

industries including new-energy vehicles, industrial robots, and integrated circuits delivered impressive performance and the modern service industry witnessed rapid growth.

Driven by the recently concluded Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, ice and snow sports are generating increasing economic benefits for the country. A research report predicted that the output value of China's winter sports will reach 800 billion yuan this year and one trillion yuan in 2025.

Consumption has always been regarded as an important window into a country's economic vitality. Last year, China's consumer demands were further unleashed, with final consumption expenditure contributing 65.4 per cent to the country's economic growth.

Consumption has become a main driving force for the stable recovery of China's national economy.

During the Spring Festival holiday in February, China handled 20.84 billion non-cash payments involving 14.9 trillion yuan, up 10 per cent and 16.2 per cent, respectively, from the same period of the previous year, which signified that the country's consumption vitality was continuously unlocked.

China's economic prospects are also a result of the country's opening-up in pursuit of win-win cooperation with the rest of the world.

In 2021, the bilateral trade volume between China and Rus-

sia exceeded 900 billion yuan for the first time, rising 26.6 per cent year on year; the total trade volume between China and Africa hit a new high since 2014; China remained the largest trading partner of the European Union (EU), with the total value of imports and exports between the two sides increasing by 27.5 per cent over the previous year; and the total value of trade between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) climbed 28.1 per cent year on year.

By fully leveraging domestic and international markets and resources and giving play to its advantages of the largest industrial system in the world with the most complete categories and a super-large domestic market, China has not only boosted its own development amid economic globalization but achieved mutual benefit and win-win results with other countries through high-level opening-up.

The Chinese economy is a sea, not a small pond. With a solid material and technological foundation built through decades of rapid development since the beginning of reform and opening-up, a super-large domestic market and enormous domestic consumption potential, as well as huge human capital and a large pool of talents, the Chinese economy is bound to forge ahead steadily along the road of high-quality development and make new contributions to the steady recovery of the global economy.



A China-Europe freight train loaded with 100 twenty-foot equivalent units of different types of goods, including chemical raw materials, vehicle accessories, and daily necessities, leaves a multimodal transportation centre at China-SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Zone in Jiaozhou city, east China's Shandong province, for Mannheim, Germany, 18 Feb 2022. (Photo by Wang Zhaomai/People's Daily Online)

Japan's GDP growth in Oct.-Dec. downgraded to annualized real 4.6%



Few people are seen on a street lined with bars and restaurants in Osaka's Shinsekai area on 24 January 2022, amid the unabated spread of COVID-19 infections. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN'S economy in the October-December period grew an annualized real 4.6 per cent from the previous quarter, down from the initially reported expansion of 5.4 per cent on a smaller rise in personal spending, government data showed Wednesday.

The increase in private consumption, which accounts for more than half of the country's GDP, was downgraded to 2.4 per cent from 2.7 per cent. Still, personal spending was at its highest level since the January-March 2014 period, according to the Cabinet Office.

During the reporting quarter, economic activities fully resumed in Japan as a COVID-19 state of emergency asking people to refrain from nonessential outings and restaurants and bars to close early was lifted 1 Oct in all areas.

The increase in real gross domestic product, the total value of goods and services produced in the country adjusted for inflation, corresponds to a 1.1 per cent rise on a seasonally adjusted quarterly basis.

The revision for the reporting quarter downgraded real

GDP in 2021 to an expansion of 1.6 per cent. It was the economy's first growth since 2018 and followed a 4.5 per cent plunge in 2020.

"Taking into account the latest data related to services, the eating out and railway industries contributed to the downward revision (in private consumption)," a government official said. "But the big picture of spending expanding with recoveries in the restaurant, passenger transportation, and auto sectors has not changed."

—Kyodo ■

Walk or drive slower: Europeans adapt to soaring fuel prices

THE conflict in Ukraine has sent fuel prices soaring in Europe, hitting people's pocketbooks, prompting some to walk more and forcing taxis to change their routines.

With prices rising above two euros (\$2.2) per litre at the pump, Paris taxi driver Aziz Brahmi said he now avoids driving around to look for passengers.

"The only thing I can do is to limit driving in an empty car," said Brahmi, 38, who usually travels around 200 kilometres (125 miles) per day.

"We wait for clients to come to us and we no longer look for them," he said near Paris's ring road.

London cabbies have adopted the same strategy.

"Prices have impacted me since I need to make more stops in order to cover the costs," said Gary Bollister, who has driven the iconic black cabs for 22 years.

"I have to pay the bills so I need to work harder. On top of all that there are a lot of road-

works going on in the city making driving times even longer, which means I use more fuel," he said.

US, UK ban Russian oil

Crude prices were already hitting multi-year highs prior to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine but the conflict has sent them soaring as Russia is a major producer.

The price of Brent, the main international benchmark, surged past \$130 on Tuesday as President Joe Biden announced a ban on US imports of Russian oil and gas, while Britain plans to phase out crude by the end of this year.

Germany and other European Union nations that are highly dependent on Russian energy imports have balked at the idea.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak warned Monday that oil prices could exceed \$300 per barrel if an oil ban were imposed. Current prices are already hurting the bottom lines of individuals and businesses.—AFP ■

China inflation slowed in February as food prices eased: data

CHINA'S factory-gate inflation eased to its slowest pace in eight months in February as consumer price growth also softened, data showed Wednesday, after new coronavirus curbs and a drop in food prices.

The producer price index (PPI), which measures the cost of goods at the factory gate, rose 8.8 per cent on-year, the slowest rate since June last year, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), tracking a fall in coal prices.

It was above the 8.6 per cent forecast in a Bloomberg survey of economists, but below the 9.5 per cent in January.

The rise in producer prices last month had been "affected by increased commodity prices globally such as crude oil and non-ferrous metals," NBS senior statistician Dong Lijuan said in a statement.

The consumer price index (CPI), a key gauge of retail inflation, rose 0.9 per cent on-year in February, the same level as



Citizens buy vegetables at a market in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

in January. A steady fall in food prices — especially a 42 per cent drop in the price of the staple meat pork compared to the previous year — has helped ease inflation worries.

But disruptions to the global food supply due to Russia's military operation in Ukraine are expected to affect prices in China, which relies on barley, sunflower oil, and corn imports from Ukraine, said Julian Evans-Pritchard, an analyst at Cap-

ital Economics.

China's leaders Saturday set a target of 5.5 per cent GDP growth this year — the lowest annual goal since 1991 — with Premier Li Keqiang warning of a "grave and uncertain" outlook as the war in Ukraine threatens to damage global supply chains.

Analysts said cooling inflation could prompt the People's Bank of China to provide more policy support to bolster the economy.—AFP ■

Australia's central bank flags possible rate rise within year

RESERVE Bank of Australia (RBA) Governor Philip Lowe said the central bank would consider increasing Australia's interest rate this year, citing uncertainty in rising inflation and commodity prices.

Speaking in Sydney on Wednesday, Lowe said that given Australia's 3.5 per cent rate of inflation, "it is plausible that the cash rate will be increased later this year."

"I recognize that there is a risk to waiting too long, especially in a world with overlapping supply shocks and a high headline inflation rate. But there is also a risk of moving too early," said Lowe. A number of major private Australian banks, including the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA), have forecast that interest rates would see their first rise by the middle of the year.

Meanwhile, Lowe touted op-

timism that surging commodity prices would benefit Australia.

However, the price of oil has surged by 40 per cent since the start of February. "Australia is in a different position because we export many of the commodities whose prices are rising," said Lowe. He added that despite profits for Australia's commodity producers, rising petrol costs would impact everyday Australians.—Xinhua ■



British drivers are also struggling with rising fuel prices. **PHOTO: AFP**

'Big threat': air defences take centre stage at Saudi arms show

AIR defence systems have been front and centre at Saudi Arabia's first defence show as drone and missile attacks increase in the energy-rich Gulf.

Deadly strikes on Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates claimed by Yemeni rebels have been the talk of shows held in the two countries in recent weeks.

Six hundred companies from about 40 countries showed off the latest military technology at the World Defence Show in the Saudi capital Riyadh this week.

"There is very much high interest in the region for the capabilities to defeat drones and IEDs," said Bobby Strawbridge of US firm Allen-Vanguard, which makes equipment to block radio-controlled weaponry.

Saudi Arabia has since 2015 led an international coalition supporting Yemen's government against Huthi Shiite rebels. It has regularly come under attack along its southern border with Yemen.—AFP ■

Japan to work closely with G-7 after US ban on Russian oil: Kishida

JAPAN will coordinate closely with the Group of Seven nations and weigh the need to ensure a stable supply of energy and national security before taking punitive steps against Russia following a US ban on Russian oil and other energy imports, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Wednesday.

Kishida acknowledged that US President Joe Biden understands other allied nations cannot simply join the United States, a net exporter of energy, in imposing a similar ban to punish Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

"Ensuring the country's stable energy supplies and security as national in-



The file photo shows a plant for producing methane gas at Kirishima Shuzo Co. in Miyakonojo, Miyazaki Prefecture, southwestern Japan. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

terests, Japan will coordinate with the international community, including the

G-7, in responding firmly to this issue," Kishida told reporters.

Along with the US ban announced on Tuesday, Britain will phase out

Russian oil imports by the end of the year and the European Union, which relies heavily on Russian energy resources, came up with a proposal to end its reliance on Russian fossil fuels before 2030.

Resource-poor Japan relies heavily on imports to satisfy its energy needs, and remains cautious about taking sanctions targeting the Russian energy sector. Most of the nation's crude oil comes from the Middle East but Russia is also an exporter to Japan. The conflict in Ukraine and subsequent sanctions by the West have sent crude oil and commodity prices higher as supply concerns have grown.—Kyodo ■

Changing Manufacturer for Registered Pesticide

Manufacturer Name of Pesticides, Dithane NT M-45 80 WP (Mancozeb 80% WP) Reg; No: FF2012-088 registered by Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, is changing name from Dow AgroSciences (Thai) Ltd to Dow AgroSciences India (P) Ltd. Any objection to this name change can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein, Yangon within 14 days.

Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd
Ph: 01-9253390

Changing Manufacturer for Registered Pesticide

Manufacturer Name of Pesticides, DuPont™ Pexalon® 10 SC (Triflumezopyrim 10% w/w SC) Reg; No: P2020-3338 registered by Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, is changing name from DuPont Company (Singapore) Pte., Ltd to Corteva Agriscience Manufacturing Indonesia. Any objection to this name change can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein, Yangon within 14 days.

Corteva Agriscience (Myanmar) Co., Ltd
Ph: 01-9253390

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 16

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 16 VOY.NO. (001)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-3-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S UNION POWER LOGISTICS SERVICES CO LTD

Ads Call 09251022355
09974424848

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 21

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 21 VOY. NO. (04/2022)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-3-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (229N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (229N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-3-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V DA PING VOY.NO. (076)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V DA PING VOY.NO. (076)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-3-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mosul's Old City rises from rubble in war-scarred Iraq

BENEATH what remains of the 12th-century Al-Hadba minaret, builders work on a project to revive Mosul's Old City, reduced to rubble during Iraq's battle to retake the city from jihadists.

Mosques, churches and century-old houses are being brought back to life in the northern metropolis, which the Islamic State group seized as its stronghold before being pushed out in mid-2017.

"Al-Hadba is the icon of Mosul, the symbol of the city," said Omar Taqa, a supervising engineer with UNESCO, the United Nations heritage body which has launched several projects to restore the city's landmarks.—AFP ■

K-Pop's BTS back for first Seoul show after thriving in pandemic

SOUTH Korean supergroup BTS return to the stage in Seoul to play for their adoring home-grown fans for the first time since 2019 on Thursday, after tickets for the three-night stadium concerts sold out in minutes.

While Covid-19 emptied arenas and shut clubs worldwide, the K-Pop septet thrived during the pandemic — scoring a string of number one hits, expanding their global fanbase, and reaping record profits. Despite most of the band catching the virus, the trailblazing musicians barely missed a beat as the world locked down — using social media, fancams, and livestreams to cement their position as the world's biggest and most influential boyband, analysts say.—AFP ■

Voting starts in South Korea's presidential election



A man walks past posters of South Korea's presidential candidates (top row) in Seoul on 6 March 2022, ahead of the 9 March presidential election. PHOTO: AFP

VOTING began Wednesday to elect South Korea's next president to succeed Moon Jae In after a neck-and-neck presidential race between the ruling party's Lee Jae Myung and the main opposition party's Yoon Suk Yeol.

Among over 44 million eligible voters, about 37 per cent have cast their ballots in early

voting on Friday and Saturday. Over 14,400 polling stations opened at 6 am

As the election will be held amid the coronavirus pandemic, those who have tested positive for COVID-19 are asked to vote from 6 pm to 7:30 pm after the normal voting hours end.

Vote counting is expected to start by 8 pm, and the

results will likely be known early Thursday, with a formal announcement by the National Election Commission coming later that day.

South Korea's 20th presidential race for a five-year term has been very tight as the ruling Democratic Party's Lee and the main opposition People Power Party's Yoon engaged in negative campaigns and their wives were attacked over several scandals.

The latest survey conducted by polling firm Realmeter showed that Yoon was slightly in the lead with a support rate of 46.3 per cent, while 43.1 per cent supported Lee.

Ahn Cheol Soo, once the centrist opposition People's Party candidate and a distant third in the campaigning, dropped out of the race last Thursday as he declared support for Yoon, although it remains unclear how many of his supporters would vote for Yoon.—Kyodo ■

Afghanistan marks muted women's day under Taliban eyes

AFGHANISTAN marked International Women's Day in muted fashion Tuesday, with activists cowed by the threat of arrest or detention at the hands of the country's new Taliban rulers.

Since returning to power on 15 August the Taliban have rolled back two decades of gains made by the country's women, who have been squeezed out of government employment, barred from travelling alone, and ordered to dress according to a strict interpretation of the

Koran. "The Taliban have taken away the sky as well as the ground from us," said an activist from the Woman's Unity and Solidarity Group, asking not to be named.

While the Taliban have promised a softer version of the harsh Islamist rule that characterized their first stint in power from 1996-2001, restrictions have been creeping in — if not at the national level, then implemented locally at the whim of regional officials.—AFP ■



Members of Afghanistan's Powerful Women Movement attempted to donate blood on International Women's Day, but were turned away by authorities. PHOTO: AFP

US Congress passes bill to make lynching a hate crime



A mural featuring a portrait of civil rights icon Emmett Till looks out from an abandoned building on 19 January 2022 in Chicago. PHOTO: SCOTT OLSON / GETTY/AFP

US lawmakers have passed a bill that would make lynching a federal hate crime, after more than a century of failed attempts to introduce such legislation.

The bill is named after Emmett Till, an African-American teenager whose brutal killing galvanized the US civil rights movement in the 1950s.

The Senate voted unani-

mously on Monday to pass the bill, which will now be sent to President Joe Biden to be signed into law.

The maximum sentence under the law will be 30 years.

"After 100+ years & 200+ failed attempts to outlaw lynching, the Senate took long-overdue action by passing the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act,"

said Democratic Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.

"This is an important step, but that it's taken so long is a stain on America," he tweeted.

Till, a 14-year-old from Chicago, was abducted and murdered in August 1955 while visiting relatives in the southern state of Mississippi.

His mutilated body was found three days later in a local river.

Till's mother famously insisted that her son's remains be displayed in an open casket to show the world what had been done to her boy.

Till was murdered several days after a white woman, Carolyn Bryant, alleged that he had propositioned her in a store and touched her on the arm, hand and waist. Two white Mississippi men, Roy Bryant, Carolyn Bryant's husband, and J.W. Milam, his half-brother, were arrested for Till's murder but acquitted by an all-white jury.

The pair later admitted in a magazine interview that they had killed the boy.—AFP ■

Xi, Macron, Scholz discuss Ukraine situation remotely

CHINESE President Xi Jinping had a virtual summit with French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Tuesday, reported Xinhua.

Xi pointed out that the combined impact of major global changes and the pandemic, both unseen in a century, has brought multiple global challenges that need to be addressed through global cooperation.

Noting that China and the EU share much common understanding on promoting peace, seeking development and advancing cooperation, Xi said that we need to shoulder our responsibility to bring more stability and certainty to a turbulent and fluid world.

Xi said it is important for the two sides to enhance dialogue, stay committed to coop-

eration, and promote steady and sustained progress of China-EU relations. China's development will create broader space for China-EU cooperation, Xi said, adding that the two sides must, under the principle of mutual benefit and win-win, further deepen green and digital partnerships as well as practical cooperation in various fields.

The two sides need to continue upholding multilateralism and advancing major global agenda, he added.

Macron and Scholz congratulated China on its successful hosting of the Beijing Olympic Winter Games, saying that the world faces many challenges, and each country acting on its own will only make things worse.

The European side values the important and positive role of China in global affairs, and



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends a video summit with French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Beijing, capital of China, 8 March 2022 **PHOTO: XINHUA BY LI XIANG**

is willing to engage in close cooperation with China to jointly tackle climate change, public health and other major global

challenges, they said.

The two leaders said the European side is ready to work with China for a successful EU-China

summit, and to move forward France-China, Germany-China and EU-China relations. — Xinhua ■

In nod to Russia, Ukraine says no longer insisting on NATO membership



Ukrainian soldiers take part in annual joint military exercises with the US and other NATO countries near Lviv, Ukraine, on 24 September 2021, as tensions with Russia remained high over the Kremlin-backed insurgency in the country's east. **PHOTO: YURIY DYACHYSHYN/AFP**

PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he is no longer press-

ing for NATO membership for Ukraine, a delicate issue that

was one of Russia's stated reasons for invading its pro-Western neighbour.

In another apparent nod aimed at placating Moscow, Zelensky said he is open to "compromise" on the status of two breakaway pro-Russian territories that President Vladimir Putin recognized as independent just before unleashing the invasion on 24 February.

"I have cooled down regarding this question a long time ago after we understood that ... NATO is not prepared to accept Ukraine," Zelensky said in an interview aired Monday night on ABC News.—AFP ■

Russia announces humanitarian ceasefire in Ukraine for Wednesday morning



People from Ukraine arrive at a railway station in Bucharest, capital of Romania, 7 March 2022. **PHOTO: CRISTIAN CRISTEL/XINHUA**

MOSCOW has announced a humanitarian ceasefire in Ukraine for Wednesday morning to carry out the evacuation of the civilian population, Russian news agencies reported.

"From 10:00 MSK (0700 GMT) on 9 March, 2022, the Russian Federation is declaring a 'regime of silence' and is ready to provide humanitarian corridors," a cell of the Russian defence ministry charged with humanitarian operations in Ukraine said Tuesday.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

NATO countries use Ukraine crisis to pursue militaristic projects: report

THE North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries are using the Ukraine crisis to pursue longer-term militaristic projects, according to a US media outlet report.

"After the end of the United States' 20-year occupation of Afghanistan, and after two decades of the 'war on terror,' this is precisely the time to critically evaluate the impacts of US militarism and push for demilitarization," said an article published on the website of Yes! Magazine on Monday.

"Instead, Washington is doing the opposite, with (US President Joe) Biden reportedly considering a record 770-billion dollar military budget for 2023," said the article authored by Khury Petersen-Smith, the Michael Ratner Middle East Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies.

The article called on people in the West to demand their governments open doors to Ukrainians who have left their country, and "to all refugees, actually, many of whom are displaced by US violence and that of its allies."—Xinhua ■

Nearly 2,500 Ukrainian military targets destroyed till now, claims Russia

AS many as 2,482 Ukrainian military targets have been destroyed by the Russian armed forces since the beginning of its military operation in the country, Sputnik reported citing the Russian defence ministry.

"In total, 2,482 military targets of Ukraine were hit during the operation, including 87 command posts and communication centres of the Ukrainian military, 124 S-300, Buk M-1 and Osa air defence missile systems, 79 radar stations," the news agency quoted the Russian defence ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov as saying.

According to Konashenkov, the destroyed facilities also include 866 tanks and other armoured combat vehicles, 91 multiple rocket launchers, 317 field artillery pieces and mortars, 634 units of special military vehicles, 81 unmanned aerial vehicles.—ANI ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

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

ASEAN Suzuki Cup to be confirmed this year

THE ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) will confirm whether the regular ASEAN Suzuki Cup will be held later this year.

The biennial ASEAN Suzuki Cup was initially scheduled to be held this year, but officials will

make the final decision due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

The ASEAN football body is scheduled to host all the competitions this year, and the Suzuki Cup is likely to be held, officials said.

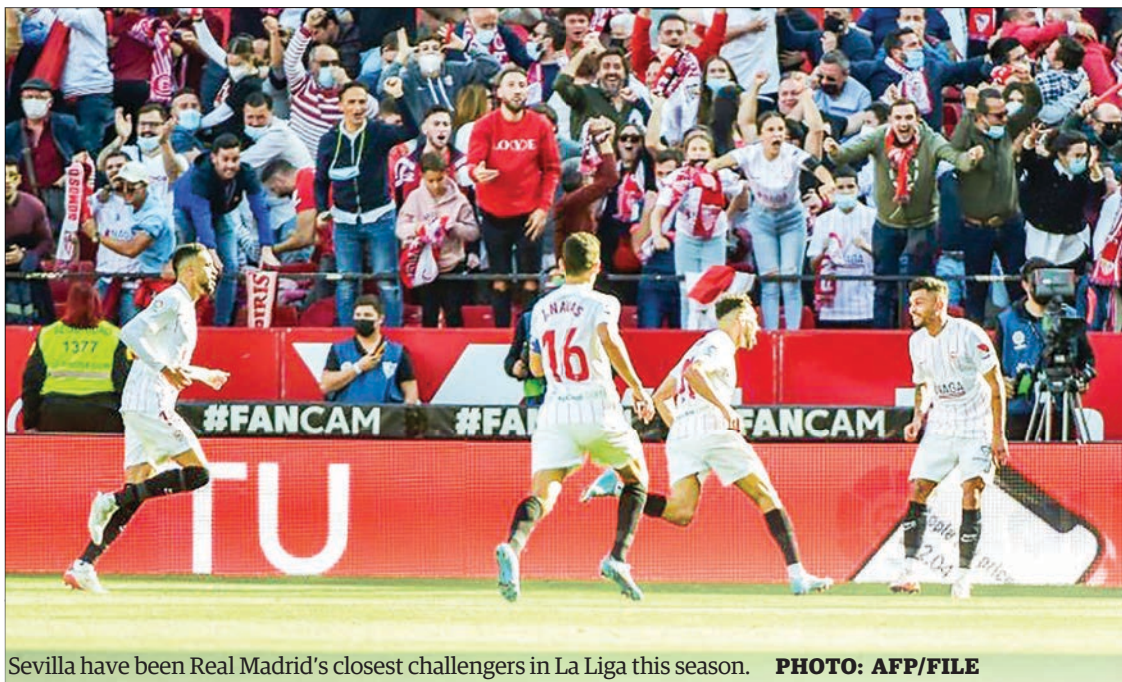
The football federation hosted the first ASEAN U-23 Championship this year in Cambodia from 14 to 26 February, and the ASEAN Futsal Championship will be held in Thailand in April. After the competition, the

ASEAN Youth Men's and Women's Championships will continue and the women's national team competition will be held.

The Myanmar national team will compete in the third round of the 2023 Asian Cup and Suzuki

Cup later this year.

The Myanmar squad has only reached the semi-finals twice in the Suzuki Cup and was eliminated from the group stage at the last ASEAN 2020 Suzuki Cup. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



Sevilla have been Real Madrid's closest challengers in La Liga this season. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Sevilla return to Europa League against West Ham wondering what might have been

A promising season for Sevilla could be in danger of petering out but it would be no surprise if they finished with a flourish in the Europa League.

Their last-16 tie against West Ham starts at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan on Thursday, pitting two of the tournament's favourites against each other in the first round of the knock-out stage. But while West Ham have enjoyed an impressive season in the Premier League, where until

recently they were challenging for the top four, Sevilla's Europa League pedigree is unparalleled.

They have won the tournament six times, twice as many as anyone else, with four of those successes coming in the last eight years alone.

Apart from Barcelona, Sevilla are surely the team to beat. Yet there was hope this season could also bring something more - lifting the Copa del Rey, a deep run in the Champions League or, most

tantalizingly, winning La Liga.

Atletico Madrid showed last term how crisis at Barcelona and the sense of an era ending at Real Madrid has created an opening, a rare chance for Spain's traditional challengers to become champions. Even Sevilla have appeared to smell an opportunity, shifting the emphasis of their transfer strategy away from planning for the future and more towards achieving in the present. — AFP ■

China takes 1-2 finish in Para cross country men's sprint sitting final

PARA cross-country skiers Zheng Peng and Mao Zhongwu secured a one-two finish in the men's sprint sitting final at Beijing 2022 here on Wednesday.

Zheng, 29, became the first Chinese athlete ever to bag two Paralympic gold medals. He and Mao, 35, also had a one-two in the men's long distance sitting on Sunday.

"This was a really tough and close race. I'm really glad to get this gold because I might not have got it if I wasn't as stable as I was today," said Zheng,

who finished 10th in the event at PyeongChang 2018.

"All the fans outside have been cheering for us, the rhythm they've been giving us is really great. We've been encouraged by that and have taken strength from that," said Zheng, who brought China its ninth gold at these Games. "There weren't any special tactics, but thinking of everyone who has been cheering for me and helping me, I could not give up halfway," said Mao, who took up the sport in 2018 at 32. — Xinhua ■



Zheng Peng (L) and Mao Zhongwu of China celebrate after the Para Cross-Country Skiing Men's Sprint Sitting Final of Beijing 2022 Winter Paralympics at National Biathlon Centre in Zhangjiakou, north China's Hebei Province, 9 March 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/LIB