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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.

Presentations representing Myanmar at the International Court of Justice much fortified the nation with strength: Senior General

SUCCESSFUL undertaking of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the international relations as the primary function can reflect the further strengthening of a leading role in national politics, said Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Policy Committee Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 1/2022 of the Foreign Affairs Policy Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Senior General said Myanmar is standing tall among the global countries in line with the foreign affairs policy mentioned in the 2008 Constitution: The Union practises an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy aimed at world peace and friendly relations with nations and upholds the principles of peaceful coexistence among

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State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting 1/2022 of the Foreign Affairs Policy Committee in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 March 2022.

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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

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.

Yangon-Narita relief flight to fly on 17 March



One Boeing-787 aircraft of the All Nippon Airways (ANA). PHOTO: ANA

FOR Myanmar citizens in Japan who want to return to Myanmar, All Nippon Airways (ANA) will run a Yangon-Narita relief flight on 17 March, according to the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Tokyo, Japan.

The 49th relief flight is operated by ANA and 48 Myanmar citizens are permitted to return by the relief flight.

The list of those citizens who have been permitted to go back home can be checked at the ANA head office, the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo, Japan released a statement. The departure time of the relief flight and information

of the check-in counter will be further notified.

The Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Tokyo, Japan, in coordination with ANA, has been arranging relief flights for citizens who are waiting for their return to Myanmar during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those who have been permitted to fly with ANA relief flight can purchase the tickets through the ticket counters in Japan or call the contact number of ANA: 95-1-9255100, 95-1-9255101 and 95-1-9255102 or booking via the ANA official website as per the embassy's statement. — Pwint Thitsar/GNLM

942 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 10 March, total figure rises to 603,263

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **603,263** after **942** new cases were reported on 10 March 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **553,891** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **19,401** after **3** died. —MNA

Tatmadaw is a guardian for implementing multiparty democracy

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 maintain all situations of the State.

(Excerpt from the speech made by 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 on 18-2-2022)

Presentations representing Myanmar at the International Court of Justice much fortified the nation with strength: Senior General

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nations. With regard to international relations, Myanmar stood as a neutral country with an independent and active foreign policy and it participated in the non-aligned movement group. Being a member state of the United Nations, Myanmar joined international relations at the highest level.

A Myanmar representative office is opened at the UN and ambassadors are appointed in many countries and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is taking responsibility for international relations. It is necessary to emphasize international relations as the functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs much affect the international relations arena of Myanmar.

The Gambia as a representative filed against Myanmar. Of

Successful undertaking of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for international relations as the primary function can reflect the further strengthening of a leading role in national politics.

officials of Myanmar strived for responding to the filing under the firm legal documents. The incorrect accusations were used to discredit the country and encroach on the Tatmadaw. The Tatmadaw is to defend the State and protect the life and property

of the people. Concerning the events before 1948, Myanmar, which had not regained Independence yet served the interests of the rulers, causing loss to the people and the nation. All are making efforts for building the nation to be powerful. When

the Myanmar delegation faced the legal procedure at the ICJ, efforts were made to collect the strength for it. Presentations representing Myanmar at the International Court of Justice much fortified the nation with strength. So, the Senior General praised all officials for their endeavours. Successful undertaking of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for international relations as the primary function can reflect the further strengthening of a leading role in national politics.

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing and Union Minister for Legal Affairs Attorney-General of the Union Dr Thida Oo who attended the presentation of the preliminary objections to the ICJ in The Hague of the Netherlands clarified their legal pleadings in

detail at the ICJ.

Secretary of the Committee Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin reported on issues related to foreign affairs policy and measures for decisions.

Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing and the joint secretary of the committee presented the letters of offer whereas the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs reviewed the Russia-Ukraine conflicts.

In his conclusion, the Senior General stressed the need to turn out human resources related to international laws for the country, to make preparations for how the ICJ adopts decisions for the issue of The Gambia and exercise the foreign affairs policy of Myanmar in the international issues. —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.

Yesterday, doctors and



Locals get vaccinated against COVID-19 in Kyauktaw Township in Rakhine State.

nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 1,179 people from three townships in Shan State (North), 7,421 people

from twelve townships in Mon and Kayin States, 920 people from Yankin and Tamway Townships in Yangon Region, 21,997 people from 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region, 8,690 people from nine townships in Rakhine



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

State, 6,620 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region and 458 people from four townships in Bago Region respectively.

Similarly, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 304

people from 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region on 8 March.

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

MoC holds coordination meeting for Baht-Kyat direct trade on 10 March

THE Ministry of Commerce made a virtual discussion about the use of Baht-Kyat in bilateral cross-border transactions between Myanmar and Thailand at 2:30 pm on 10 March.

The coordination meeting was organized by the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods and the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM). Present at the meeting were the chair of the central committee, Deputy Minister U Nyunt Aung for Commerce, CBM Deputy Governor Daw Than Than Swe,



the joint secretary of the central committee and officials of the Trade Department, Myanmar Customs Department, Accounts Department of the

CBM, Myanma Economic Bank, Internal Revenue Department, Ayeyawady Farmers Development Bank and Kasikornbank Public Company.

The meeting highlighted coordination between the departments concerned for the successful implementation of the use of Baht-Kyat in bi-

lateral transactions, setting the pilot period for the Baht-Kyat direct payment trade in Myawady and Tachilek areas beginning 21 March, building a support team for the smooth coordination, raising public awareness of the guidelines for the use of Baht-Kyat in bilateral transactions in the third week of March, matters related to Baht-Kyat exchange rate, facilitation in cash withdrawal from the Baht-Kyat direct payment trade and trade reporting regimes. — MNA

All YBS bus lines need to provide best services to commuters

YANGON Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC), Yangon Urban Public Transportation Public Co., Ltd (YUPT) and Yangon Bus Public Company (YBPC) clarified their operating condition. The meeting was held in the Regional Government Office meeting hall

on 9 March.

Initially, Yangon region-government Chief Minister U Soe Thein gave the speech. Then, the officials from YRTC, YUPT and YBPC explained the running condition of 127 YBS bus lines in the Yangon region, about the exited passenger bus

terminals, and the need to expand the terminals condition, using Yangon Payment Services (YPS) to eliminate the overcharging and to make fare payment easier for commuters in 1,984 YBS buses from 49 bus lines and current activities by the sectors.

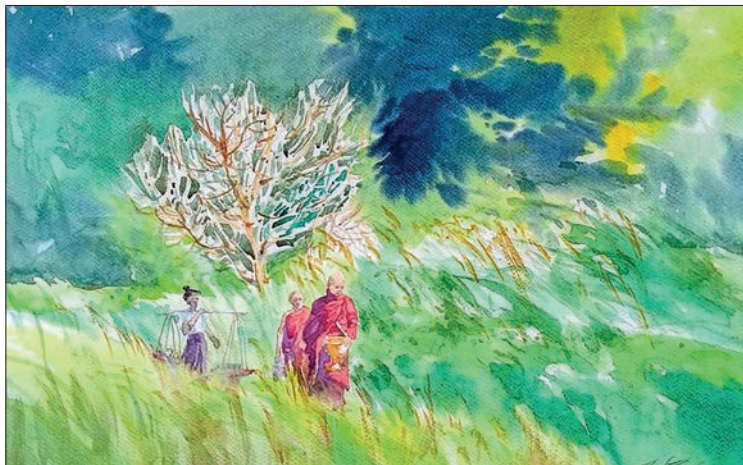
Then, the officials discussed the operation of bus lines and traffic rules.

The chief minister also stressed the need to implement Yangon payment service cards as quick as possible, to run YBS buses and trucks systematically, to prevent the traf-

fic congestion, to provide the best services to the public and to supervise the traffic rules and regulations.

It is also leant that the necessary matters were coordinated with the relevant departments. — Hsan Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/GNLM

Most Monywa artists trying to seek online market amid losing art market



MOST Monywa artists, who are losing their art market, are trying to seek an online art market, according to Chairman U Pe Khin Oo of the Myanmar Artists Organization (Monywa Township).

“Yangon artists have a market. Rural area artists have nothing. They have to come and show their art in Yangon Art Gal-

leries. The art show can be held both by groups and by individuals. Due to the current situation, it is not convenient for people to come and visit the art show. Many artists are struggling as they face hardships. They turn to commercial signboard painting, portrait painting and wallpaper painting but those are not for long run. That depends

on the customers. We are trying to solve the problems as much as we can,” said U Pe Khin Oo.

Most hobbyist artists are facing not only economic hardship but also difficulties in selling online due to lack of technology.

“Artists sell their artworks through online shopping and some are sold out. The Myan-

mar Artists Organization invite artists to send their artworks to make online sales. It was successful to some extent. However, it's not sure whether the artists didn't send their paintings later. This programme has stopped. Several artworks have been sold out in the programme,” he added.

In Monywa, there were over

30 watercolour artists before but only 10 long-term artists at present. There are rarely to be watercolour artists among the art-graduates. Most are mixed artists of oil painting and watercolours, said Chindwin Yaykyi artist Ko Tin Zaw (Pan Yatha).

“I would like to urge them to focus on watercolour painting for a long term. Originally, they used to go out for outdoor painting by groups on Sundays. We couldn't do so for a long time at present. I have done 60 artworks during 10 months. Eight of them have been sold out at the Chindwin Watercolour Exhibition in October. The business isn't good. It is better online. Fewer artworks are sold out because we don't have our own art gallery,” Ko Tin Zaw (Pan Yatha) was quoted as saying. — Lu Lay/GNLM

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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 Tatmadaw, Royal Thai Armed Forces hold 3rd cultural exchange programme

THE third cultural exchange programme between Myanmar-Thai armed forces was organized at the Office of the Chief of the Defence Force of Thailand in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday.

The event was attended by Chief of the Defence Force Gen Chalermphon Srisawadi of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, Director Lt-Gen Pongtep Gaewchaiyo of the Department of Border Affairs of the Office of the Chief of the Defence Force of Thailand, Royal Thai Armed Forces Cultural Team leader Maj-Gen Krittaphum Luckklai, senior military officers of Royal Thai Armed Forces, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Khun Nay Tun Oo, Tatmadaw Cultural Team lead-



The cultural troupes of the Myanmar-Thai Armed Forces pose the documentary group photo at the event.

er Brig-Gen Ye Yint Aung and members of cultural teams of both countries.

First, the Chief of the De-

fence Force of the Royal Thai Armed Force greeted the Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) and Tatmadaw Cultural

Team Leader and took a commemorative photo. Then, the two cultural troupes performed the songs and performance.

After the cultural exchange show, the Chief of the Defence Force of the Royal Thai Armed Forces presented bouquets and awards to the Tatmadaw Cultural Team, while a Myanmar representative to Thai Cultural Troupe. Then, the event was concluded after taking a commemorative photo of two cultural troupes.

The first cultural exchange programme between the two armed forces was organized from 28 to 31 May 2018 in Thailand and the second one was in Myanmar from 13 to 15 February 2019. The Tatmadaw cultural troupe exposed the cultural status and national cultures of the country and strengthened the military-to-military relationship between the two countries. — MNA

Salon people provided with fibre boats, home appliances



Home solar panels, accessories and fibre boats are ceremonially presented to Salone people in Taninthayi Region.



THE handing over ceremony of fibre boats and home appliances to the Mawkel (Salon) people in Kawthoung District, with the support of the chief minister of Taninthayi Region, was held on the morning of 10 March at the Cultural Museum in Kawthoung, Thirimyaing Ward, Kawthoung Township.

Minister for Ethnic Affairs

of the Taninthayi region government U Saw Martin Luther addressed the ceremony and handed over fibre boats to Salon people in Makyonegalat village and Nyaungwi village in Kawthoung Township. Region Economic Minister U Maung Gyi provided villagers with home solar panels and accessories. At the ceremony, 100 fibre boats

and 141 sets of solar home appliances each worth K270,000 were provided.

A total of 226 fibre boats worth K396,000 each, with the support of the region chief minister, will be provided to Salon villages in Kyunsu Township, Kawthoung Township and Bokpyin Township and Myeik Township in Taninthayi Region this

financial year.

The Markel (a) Salon families, a rare ethnic group in the far south of Myanmar, live on the islands, and boats play an important role in their daily lives and livelihoods. As the traditional boats of the people are made of wood, making them difficult to use for a long period due to the decay of the wood, the fibre

boats are provided since they will last for 10 years, said region Economic Minister U Maung Gyi.

The Taninthayi region government is also planning to provide more fibre boats in the 2022-2023 financial year, according to the region economic minister. — Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)/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

Police seize illegal timbers, foodstuffs, commodities, vehicles, motorcycle parts



Confiscated illegal timbers in Yangon Region.

THE Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee focuses on strict control of illegal trade under the law.

On 7 March, the Yangon Region Forest Department seized a Toyota Kluger worth K25,000,000 together with 0.8132 tonne of teak parquet blocks worth K243,960 in Hmawby Township of Yangon District (North) and took action under the Forest Law.

On 9 March, the Customs Department at the Asia World Container Terminal Inspection Camp confiscated K63,600,000

worth of 5,300 bales of traditional 'silkware' longyis (sarongs) which were not mentioned in ID lists and took action under the Customs Law.

Moreover, the combined inspection team led by the Customs Department at the Ma-yanchaung Checkpoint of Mon State examined vehicles heading to Yangon from Myawady and seized K2,100,000 worth of 70 undocumented packs of Balloon brand candy and took action under the Customs Law.

On 10 March, the Sagaing

Region Forest Department seized K474,660 worth of 1.5822 tonnes of teak in Mawlaik Township and took action under the Forest Law.

The Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) inspection camp of Kayin State also confiscated the undocumented 240 motorcycle tyres and inner tubes worth K7,322,515 and took action under the Customs Law. Thus, a total of six arrests (estimated value of K98,741,135) were made on 7, 9 and 10 March, according to the committee. — MNA



Seized items in Kayin State.



Seized items in Mon State.



Seized items at Asia World Container Terminal Inspection Camp.

Judge orders life sentence for man who raped 17-year-old at knifepoint

A man found guilty of raping 17-year-old several times at knifepoint and exploiting her earnings was sentenced to life in prison, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

Han Oo and his wife, Ma Zin Mar Htwe, manipulated their niece, a 17-year-old girl, to work at a clothing shop in Thailand during school holidays. They later had her recruited as a rubber tapper at a rubber plantation and exploited her earnings. Also, Han Oo repeatedly threatened her with a knife and raped her several times.

Therefore, a case was filed against them at the Maungmakan police station under Sections 24/29 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law and Section 376 (1) of the Penal Code.

On 8 March, the Dawei District Court sentenced suspect Han Oo to life in prison under Sections 24/29 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law, along with 10 years with labour in prison. Suspect Ma Zin Mar Htwe was sentenced to 10 years with labour in prison under Section 24 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. — MNA

Yangon court sentences two human traffickers to 10-year imprisonment

YANGON'S South District Court sentenced two people to 10-year imprisonment with labour for their involvement in trafficking their teenage sister to a Chinese man on 9 March.

Ma Khin Myo Thet (aka) Ni Ni Soe from Shwepyitha Township and Ma Aye Aye Khine

from Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Region persuaded the younger sister, aged 13, Ma -----, to marry a Chinese man for one year at K2 million.

The case was opened against two suspects at the Shwepyitha Myoma Police Station under Sec-

tions 24/32 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. Then, the court handed down the sentence after Ma Khin Myo Thet (aka) Ni Ni Soe and Ma Aye Aye Khine were found guilty under Section 24 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law on 9 March. — MNA

Heroin worth over K190 million seized in Nawngkhio



Six arrestees are seen along with seized drugs, motobikes and a saloon.

OVER K190 million worth of heroin were seized in Nawngkhio Township, Shan State, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

The anti-drug force made inspections on the Kyaunglan Road, Ward (7), Parhat Quarter, Thapyay Yay Village, Nawngkhio Township at 9 am on 9 March.

Kyaw Kyaw Naing (45-year-old) and Htein Lin Soe (alias) Veda (30-year-old) brought 1,316 soap cups of heroin worth over K190 million in two motorcycles weighing 13.16 kilogrammes.

According to the investigation, Maung Htay (50-year-old), who was ordered to carry drugs at 9:30 am, was arrested on a motorcycle in Thapyay Yay village.

At 10 am in the morning, Aung Ko Ko Paing (alias) Aung Ko (32-year-old), Yan Naing Oo (34-year-old) and Thet Naing Oo (33-year-old), involved in drug trafficking near Kyauk Kyan village were also arrested in an AD Van on the Mandalay-Lashio Road, near Kyauk Kyan Village, Nawngkhio Township.

According to the investigation, the confiscated drugs were transported from Shan State (North) to Mandalay Region.

All six are being prosecuted and the suspects are still being investigated, according to the police force. — MNA

Sunflower oil crop enters Mandalay market abundantly

SUNFLOWER oil crop grown as winter crops for domestic consumption is entering the Mandalay market these days abundantly, according to the Mandalay Pulses Traders.

The winter sunflower oil crop grown across the country are started entering the Market richly. The sunflower crop from Mandalay and Sagaing regions has mostly entered the market. Last year, the sunflower oil crop price fetched K50,000 per bag (each bag containing 27 visses of sunflower crop). But this year, the price has increased to K70,000 per bag.

Previously, the sunflower crop was grown as a mixed crop. These days, sunflower cultivation has been increased year by year. It is also convenient for the lo-



Last year, the sunflower oil crop price fetched K50,000 per bag (each bag containing 27 visses of sunflower crop). But this year, the price has increased to K70,000 per bag.

cal farmers as it is affordable for cultivation costs. Currently, the government urged the growers to cultivate more sunflower crop.

This year, more sunflowers are entering the market abundantly. Sunflower oil is a good choice for keeping a healthy heart. The sun-

flower oil has many benefits that it can prevent health disease, neurological disorders and cancer. "The price of sunflower oil from

the domestic market is reasonable. Now, the price of sunflower oil is sold at K6,000-K6,500 per viss in the market. The sunflower meal can also be used as livestock feed. In some regions, the sunflower oil is under production," said U Soe Win Myint, (Soe Win Myint Brokerage) from Mandalay.

There are two types of sunflower crops such as roasted sunflower and oilseeds. Roasted sunflower crops are grown along the banks of the Ayeyawady river, Taunggyi and Aungban region. The oilseed crops are grown across the country. The local farmer should expand their cultivation because the cultivation cost of the sunflower plantation is reasonable. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

IGL trading company buys summer paddy for K625,000 per 100-baskets

INTERNATIONAL Green Land Trading Company is buying summer paddy (containing 14 per cent moisture), according to the Myanmar Paddy Producers Association.

Under the supervision of the Myanmar Rice Federation, International Green Land Trading Co., Ltd is purchasing the summer paddy from the Ayeyawady region and Bago region.

As a result, the prevailing price of paddy in the market touched a higher of K85,000 per 100 baskets than the floor price

set by the government.

The floor price for paddy has been set at K540,000 per every 100 baskets (one basket is equivalent to about 21 kilogrammes) of monsoon paddy grown in 2021 and summer paddy cultivated in 2022, according to an announcement released by the Committee on Farmers Rights Protection and Interests Promotion on 6 October.

Under the provision of the Law of Protection of the Farmers Rights and Enhancement of their benefits, the Leading Committee for Farmers Rights,

Protection and Interests Promotion has fixed the minimum price of paddy at K540,000 per 100 baskets if the paddy meets the prescribed criteria — 14-per cent moisture content and a fixed percentage of impurities such as sand, weed, and small stones — to create fair markets for farmers.

Besides, if the market price is above the set price, the merchants have to purchase the paddy at the prevailing market price.

Farmers facing difficulties selling their produce at the basic price can contact the township agents of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) and MRF office's contact 01-2301128, 01-2301129 and 01-218266.

Currently, there is a less stockpile of monsoon paddy in the rice market and the newly harvested summer paddy are entering the market. Nearly 18 acres are put under monsoon and summer paddy in Myanmar yearly, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. — NN/GNLM



Under the supervision of the Myanmar Rice Federation, International Green Land Trading Co., Ltd is purchasing the summer paddy from the Ayeyawady region and Bago region.

Tapioca growers happy with fair price in Kya-in-Seikkyi

TAPIOCA growers from Kya-in-Seikkyi township, Kayin State are happy as they are getting bumper yield and good price, thanks to favourable weather.

This year, the tapioca is chopped into pieces and dried in Kya-in-Seikkyi township and those are sold for K250-K275 per kilogramme. The traders

are come and buy that dried tapioca. Those tapioca are conveyed to Thailand through the Myawady border trade zone. The local farmer are delighted with their extra income because they get a good price for tapioca this year.

The farmers clean their land and started cultivating

in April. Each nursery plant fetched K75-K100. Each plant can be cut into four grafts and grown four plants. Each plant needs to grow two feet apart. The tapioca can be harvested in the first week of February next year and it can yield about five tonnes per acre, it is learnt. — Myo Min Oo/ GNLM

Myanmar mineral exports down by \$206 mln as of 25 February

MYANMAR'S mineral exports have plunged by US\$206.86 million between 1 October 2021 and 25 February 2022 of the current mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022) as against a-year ago period, Myanmar Customs Department stated.

The value of Myanmar's mineral exports has drastically sunk to US\$241.7 million as of 25 February 2022 since 1 October 2021.

The mineral exports hit over \$448.586 million in the corresponding period of last FY.

The coronavirus-related disruptions led to the slump in mineral exports. The heightened COVID-19 measures also shut down the events, a trader said.

Additionally, Lonkhin, Hpakant, Mawlu and Mawhan gem and jade mining businesses in Kachin State have been suspended from 1 October 2021 to March-end 2022 with a view to supporting sustainable resource extraction, and ensuring safe and efficient operation of jade and gems mines, according to the Myanmar Gems Enterprises.

So far, excavation of over 1,250 mining blocks has been permitted on a manageable, small, medium, and large scale, mostly in Mandalay and Sagaing regions, according to the Ministry of Natural

Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Due to the limited extraction of natural resources, exports of forest products and minerals had dropped significantly in the previous years.

Permits for mining blocks were suspended in 2016, but after two years, Myanmar's mining sector has now been opened to local and foreign investors, according to the ministry.

Under the new regulations, foreign firms can invest in large blocks which cover up to 500,000 acres (about 202,000 hectares), while local firms can invest in all kinds of blocks. Investors can seek permits to mine for minerals such as gold, copper, lead and tin.

The permits cover prospecting, exploration, and production.

Myanmar's mineral exports touched \$895.6 million in the previous FY2020-2021, showing a significant drop of \$975.2 million compared with the year-ago period, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

About 80 per cent of mineral products are shipped to external markets through sea trade, while 20 of them are sent to neighbouring countries through border trade channels. — KK/GNLM

Combatting corruption to enhance the rule of law

THE rule of law and the anti-corruption measure are crucial for implementing the reform process of the country. Indeed, both measures are interrelated. Only when efforts can be made for the eradication of corruption will the rule of law be prevailing in the nation.

Everybody knows that anti-corruption is of great importance in Myanmar as it is on the path of the democratic system. It is necessary to recognize the efforts of eradicating corruption cases. In fact, corruption can change society upside down. In this regard, as the people may generally murmur that the country could not have the capacity to restore the rule of law, the capacity of authorities in tackling the anti-corruption measures is one of the most important factors.

The corruption may affect weakening the rule of law, hampering the development, derailing the development funds of the State from the set procedures and leaving more impacts on the people from the poverty traps. Disadvantages of the corruption and the rule of law push the people to the edge of the abyss, facing no choice for them in their lives. Hence, they unexpectedly commit corruption cases. Due to corruption, people in all walks of life miss the chance to build trust among them. If so, hostilities and dissatisfactions can be conceived in the souls of society participants. The corruption sparks the society to explode at any time, based on general dissatisfactions including the loss in corruption and bribery cases. As such, these actions may stake the rule of law sector.

Failures in the economic sector and a high rate of poverty are based on corruption cases. Consequently, the trust of people may be lessening over the government and government organizations. Hence, every country needs to consider that now is the best time to manage the reform processes for their countries in order to bring the States and the people to the prosperous countries under the rule of law to be free from corruption. Otherwise, those countries would see their conclusion in a short time.

Unpleasant scenes are undesirable. Only when the people build a peaceful and prosperous nation can they enjoy the fruits of measures on the rule of law. If a firm system to prevail the rule of law can be implemented, both the people and the nation can set aside the corruption in various forms in perpetuity.

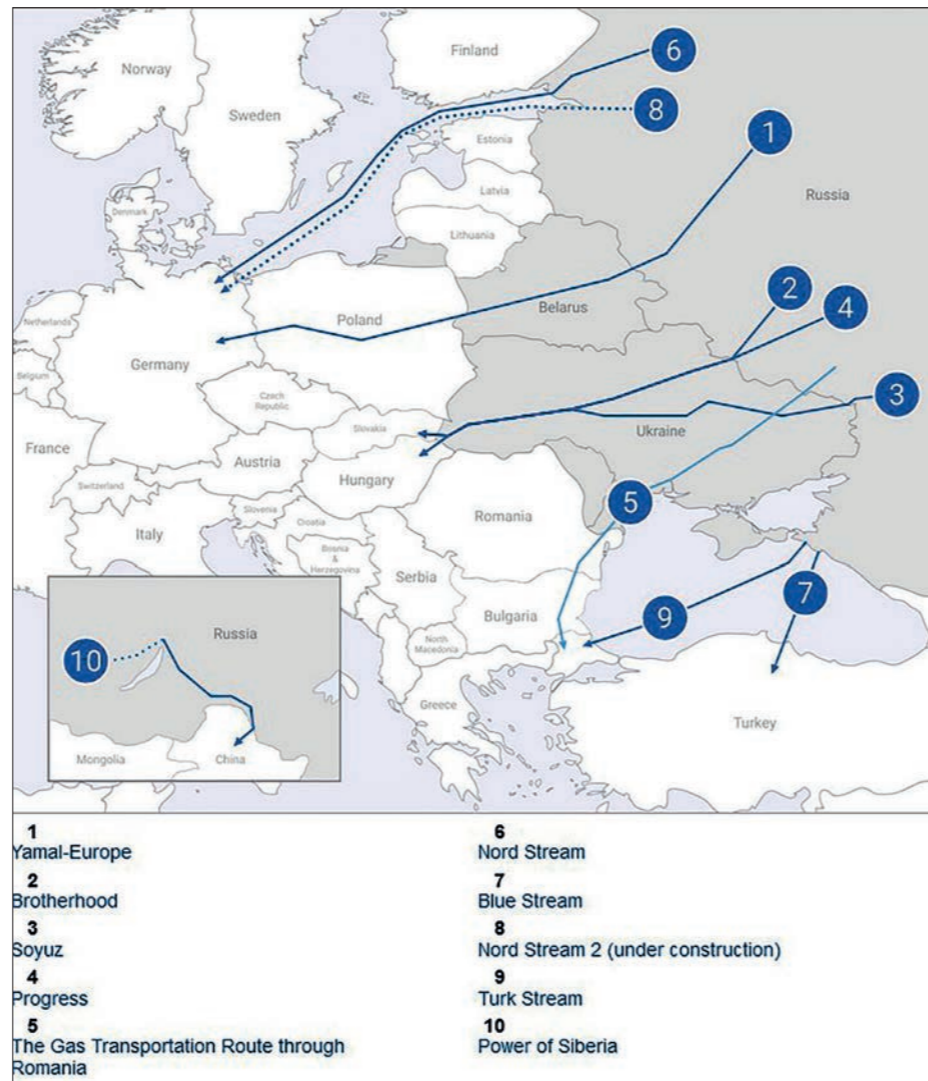


By Mg. Han Tin

Russian Gas Pipeline - Nord Stream 2

RUSSIA is the world's third-biggest oil exporter and the second-largest producer of oil and gas after the US, providing 17 per cent of gas output and 13 per cent of oil production globally in 2020. Russia supplies about 40 per cent of the EU's natural gas imports. Most of the rest comes from Norway and Algeria, such as the Norway-UK Langed pipeline. Russia sends gas to Europe through several main pipelines, which Russia is, reaping billions of dollars of benefits annually from them. Gas is delivered to the European customers through a unique gas transmission system that links the gas field of the Russian North with neighbouring countries, and also through the Power of Siberia pipeline. They are -

1. Yamal - Europe
2. Brotherhood
3. Soyuz
4. Progress
5. The Gas Transportation Route through Romania
6. Nord Stream
7. Blue Stream
8. Nord Stream 2 (under construction)
9. Turk Stream
10. Power of Siberia



Map of Russian Gas Pipelines Transportation Routes

Germany has no liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals. It imports natural gas from Russia through the Nord Stream pipeline and Yamal - Europe pipeline. Russia is keen to boost supplies of gas to Europe from its vast fields in the west of the country. It wants an undersea pipeline to Europe, rather than relying on its land-based pipelines which go through Poland and Ukraine. Poland and Ukraine presently earn revenues from transit fees that Gazprom, the state-owned Russian gas giant, pays in return for sending its gas via their gas networks to Western Europe. These pipeline networks are ageing and inefficient. Besides this, Poland and Ukraine charge high transit fees. Russia has to pay Ukraine \$2 billion annually as part of transit contract fees for sending gas through its territory by gas pipelines, which are set to be ended in 2024. But Putin has warned that Ukraine would have to show "goodwill" if it wanted gas transit to continue. Kyiv and Warsaw also fear the potential weakening of their political bargaining power in the event of the pipeline bypassing them under the Baltic Sea directly to Germany. Ukraine's large gas reserve facilities could also become obsolete.

Nord Stream (Nord Stream 1) is a system of offshore natural gas pipelines in Europe, running under the Baltic Sea from Russia to Germany, which borders Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany and

Russia. It was a joint venture of Russia's Gazprom and its four European co-investors - Germany's oil and gas producer Wintershall DEA, PEG Infrastruktur E.ON, Dutch Gasunie and French Engie. It is 1,222 kilometres (759 miles) in length and is the longest sub-sea pipeline in the world. It is a twin pipeline underneath the Baltic Sea. The second line of Nord Stream 1 was laid in 2011-2012 and was inaugurated on 8 October 2012.

Nord Stream 1 is a submarine pipeline between Vyborg in Russia and Greifswald in Germany. It is made up of two parallel pipelines, each around 750 miles long, and is able to transport up to 971 billion cubic feet (27.5 billion cubic metres) of natural gas a year. Therefore, the twin pipelines are able to transport 55 billion cubic metres (1942 billion cubic feet) of natural gas per year. Nord Stream 1 has been carrying gas from Russia to Germany since 2011. It carries more than a third of Germany's gas imports. Germany, the UK, the Netherlands, France, Denmark and other European states are the target markets for the supplies through this pipeline. Nord Stream 1 is owned and operated by Nord Stream AG, whose majority shareholder is the Russian state company Gazprom. (Gazprom was ranked as the 32nd largest public company in the world.)

Nord Stream 2 - (NS2) natural gas pipeline is an underwater twin pipeline, underneath the Baltic Sea, that would transport natural gas from Russia directly to Germany. It is 1,200 kilometres (746 miles) in length. It was designed to double the capacity of an existing (already in use) original gas pipeline Nord Stream 1, also known as Nord Stream, to 110 billion cubic metres (3,884 billion cubic feet) of gas a year. Nord Stream 2 pipeline travels in parallel along a similar route but from Ust-Luga in Russia's northwestern Leningrad region to Greifswald in northern Germany under the Baltic Sea. The cost of building Nord Stream 2 is €10bn (¥8.4bn / \$11 billion). Gazprom paid half the cost, with the remainder of the project is financed by its five European co-investors - British oil and gas major Shell, Austria's OMV, France's Engie and Germany's Uniper and Wintershall. Nord Stream 2 is owned and planned to be operated by Nord Stream 2 AG, which is registered in Switzerland, is owned by Russian state-owned gas giant Gazprom. Therefore, Russian state-controlled energy firm Gazprom is the majority owner of both Nord Stream 1 and 2.

It was carried out in 2018-2021. The first line of Nord Stream 2 was completed in June 2021, and the second line was completed in September 2021. It was completed on 22 September 2021, but not yet operating. The pipeline could heat 26 mil-

lion German homes at an affordable price. It was ready to go but not switched on yet. It does not yet have an operating licence. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has suspended the certification process for the Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline after Russia recognized the two separatist-held regions of eastern Ukraine (Donetsk and Luhansk), as breakaway states on 21 February 2022. On 22 February 2022, the German Chancellor ostensibly said that the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia could not be certified after Russian President Vladimir Putin publicly recognized the eastern two regions as breakaway states.

Halting the certification process means the 55 billion cubic metres (1942 billion cubic feet) per year pipeline will be unable to begin commercial operations. Germany's regulator had already refused to give an operating licence because Russian firm Gazprom owns both a 50% stake in the Nord Stream 2 and all of the gas that would go through it. Before the Ukraine crisis, Mr Scholz's predecessor Angela Merkel did a lot to try and push through Nord Stream 2. Despite Germany having already imported 35 per cent of the gas it needs from Russia, she thought that Nord Stream 2 would be a way of getting much more Russian gas delivered directly to Germany. Germany currently gets about half of its natural gas and coal, and a third of its oil from Russia. Allies such as the United States have long warned that the heavy reliance of Europe's biggest economy on Russian energy imports is a strategic risk given the growing friction with Moscow. Still, Germany is looking to get LNG from suppliers such as Qatar to cover any shortage in the near term.

The United States also sanctioned Nord Stream 2 AG before the Russian-Ukraine crisis which was followed by a wave of economic sanctions by the West. US President Joe Biden had previously vowed to shut down Nord Stream 2 if Moscow invades Ukraine. The US has tried to block Nord Stream 2 before, by imposing sanctions on companies involved in the project. However, it has only targeted Russian firms and not German ones, for fear of damaging diplomatic relations with Berlin. The project was 90 per cent complete when President Biden took office. Russia's neighbours Poland and Ukraine, strongly oppose Nord Stream 2. They fear that if it were to start operating, it would give Russia even more of a stranglehold over gas supplies to Europe. Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky has called Nord Stream 2 "a dangerous political weapon". Biden's officials mentioned cutting off Russia from the SWIFT system of international payments, but the key option is pressuring Germany to block NS2.

tin gave remarks at the St. Petersburg Economic Forum that the project was "purely" a commercial and economic project with no geopolitical dimensions. Putin denies using energy as a weapon, though he has made it clear that the only way Russia can increase its gas output to Europe is if Germany approves the pipeline. Russia's State-run Tass news agency mentioned that sanctions on the pipeline would lead to declining energy supplies and gas price growth in Europe.

Now The US is giving pressure to use NS2 as leverage to deter Russia from any further incursion into Ukraine. Germany would suffer most from the longer-term suspension of Nord Stream 2. It would not have direct access to gas from Russia and can't even think of becoming a gas hub for the region. Germany would not be significantly affected by stopping NS2, since the pipeline isn't designed to bring significant new gas to the German market; rather it is aimed at circumventing Ukraine by bringing those same volumes through NS2. European countries will also not be meaningfully impacted if NS2 is cancelled because they can get the gas they need through existing pipelines. Apart from the Nord Stream projects, there are two other pipelines - the Brotherhood pipeline goes through Ukraine and the Yamal-Europe pipeline passes through Belarus and Poland, which carry gas from Russia into the European market. By stopping NS2, Gazprom would still rely on the Ukrainian gas transmission system to deliver volumes to EU markets. The problem right now isn't a lack of pipeline capacity, but that Russia isn't shipping sufficient gas to Europe.

NS2 is not particularly important for the Russian government in financing itself, because even if it doesn't come online Russia can send gas to Europe via other pipelines. But it will be a meaningful political defeat for the Kremlin, even though it won't cost the Kremlin much in financial terms.

We will have to wait and see what will eventually happen in the very near future about this Nord Stream 2 controversy.

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But Russian President Vladimir Pu-



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

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

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 11 March, 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi region and Mon state, isolated in Kayah and Kayin States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway regions and Chin state 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: Slight increase of day temperatures in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Yangon regions.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 March 2022: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 March 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 March 2022: Generally fair weather.

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The road to renewable energy in Japan, a top CO2 emitter



Betting Big on Hydrogen: In 2020, the world's largest hydrogen plant and green-energy centre opened in Japan — the Fukushima Hydrogen Energy Research Field. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE Fukushima region affected by the 2011 nuclear disaster has invested heavily in renewable energy — a sector Japan was slow to embrace, but now considers key to reaching carbon neutrality.

Here are some things to know about renewables in Japan, which remains one of the top emitters of planet-warming CO2:

Carbon-neutral goal

Japan aims to become carbon-neutral by 2050, the same goal as the European Union and ahead of China's target to reach net-zero emissions by 2060.

The country has a long way to go, however. Japan is the world's sixth-biggest carbon emitter if the EU is counted as one bloc, according to European Commission data.

To help it succeed, the gov-

ernment has hiked its medium-term renewables goal after the previous target was criticized as unambitious by campaigners and major companies.

Japan now wants 36-38 per cent of its power to come from renewable sources such as solar and wind by 2030, up from its previous goal of 22-24 per cent.

It is slowly getting there: in 2020, renewable energy accounted for around 20 per cent of Japan's electricity production, up nearly two percentage points year on year.

Fossil fuel imports

After a tsunami caused a meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant in March 2011, Japan halted all its nuclear reactors to review and strengthen safety controls.

That left the country highly

dependent on imported fossil fuels — especially natural gas, which accounts for nearly 40 per cent of Japan's total electricity production, and coal, which represents around 30 per cent.

As of 2020, solar power is the most common type of renewable energy in Japan, having overtaken hydroelectric as new solar fields were built after the 2011 disaster. Power production from wind and biomass is also increasing, and Japan is investing in research into green hydrogen, a clean fuel when made through renewable energy.

Nuclear controversy

The proportion of Japan's energy generated through nuclear power remains very low, at less than four per cent, compared with a quarter before the 2011 disaster.—AFP ■

Hundreds flee their homes as Indonesian volcano erupts

INDONESIA'S Mount Merapi unleashed a torrent of hot clouds, turning the sky a fiery red, as molten lava flowed down its slopes on Thursday with the eruption forcing over 250 people to flee their homes, authorities said.

The volcano — one of the most active in the world — erupted multiple times overnight, spewing gas, volcanic ash and rocks that flowed over five kilometres down its slopes, the head of Indonesia's National Disaster Management and Mitigation Agency said.

"Due to the avalanches of hot clouds and ash, 253 people took shelter," Abdul Muhari said in a statement.

Residents have been told

to steer clear of an area spanning a seven-kilometre radius surrounding Merapi's crater over warnings of lava and airborne volcanic material, Muhari added.

Hot clouds and smoke from the eruption blotted out the sky in parts of the densely-populated Java Island, near Indonesia's cultural capital Yogyakarta.

Mount Merapi is on its second-highest alert level since November 2020 after showing renewed activity.

Its last major eruption in 2010 killed more than 300 people and forced the evacuation of around 280,000 residents from surrounding areas.—AFP ■



File photo shows smoke spewing from Mount Merapi as seen from Kaliurang in Sleman district, Yogyakarta. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

First pig heart transplant patient dies after two months



This handout photo released by the University of Maryland School of Medicine on 10 January 2022 shows surgeons performing a transplant of a heart from a genetically modified pig to patient David Bennett, Sr. **PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE/AFP/FILE**

THE first person to receive a heart transplant from a genetically modified pig has died two months after the medical mile-

stone, the hospital that carried out the surgery said Wednesday.

The procedure raised hopes that advances in cross-species

organ donation could one day solve the chronic shortage of human organs available for donation, and the team behind the operation say they are "optimistic" about its future success.

David Bennett, 57, had received his transplant on 7 January and passed away 8 March, the University of Maryland Medical System said in a statement.

"There was no obvious cause identified at the time of his death," a hospital spokesman told AFP, adding that physicians were carrying out a review that would be published in a scientific journal.

Muhammad Mohiuddin, director of the university's cardiac xenotransplantation programme, did however say in a video statement that Bennett was having "infectious episodes".—AFP ■

Organs have their own pace of aging, a Chinese study finds

PEOPLE are aging constantly, but individual organs have their own pace. The study published on Wednesday in the journal *Cell Reports* reported multiple "clocks" within the human body. An international team led by Chinese scientists measured the varying biological ages of his or her organ

systems. They found that the biological ages of different organs and systems are not always in synchro, although healthy weight and physical fitness are expected to have a positive impact.

Having a more diverse gut microbiota indicates a younger gut, the study finds. However, it

means a negative impact on the aging of the kidneys, which the investigators supposed that the diversity of species causes the kidneys to do more work. Such inconsistency demonstrates the existence of multiple "clocks" throughout the whole body, according to the study.—Xinhua ■

Digitalization helps floral industry in Yunnan thrive

By Shen Jingran, People's Daily

ZHANG Haibei, a flower farmer in Kaiyuan city, southwest China's Yunnan province, lately equipped his flower greenhouse with smart devices.

"These are not light bulbs, but intelligent sensors. Now my greenhouse is a digital greenhouse," said Zhang, holding one of the smart devices that look just like little lamps.

Since these intelligent sensors were installed in various corners of his greenhouse, he has been able to monitor in real-time the temperature, humidity, soil fertility and other factors in the greenhouse through a mini-programme on his mobile phone.

In May 2021, the national modern agricultural industrial park in Kaiyuan city put into operation a digital platform covering the entire flower industry chain, in a bid to help 10 flower growers who've been engaged in flower cultivation for a trial period, including Zhang, and 25 flower companies in the industrial park.

"The platform offers us precision planting formulas, which

clearly specify how much water and light the flowers need. Thanks to the platform, the quality of my chrysanthemums have climbed from C-level to A-level, and my income has risen by over 40 per cent," Zhang said.

"The platform is able to monitor the environment of greenhouse in real-time and provide precision planting plans based on actual conditions. For flower companies engaged in large-scale production, the technology-empowered link can save nearly 400,000 yuan (\$63,236) in labour costs per year," said Chu Yuan, a technician at the industrial park.

The platform also provides flower farmers and companies with services concerning many other links of the flower industry chain, including research and development, sale, transportation, and after-sales service, Chu added.

In recent years, Kaiyuan city has vigorously implemented a "digital village" pilot project to promote the application of digital technologies in rural areas,



A worker picks chrysanthemums at a greenhouse at the national modern agricultural industrial park in Kaiyuan city, southwest China's Yunnan province, 8 Dec 2021. These chrysanthemums have been sold to Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and other Chinese cities, and some have been exported to Japan and South Korea. (Photo by Zhang Hongke/People's Daily Online)

under which it has continuously enhanced the role of digital technologies in its flower industry, extending the employment of relevant technologies from precision planting to comprehensive services covering the entire industry chain.

In January 2021, the national modern agricultural industrial park in Kaiyuan city was recognized as one of the third batches of the national-level modern agricultural industrial park in China.

The application of digital technologies has made it possible to trace each link of the production and supply of every batch of flowers, including the source of seedlings and seeds, cultivation, management, post-harvest treatment, packaging, as well as storage and transportation, Chu pointed out.

The platform enables flower growers and companies to discover flawed flowers in time

and locate related problems in the production and supply chains, thus preventing mould growth and enhancing product quality control, Chu added.

The platform also plays a part in after-sales service. Through a management system empowered by digital technologies, users of the platform are able to identify accurately and rectify the problems in production according to customers' complaints, which makes up for the inadequacies in production management in the past which relied entirely on manual work.

So far, industrial data collected from the industrial park over the past nearly five years has been uploaded onto the platform.

Based on comprehensive analysis, the platform can regulate the planting ratios of flower varieties in different areas as well as their production time and yield more timely and flex-

ibly and help realize flexible production, Chu said.

If a type of rose sells very well recently, the platform will calculate the difference between the time when different batches of flowers hit the market, estimate their sales, and then make suggestions to ensure that flowers reach the market at a proper time, said Chu, who explained that in this way the platform helps flower growers and companies to make scientific decisions.

In the future, digital agriculture platforms will be integrated into such links as production, research and development, and sale of the industrial chain of many other industries so that industrial digitalization will be turned into a "golden key" to rural vitalization, said Ma Chao, head of Kaiyuan municipal agriculture and rural affairs bureau, who is full of expectations toward the future.



A worker takes care of cherry tomato seedlings at a digital agriculture demonstration park in Suining county, Xuzhou city, east China's Jiangsu province, 22 Feb 2022. (Photo by Sun Jingxian/People's Daily Online)

New Zealand tourism recovery faces great challenges amid phased border reopening

AFTER nearly two year's border closure, the year of 2022 is the reopening of Tourism industry in New Zealand as the government signalled, "but it will still be bumpy road ahead", Head of Tourism New Zealand Rene de Monchy told Xinhua on Thursday.

New Zealand government removed COVID-19 isolation requirements, one of the biggest obstacles for tourism recovery,

for full-vaccinated Kiwis from early March and the policy is expected to cover eligible international travellers later this year.

According to the government's current five-step phased plan, eligible work visa and student visa holders will be allowed to enter the country with no quarantine requirement by April, and international visitors from all over the world are free to come to New Zealand no later

by October.

Tourism was one of the pillar industries for New Zealand economy, but it was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic in the past two years with tourism operators even describing the state of their industry as decimated.

Lisa Li, managing director of China Travel Service NZ, whose business mainly depends on tourists from China, said her

company is fortunate to maintain one third of its workforce after two years of struggling. However, most of the travel agencies now are short of experienced staff.

For Tourism New Zealand, part of their plans was a ramp up in travel trade with the organization training up to 80,000 travel agents to ensure the promotion of New Zealand in post-COVID era, he said.

However, the question remains when and how many of the international travellers will come back.

Before 2020 when the pandemic hit the country, New Zealand is a popular destination for global tourists with Australia, China and the United States being the top three international markets for the country's tourism sector, according to De Monchy.— Xinhua

NEWS
IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka restricts 'luxuries' as forex crisis worsens

Sri Lanka on Wednesday tightened restrictions on a wide range of imports from whisky to kitchen appliances as a foreign exchange shortage pushed the economy to the brink of collapse.

An import ban was already introduced in March 2020 on big-ticket items such as cars in an effort by the government to stop the outflow of dollars needed to pay Sri Lanka's debts.

Under the new regulations, 350 items that the government considers luxuries, including apples, grapes and oranges cannot be freely imported.

Chocolates, cheese and pasta will also not be allowed unless the government grants an exception.

The measures came two days after the government devalued the local currency by nearly 15 per cent against the US dollar in a desperate bid to attract more dollars through remittances.—AFP ■

Russian inflation strikes six-year high

CONSUMER price inflation in Russia, which has been accelerating for months, hit a six-year high in February, Russia's national statistics agency said Wednesday. The 9.15 per cent annual inflation rate recorded last month by Rosstat was also the first time it has exceeded nine percent since January 2016. Food prices were up nearly 11.5 per cent on an annual basis. The inflation rate is more than double the four per cent target of the Russian central bank and the data does not yet include the effect of Western sanctions imposed on Russia over Ukraine.

High inflation has already hit the purchasing power of Russians, who have little savings, and proved a headache for the authorities in recent months.—AFP ■

Biden orders work to begin on future digital dollar



The world's largest economy will join more than 100 countries that are exploring or have launched pilot programmes with their own central bank digital currency, including China's digital yuan.
PHOTO: AFP

PRESIDENT Joe Biden on Wednesday ordered government agencies to begin work on creating a digital US dollar, weighing the risks and benefits of a move that could be a game changer for the global financial system.

Coming amid the explosive rise of private crypto currencies like bitcoin, the US effort will place "the highest urgency on research and development efforts into the potential design and deployment options of a United States" digital currency, according to an executive order signed by Biden.

"A United States CBDC may have the potential to support efficient and low-cost transactions, particularly for cross border funds transfers and payments, and to foster greater access to the financial system," the order said, adding it could also be less risky than private digital assets. CBDC stands for central bank digital currency.

The world's largest economy will join more than 100 countries that are exploring or have launched pilot programmes with their own central bank digital currency, including China's digital yuan.—AFP ■

Japan's imported wheat price to hit 14-yr high amid Ukraine crisis



Customers buy Christmas cakes at a Ginza Cozy Corner cake shop in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

JAPAN'S farm ministry said Wednesday it will raise the average price at which it sells imported wheat to the country's milling companies by 17.3 per cent from April, nearing a 14-year high, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine stokes fears of global supply disruptions.

The average price of five major wheat brands will be 72,530 yen (\$626) per tonne in the April-September period, the second-highest level since the current calculation

methods were adopted in 2007, following 76,030 yen marked in the six months from October 2008, according to the ministry.

The third straight sixth-month period of hikes is almost certain to be another blow to many consumers in Japan, which is highly dependent on imports for its food and energy needs.

As consumers brace for various price increases in the coming months, due to reasons ranging from the coronavirus

pandemic to the yen's depreciation, the average wheat price will be about 50 per cent higher for the April-September period than the six months from October 2020.

Poor harvests in the United States and Canada last summer led to a price spike in the global market, while the crisis in Ukraine, a major wheat exporter, added to the problem, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.—Kyodo ■

Egypt vows to keep food prices in fair range amid Russia-Ukraine crisis

EGYPTIAN Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly on Wednesday pledged to keep food prices in the fair range amid the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

"We coordinate with the chambers of commerce to ensure food commodities at

fair prices and to avoid any kind of exaggeration," Madbouly told a press conference also attended by ministers of supply, agriculture, trade and industry, and finance.

The Russian-Ukrainian crisis has "negative repercussions and effects" on all

countries including Egypt, the prime minister said, citing worldwide waves of inflation as confirmed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

However, the Egyptian government focuses on ways to absorb the most part of such inflationary waves and let the citizens face the least part, he noted. While the flour price in Egypt increased by 9 per cent before the crisis and 17 per cent after the crisis, it hiked by 48 per cent on the global level, Madbouly said.

Although the price of cooking oil increased by 10 per cent in Egypt, its global increase reached 32 per cent, he added. Egypt is the largest wheat importer in the world, with the biggest portion coming from Russia and Ukraine.—Xinhua ■



Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly on Wednesday pledged to keep food prices in the fair range amid the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. A market in Cairo. **PHOTO: AFP**

Tour guides in India's Mumbai keep fingers crossed for post-pandemic reopening

TOUR guides in India's financial capital Mumbai are keenly looking forward to the inflow of tourists when the city is set to reopen for normal operations in a post-pandemic era.

For Shailesh Mulay, a tour guide from Mumbai for over two decades, the inbound tourism industry has seen a very tiny flicker of hope with some business travellers opting to do short sightseeing trips within Mumbai since November.

"However, the inbound leisure travellers are yet to be seen," Mulay said.

Mumbai has eased COVID-19 restrictions since February, with mask-wearing and social distancing still required. On 1 Feb, the city allowed



The Gateway of India is an arch-monument built in the early 20th century in the city of Mumbai, also known as Bombay, India. PHOTO: WILLFLYFORFOOD/AFP

beaches, gardens and parks to stay open as per normal timing before the advent of COVID-19 while restrictions such as night

curfews were also lifted.

The city with a population of 1.8 billion now has reported just over 1,000 active patients with a re-

covery rate of 98 per cent, with only 721 of 36,201 beds at COVID care centres being occupied, according to official data.—Xinhua ■

Bayer sells pest control unit for \$2.6 bn

GERMAN chemicals and pharmaceuticals giant Bayer said Thursday it has agreed to sell its pest control unit to British private equity firm Cinven for \$2.6 billion (2.4 billion euros).

Bayer had announced last year its intention to offload its US-based unit, Environmental Science Professional.

"This divestment represents a very attractive purchase price and allows us to focus on our core agricultural business," said Rodrigo Santos, head of Bayer's Crop Science division.

Environmental Science Professional offers solutions to control pests, diseases and weeds in non-agricultural areas, including professional pest management, forestry and gardens.

The subsidiary has 800 employees and operates in more than 100 countries, with 600 million euros in turnover.

Bayer said it expects the transaction to be completed in the second half of this year, with proceeds to be used to reduce the group's net financial debt.

Bayer's debt has



German chemicals and pharmaceuticals giant Bayer said Thursday it has agreed to sell its pest control unit to British private equity firm Cinven for \$2.6 billion (2.4 billion euros). PHOTO: JOSH EDELSON/AFP

grown in recent years as it has been plagued by legal woes since it bought Monsanto in 2018.

It has faced a flood of cases in US courts by

cancer patients who say the glyphosate chemical in the Roundup weedkiller caused them to fall ill. Bayer rejects the accusations.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cathay Pacific slashes loss to \$703 mn from \$2.76 bn in 2020

HONG Kong carrier Cathay Pacific on Wednesday posted a loss of just over US\$703 million for last year, a massive improvement on the record loss suffered in 2020 even as the airline struggled with tough travel restrictions.

Chairman Patrick Healy said the company "continued to face serious challenges" and the overall loss for the year was "substantial" despite a considerable improvement in the second half. Cathay's result was a vast improvement from its record losses of HK\$21.6 billion (\$2.8 billion) in 2020, which Healy described as the "most challenging" year in the airline's seven-decade history.—AFP ■

Huawei takes leap into future with Hungarian supply centre

HUNGARY is moving closer to the forefront of 5G technology advances, with the completion of digitization at Huawei's European Supply Centre (ESC) plant in Paty, 20km west of Budapest, the capital of Hungary. This development will enable a number of 5G-based Industry 4.0 solutions to support the logistics and manufacturing centre, the company said here on Monday. Hundreds of millions of forints have been invested in self-driving transport vehicles, and augmented reality artificial intelligence-controlled image processing. This will also help with logistics, manufacturing and quality control tasks, Huawei said.—Xinhua ■

Voluntary Winding-up & Appointment of a Liquidator for MYANMAR RIEI COMPANY LTD (Reg.107104909) as per Section 147(a) (ii), Section 152(a) of Insolvency Law 2020 and Article 9, Article 15 of Insolvency Rule

MYANMAR RIEI COMPANY LTD. (Established on 1/09/2016) which is located at No.114-B(Ground Floor), 92nd Street, Kandawkalay, MingalarTaungNyunt Township, Yangon Region, was decided to Wind Up by Special Decision of Board of Directors at B.O.D Special Meeting:

1. According to Section 147(a) (ii) of Insolvency Law, to wind up voluntarily dated on 31.3.2022 by Special Resolution of Board of Directors.
2. According to Section 152(a) of Insolvency Law and Article 9 and Article 15(a) of Insolvency Rule, to appoint a Liquidator, Khin Mar Htay who is a Senior Advocate from KhinMar Htay Law Firm which is located at No. 85(R.7)(Hledan Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon Region), a member of Myanmar Association of Insolvency Practitioners Inc. (membership no.00095 of MAIP) for the purpose of winding up the company's affair and distributing its property and assigned at legally power till resolves the liquidation of the Company.

Liquidator of Myanmar RIEI Company LIMITED (Process of Directors' Voluntary Winding Up)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (242N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (242N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-3-2022** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GUANG PING VOY.NO. (051N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GUANG PING VOY.NO. (051N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-3-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (188W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (188W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-3-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Israel's president lands in Turkey aiming to 'restart' ties

ISRAEL'S president landed in Ankara on Wednesday to meet Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the first visit by an Israeli head of state since 2007, as the countries seek to mend fractured ties.

President Isaac Herzog's visit to the Turkish capital and Istanbul was planned weeks before Russia invaded Ukraine, but the conflict could feature at the talks, with both Israel and Turkey playing mediation roles in recent days.

But bilateral issues are likely to dominate following more than a decade of diplomatic rupture between the Jewish state and majority Muslim Turkey, a vocal supporter of the Palestinian cause.

"We will not agree on everything, and the relationship between Israel and Turkey has certainly known ups and downs and not-so-simple moments in recent years," Herzog said before departing.

"But we shall try to restart

our relations and build them in a measured and cautious manner," he added.

Major issues on the agenda for the two-day trip will likely include gas sales to Europe, a topic that has acquired added urgency amid the Ukraine conflict.

Relations froze after the death of 10 civilians following an Israeli raid on the Turkish Mavi Marmara ship, part of a flotilla trying to breach a blockade by carrying aid into the Gaza Strip in 2010.—AFP ■



Israel's President Isaac Herzog waves as he departs for an official visit to Turkey, as the countries seek to mend fractured ties. PHOTO: AFP

President-elect Yoon vows to build future-oriented ties with Japan

SOUTH Korean President-elect Yoon Suk Yeol of the country's conservative main opposition People Power Party vowed Thursday to build a future-oriented relationship with Japan, its neighbour with which ties have been strained over war-time issues.

"South Korea-Japan relations especially need to focus on finding what kind of future movement would benefit both countries and the people of the two countries," Yoon told reporters in Seoul hours after defeating the ruling Democratic Party's Lee Jae Myung in a tight race, which was confirmed by the National Election Commission.

Seoul and Tokyo have been at odds due to several issues stemming from Japan's 1910-



South Korea's new president-elect Yoon Suk Yeol (C) of the main opposition People Power Party gestures to his supporters as he is congratulated outside the party headquarters in Seoul on 10 March 2022. PHOTO: JUNG YEON-JE / AFP

1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula, including compensation for South Koreans who were forced to work at Japanese

companies and military brothels before and during the war, as well as issues over export controls.—Kyodo ■

N. Korea's spy satellites aimed at collecting info on US military

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un has pledged to develop reconnaissance satellites to collect information on military

activities by the United States and its allies including Japan and South Korea, state-run media reported Thursday.

North Korea said it launched a spy satellite on 27 Feb and another one last Saturday, with Kim vowing that Pyongyang would secure reconnaissance and information-gathering abilities through operation of satellite systems. The report by the official Korean Central News Agency came a day after South Korea's presidential election, won by Yoon Suk Yeol of the main opposition People Power Party.

During an inspection of the National Aerospace Development Administration, Kim said military reconnaissance satellites would be put into Sun-synchronous polar orbit during the term of a five-year plan first announced last year, according to the news agency.—Kyodo ■



North Korea said it launched a spy satellite on 27 Feb and another one last Saturday, with Kim vowing that Pyongyang would secure reconnaissance and information-gathering abilities through operation of satellite systems. People watch a TV showing a file image of North Korea's missile launch during a news programme at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea on Saturday. PHOTO: YONHAP/AFP

LATEST ON RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia says 'some progress' being made in talks with Ukraine

UKRAINE and Russia officials have been meeting on the Belarus-Poland border for talks to end fighting.

Zakharova said another round of talks will be focused on humanitarian corridors to evacuate civilians. She also said Moscow does not intend to occupy Ukraine or overthrow its government.

The army's aim is "not to occupy Ukraine, or the destruction of its statehood, or the overthrow of the government. It is not directed against the civilian population," Zakharova said.

President Vladimir Putin has said he sent in troops to Ukraine in order to "de-Nazify" the country.

Since Russian troops went in on 24 February, they have advanced into the country and shelled Ukraine's main cities, forcing thousands to flee.—AFP ■

China blames NATO for pushing Russia-Ukraine tension to 'breaking point'

MOVES by US led NATO have pushed tension between Russia and Ukraine to a "breaking point", Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said on Wednesday (9 March). At a daily news briefing, he urged the United States to take China's concerns seriously and avoid undermining its rights or interests in handling the Ukraine issue and ties with Russia. The Chinese Red Cross will also provide a batch of humanitarian assistance worth 5 million yuan (\$791,540) to Ukraine, consisting of daily necessities, Zhao added.

Russia's invasion into Ukraine last month has sent over 1.5 million Ukrainians fleeing abroad while those remaining in the encircled Ukrainian town of Mariupol were fast running out of electricity, heat, food, and drinking water after more than a week of bombardment.—AFP ■

New evacuation routes in Ukraine

UKRAINIAN Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said Moscow vowed to respect the truce from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm around six areas that have been heavily hit by fighting.

Vereshchuk said Ukraine has had a "negative experience" of ceasefires not being respected, adding that residents had asked Russia to "keep its promises".

One of the evacuation routes is from Sumy, where some 5,000 civilians were able to escape on Tuesday, with some 60 buses able to leave the stricken town east of Kyiv near the Russian border, officials said.

For the first time the corridors also include Irpin, Bucha and Gostomel, a cluster of towns on the northwestern outskirts of Kyiv that have been largely occupied by Russian forces.

"I didn't want to leave, but there's nobody left in the homes around us, no water, no gas and no electricity," Larissa Prokopets, 43, told AFP on Tuesday.—AFP ■

Putin, Scholz discuss Ukraine crisis over phone

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz held a phone conversation on Wednesday to explore political and diplomatic efforts towards a possible settlement of the Ukraine crisis.

Putin and Scholz discussed the results of the third round of negotiations between the Russian and Ukrainian delegations, the Kremlin said in a statement.

The leaders also paid special attention to humanitarian issues arising from the current situation, it said, adding that Putin briefed Scholz about measures taken to organize humanitarian



Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz attend a press conference following their meeting over Ukraine security at the Kremlin, in Moscow, on 15 February 2022. PHOTO: MIKHAIL KLIMENTYEV / SPUTNIK / AFP

corridors for the evacuation of civilians. The two leaders agreed to continue contacts at various levels.—Xinhua ■

Russia-Ukraine conflict has champagne corks quietly popping in Pentagon: former US official



Staff members provide living necessities to people from Ukraine at Berlin Central Train Station in Berlin, capital of Germany, 3 March 2022. PHOTO: STEFAN ZEITZ/XINHUA

THE military conflict between Russia and Ukraine “has the champagne corks quietly popping in the Pentagon, on K Street, in the defence indus-

try, and throughout the halls of Congress,” wrote Franklin C. Spinney, a former military analyst for the Pentagon, in a recent commentary.

“Taxpayers are going to be paying for their party for a long time,” Spinney wrote in the article entitled “How the Narcotic of Defence Spending Undermines a Sensible Grand Strategy” published on Wednesday in his blog post.

“It is no accident that the United States is on the cusp of the Second Cold War,” he added.

Time Magazine called Spinney a “Pentagon Maverick” on a cover in 1983. Spinney served as an analyst in the Pentagon’s Office of Programme Analysis and Evaluation, and in this capacity, he exposed and decried the overinflated military spending and appeared as a witness in many congressional hearings.—Xinhua ■

Ukrainian president urges talks to end conflict with Russia

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky has called for negotiations aimed at resolving the conflict with Russia, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported Wednesday.

“The war must end. We must sit down at the negotiating table,” Zelensky was quoted as saying. The talks should be “honest, objective, in the interests of the people,” he said in a video message on Tuesday night.

Ukrainian and Russian delegations have held three rounds of peace talks in Belarus since last week, though the negotiations ended without a significant



A Ukrainian soldier sits by the road in Irpin, Ukraine, on 4 March 2022. PHOTO: DIEGO HERRERA/XINHUA

breakthrough.

On Thursday, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kule-

ba is set to meet his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, in Turkey.—Xinhua ■

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Top Russia, Ukraine diplomats arrive in Turkey for talks

THE foreign ministers of Russia and Ukraine have arrived in Turkey for face-to-face talks set for Thursday morning, officials said, in the first high-level contact between the two sides since Moscow invaded its ex-Soviet neighbour.

Officials from Kyiv and Moscow have held several rounds of discussions in Belarus, but the meeting in the southern city of Antalya represents the first time Russia has sent a minister for talks on the crisis.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba had landed in Antalya for talks “on Russia ceasing its hostilities and ending its war against Ukraine,” foreign ministry spokesperson Oleg Nikolenko tweeted Wednesday evening.

His Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov has also arrived for the talks, a Turkish official told AFP.—AFP ■

Ukraine crisis to dominate EU leaders’ Versailles summit

EU leaders will scramble Thursday to find ways to urgently address the fallout of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine that has imperilled the bloc’s economy and exposed a dire need for a stronger defence.

The meeting at the Versailles palace was set to be the high point of France’s six-month EU presidency, but President Emmanuel Macron will instead spearhead a crisis summit to answer Russian leader Vladimir Putin’s brutal disruption to decades of stability in Europe.

“Russia’s war of aggression constitutes a tectonic shift in European history,” a draft of the two-day meeting’s final declaration said.

The leaders will grasp “how the EU can live up to its responsibilities in this new reality, protecting our citizens, values, democracies, and our European model”.—AFP ■

Chernobyl nuclear plant disconnected from power grid

THE Ukrainian state-run energy company Ukrenergo said Wednesday that the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in northern Ukraine has been disconnected from the power grid.

“The nuclear power plant in Chernobyl was fully disconnected from the power grid. The nuclear station has no power supply,” Ukrenergo said in a statement on Telegram.

Military actions in the area are in progress so there is no possibility to restore the power lines, it said.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba on Twitter called on the international community to press an urgent demand that Russia cease fire and allow repair units to restore the power supply to the nuclear power plant.

“Reserve diesel generators have a 48-hour capacity to power the Chernobyl NPP (Nuclear Power Plant). After that, cooling systems of the storage facility for spent nuclear fuel will stop, making radiation leaks imminent,” Kuleba tweeted.—Xinhua ■

In DR Congo, UN’s Ukrainian peacekeepers waiting to leave

NO one in Goma, in the troubled east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, is surprised at the imminent departure of the Ukrainian contingent of the UN peacekeepers.

“Their home is burning,” said Rede Kibanda, who lives next to the UN base where the blue and yellow of a large, Ukrainian flag are painted on the wall of the compound.

“Let the Ukrainians return to defend their country,” he added. “It’s normal.”

The United Nations said on Tuesday that Ukraine wanted to repatriate its peacekeepers following Russia’s invasion at the end of last month.

That includes the 250-strong contingent at the Goma base, serving as part of the 15,000-strong UN Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo (MONUSCO).—AFP ■

Aung Phyto loses in knockout stage of World Snooker Championship

MYANMAR snooker player Aung Phyto lost in the knockout stages of the 2022 World Snooker Championships in Qatar on the morning of 9 March.

Aung Phyto advanced to the second round after the group stage, where he met Pakistan's Mohammad Asif in the knockout stages and lost 4-2.

Aung Phyto was disconnected from international competitions for a long time but tried his best but lost.

Two Myanmar snooker players competed in the competition, with Aung Phyto losing to Round of 32 and Win Ko Ko eliminating from the group stage.

The two players are taking

training ahead of the Viet Nam SEA Games and have gained a lot of experience by competing in a world-class competition before the tournament. The duo will next compete in the 2022 Asian Billiards and Snooker Championships starting on 12 March, according to the sports officials.

— Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM ■

Another golden day for Austrian golden boy Aigner at Winter Paralympics



Austria's Johannes Aigner (L) and his guide Matteo Fleischmann celebrate winning the men's visually impaired giant slalom. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE 16-year-old Johannes Aigner, who comes from a family of competitive alpine skiers, bagged his second gold at the Beijing Winter Paralympics as the Ukraine team honoured their country's fallen Thursday.

The visually impaired Austrian teenager and his guide Matteo Fleischmann zipped across the finish line to claim their category in the men's giant slalom.

Earlier this week they won

gold in the downhill, silver in the super combined and bronze in the super-G visually impaired events. Alpine skiing is a family affair for Aigner. His twin sister Barbara and older sister Veronica — who also have the same congenital cataract condition as their mother — will compete on Friday in the women's giant slalom. "Their technique is really good and hopefully you will see it tomorrow," Aigner told reporters at the Yanqing alpine ski centre outside Beijing.

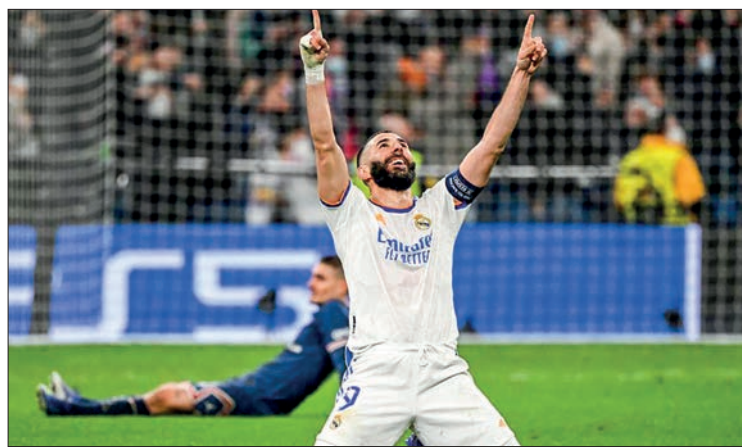
Europeans also dominated the other giant slalom categories — Norway's Jesper Pedersen triumphed in the sitting race to add a third gold medal to his collection which also includes a silver. "The feeling to be able to be free in the mountains and not locked in a wheelchair is just amazing," he said.—AFP ■

Real Madrid still alive, says Benzema as Ancelotti hails 'magical night'

KARIM Benzema said Real Madrid showed they are still "alive" by completing a thrilling comeback to defeat Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday and reach the Champions League quarter-finals. Madrid trailed 2-0 on aggregate when Kylian Mbappe put PSG in front at the Santiago Bernabeu but Benzema scored a stunning second-half hat-trick, including two goals in two minutes, to send his team through.

"Every game is a final now for us in the Champions League and La Liga but today we showed that Real Madrid is alive," Benzema said afterwards.

"We know PSG like to have the ball. We started well, we tried to score and in the second half



Karim Benzema said Real Madrid showed they are still "alive" by completing a thrilling comeback to defeat Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday and reach the Champions League quarter-finals. **PHOTO: AFP**

we won the match with our mental strength," Benzema added.

At 34 years old, Benzema is the oldest player to score a hat-trick in Champions League

history. "We won a very difficult game, which got a lot more complicated after Mbappe's goal," said Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti. —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.

Medvedev feels pressure, motivation as No. 1



Daniil Medvedev, who will contest his first tournament as world number one at the Indian Wells ATP Masters, says he's matured since his loss to Rafael Nadal in the Australian Open final. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

DANIIL Medvedev, who will contest his first tournament as world number one at the Indian Wells ATP Masters, says he's matured since his loss to Rafael Nadal in the Australian Open final. In the wake of his crushing loss to the Spanish star in Melbourne — where Nadal rallied from two sets down to win a record 21st Grand Slam title — Medvedev complained about "disrespectful" fans.

But he said Wednesday at Indian Wells that those com-

ments — which came after he was fined US\$12,000 for an outburst at the chair umpire in his semi-final win over Stefanos Tsitsipas — were made in the heat of the disappointing moment. "It made me mature, the Australian Open," the 26-year-old said. "I understood I had a lot to work on myself." Medvedev officially ascended to world number one on 28 February — days after his rise was assured when Novak Djokovic fell in the quarter-finals at Dubai.—AFP ■