

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 24 March 2022

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.

Classification of disabilities and registration process will cover Pobbathiri, Hlinethaya, Nyaunglebin and Hpa-an townships for providing necessary assistance to the persons with disabilities in regions and states: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the 1/2022 meeting of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 March 2022.

MEMBERS of the national committee need to implement the national strategy (2022-2027) for the rights of the persons with disabilities through goodwill

and sympathy, said Chairman of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior Gen-

eral Soe Win at the 1/2022 meeting of the national committee at the hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Vice-Sen-

ior General said the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is making efforts to approve the national strategy (2022-2027) for the rights of the persons with disabilities under

the guidance of the national committee, classifying the disabilities and registering the persons with disabilities and publishing the second annual report of the

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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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 24/2022

7th Waning of Taboung 1383 ME
23 March 2022

Appointment and Duty-Assignment of Chief Justices of Region/State High Courts

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned the following persons to the duties of Chief Justices of Region/State High Courts shown against each of their names under Section 419 of the State Constitution.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Daw Khin Swe Tun | Kayin State High Court |
| (2) Daw Sanda Thwe | Yangon Region High Court |

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 25/2022

7th Waning of Taboung 1383 ME
23 March 2022

Appointment and Duty-Assignment of Judges of Region/State High Courts

The State Administration Council has appointed and assigned the following persons to the duties of Judges of Region/State High Courts shown against each of their names under Section 419 of the State Constitution.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) U Nyunt Lin | Kayin State High Court |
| (2) Daw Nu Nu Khin | Yangon Region High Court |
| (3) U Than Oo Lwin | Shan State High Court |

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Classification of disabilities and registration process ...

FROM PAGE-1

national committee in Myanmar and English. The five-year strategy will be approved soon in line with the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan-MSDP and the ASEAN Enabling Master plan: 2025.

Classification of disabilities and registration process will cover Pobbathiri, Hlinethaya, Nyaunglebin and Hpa-an townships for providing necessary assistance to the persons with disabilities in regions and states. The 2014 census proved that there were 2.3 million disabled persons, accounting for 4.6 per cent of the total population.

Experiences from the pilot project will be applied in covering the classification of disabilities and registration in the relevant regions and states in the 2022-23 financial year through the coop-

eration of relevant governments, organizations for the disabilities and social organizations.

The second annual report on persons with disabilities will be submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. So, it is necessary to translate the report into English.

In accord with the theme of the International Day of Disabled Persons marked on 3 December 2021 "Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world", emphasis is being placed on the improvement of the role of those with disabilities.

It is necessary for those with disabilities to have the chance for attending the vocational training courses conducted by the Ministry of Border Affairs, the Ministry of Cooperatives and

Rural Development, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Science and Technology. The national committee has an obligation to create jobs for those with disabilities.

The fund of K3 billion for persons with disabilities was set up to cooperate with the microfinance institutes in the post-COVID-19 period. The Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement are to draw the work plan for the disabled persons to do businesses of microfinance institutes.

Nay Pyi Taw Myoma market and Water Fountain Park are set as barrier-free communities for persons with disabilities. Region and state governments need to implement similar communities in their areas.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism needs to join hands with relevant ministries and organizations for those with disabilities in drawing the work plan to implement the Myanmar Barrier-Free Tourism Pilot Project in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Yangon and Mandalay regions and Bagan.

Vice-Chair of the national committee Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine reported on rights of the persons with disabilities and the socio-economic development of disabled persons.

Secretary Deputy Minister U Aung Tun Khaing presented accomplishments for the decisions of the national committee meeting 2/2020.

Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing, deputy ministers and

officials gave reports on rights of the persons with disabilities.

The secretary reported on earmarked meeting decisions in the 1/2022 meeting of the national committee.

In his conclusion, the Vice-Senior General said members of the national committee need to implement the national strategy (2022-2027) for the rights of persons with disabilities with goodwill and sympathy. All ministries and members of the national committee are to participate in handing down the highest and most severe sentences to those who violate disabled persons through effective jurisdiction. The organizations of rule of law and judicial bodies are to finish the jurisdiction as quickly as possible for transport and monetary limits of the disabled persons. — MNA

267 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 23 March, total figure rises to 609,915

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **609,915** after **267** new cases were reported on 23 March 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **566,375** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **19,428** after **1** died.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 22-3-2022, a total of **26,000,700** people have been vaccinated. Of them, **21,701,842** people have been fully vaccinated and **4,298,858** people are yet to get the second shots.—MNA

The right of citizens can only be claimed if there is no destructive elements

- Individual human rights include respect for each other; Appreciation is the most important thing. Citizens can also claim their rights if they have a country.
- Despite the destruction of the country, there is no example in the world that protects the rights of individual citizens. The right of citizens can only be claimed if there is no destructive elements.

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

Military columns join full-dressed rehearsal ahead of 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

THE military columns that will take part in the 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade on 27 March participated in the full-dressed rehearsal at the Nay Pyi Taw parade ground yesterday morning.

During the military parade, Anawrahta Column, Kyansitha Column, Bayintnaung Column, Aung Zeya Column, Hsinbyushin Column, Bandoola Column and Aung San Column marched from the Thittat parade ground to the Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground to the accompaniment of the military band singing and marching in unison.

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo,



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspects the rehearsing military columns in full uniform yesterday.



Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Armed Forces Day Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Chairman of the Armed Forces Day Organizing Management Committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-

Gen Zaw Hein, and officials inspected the rehearsal, and Vice-Senior General Soe Win attended to the needs.

The military parade comprised officers and other ranks from the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and the Myanmar Police Force, female service personnel, Navy SEALs, members of the Tatmadaw (Army) armoured Corps, members of the Tatmadaw (Navy) mechanized troops and aircraft and helicopters from the Tatmadaw (Air). — MNA

77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade event to be broadcast live

THE celebration of the 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade which will be held on 27 March at the Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground will be broadcast live on MWD Channel, MWD Variety Channel and MRTV Channel starting from 4:45 am on 27 March. — MNA

Bank Holiday

ALL Banks will be closed on 1st (Friday) April 2022 “BANK HOLIDAY”, under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses Scrutiny Committee Meeting on Conferring Honorary Titles, Medals



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win chairs the Scrutiny Committee Meeting on Conferring Honorary Titles and Medals in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

PATRON of Scrutiny Committee on Conferring the Honorary Titles and Medals Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivered an address at the meeting of the committee regarding the honorary titles and medals

to be conferred on 27 March 2022 at the meeting hall of the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Soe Htut, U Win Shein and Dr Thida Oo, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing, the permanent

secretaries and officials of ministries concerned.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General said there is a plan to confer the honorary titles and medals after the Armed Forces Day Ceremony to be held on 27 March. According to the protocols, the released

lists of honorary titles and medals must be awarded on Independence Day, 2024. But, while the government is maintaining to achieve a firm democratic system of the country, there are government employees who have all shown their sense of duty in operations, sacrificed

their lives and been injured seriously. Therefore, the meeting is held at present to award those who have deserved them by holding the grand ceremony on Diamond Jubilee Independence Day for 2023.

The committee should work hard not to leave anyone for any strata in conferring the honorary titles and medals.

Then, Secretary of the Scrutiny Committee Maj-Gen Soe Tint Naing briefed all on the work procedures of the committee and committee member Vice Adjutant-General explained the military honorary titles and medals.

The attendees discussed giving honorary titles and medals to the government employees who were injured or dead while serving duties and the Vice-Senior General concluded the meeting after giving the proper instructions. — MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Interfaith Friendship Committee (Central) Statement

7th Waning of Taboung 1383 ME
23 March 2022

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar Interfaith Friendship Committee (Central) supports the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued on 22-3-2022, which has categorically rejected the remarks of US Secretary of State Mr Antony Blinken at the Holocaust Memorial Museum that Myanmar Tatmadaw committed genocide and crimes against humanity against the Bengali community in the northern Rakhine State.

*Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Interfaith Friendship Committee (Central)*

Reopening announcement for cinemas on 17 April 2022 (Myanmar New Year Day)

THE Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11 March 2020, and as the COVID-19 infection could spread rapidly through large mass gatherings, the government announced to close cinemas in Myanmar starting 16 March 2020.

At present, as the COVID-19 positivity rate, infection rate and mortality rate have dropped significantly, it is here announced that about 60 cinemas will be reopened on 17 April 2022 (Myanmar New Year Day) as a first phase following the standard operating procedures-SOP for cinemas drafted by the Ministry of Health.

*Ministry of Information
(23-3-2022)*

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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gnlmnews@gmail.com
www.gnlm.com.mm

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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.

Myancopharm COVID-19 vaccine launched in Yangon

THE launch ceremony of the Myancopharm COVID-19 vaccine was held yesterday morning at Pharmaceutical Factory Branch (Ywathagyi) in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region.

The ceremony was attended by Secretary of the State Administration Council Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Commander of the Yangon Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe, Deputy Ministers for Industry U Ko Ko Lwin and U Yin Maung Nyunt, the Yangon region cabinet ministers, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Chan Hai, invitees and officials.

At the meeting, SAC Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe said efforts are being made to have



The SAC Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe views the production process of the Myancopharm COVID-19 vaccine.

100 per cent COVID-19 vaccination coverage for those who need to be vaccinated by April and

May. As more vaccines will be required for the booster dose, the Prime Minister instructed all to

make efforts to domestically produce COVID-19 vaccines during his visit to the Pharmaceutical

Factory Branch (Ywathagyi) on 8 October, he elaborated.

The COVID-19 vaccines produced from the Sinopharm China National Biotech Group is purchased as Ready to Fill Bulk and fill in bottles to produce Myancopharm COVID-19 vaccines. The production of the vaccine in the country will reduce the use of foreign currency, he added.

The Ministry of Industry will produce 10 million doses in the 2022-2023 financial year and is planning to use them in the public vaccination programme through the Ministry of Health. The SAC Secretary also expressed words of thanks to all stakeholders who have worked together for the production of the vaccine.

After the ceremony, the SAC Secretary, the Union ministers and officials observed the production process of the Myancopharm COVID-19 vaccine. —MNA

SAC member meets region cabinet members, departmental officials in Taninthayi Region

STATE Administration Council member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and party met the Taninthayi Region government at the Kyun Yadana meeting hall of Myeik District General Administration Department yesterday.

During the meeting, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko reported on the agricultural-related matters of the region and the departmental officials presented reports on the plantations of oil palm, cocoa and elephant foot yams. Depending on the presentations, SAC member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun

instructed the necessary things.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for Construction U Shwe Lay, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko, Commander of the Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Saw Than Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi and other relevant officials. — MNA

SAC member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun meets Taninthayi regional government and departmental personnel yesterday.



Special Envoy of ASEAN Chair leaves Myanmar

MR Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia and special envoy of ASEAN Chair left Yangon on the morning of 23 March 2022. He was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by U Kyaw Myo Htut, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Before his departure, on the morning of 22 March 2022, the special envoy, in his separate programmes, met with Representatives from the UN Specialized Agencies in Yangon and the Chairman of the People's Party.



In the afternoon, he visited the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) warehouse where humanitarian assistance such as medical equipment and sup-

plies are being kept. In the evening, he had dinner with Ambassadors and Charge' d'affaires from the ASEAN Member States. —MNA

People invited to celebrate 77th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day

PEOPLE wishing to honour the Tatmadaw parades which will march on the 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day along the way from the training ground to the military parade ground can pre-register by telephone.

People can claim their citizenship scrutiny cards by registering in person with their ID card (original) and two colour licence-sized photos on 24 and 25 March.

Please be informed that people can contact the following address.

Security Subcommittee
Nay Pyi Taw Command
Nay Pyi Taw
Phone- 032-30009

MoI discusses reopening cinemas



MoI Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn chairs the virtual coordination meeting on reopening movie theatres.

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn presided over a virtual coordination meeting on the reopening of cinemas, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, the Union Minister said despite the modernization of the internet trend, cinemas still exist in every country and some are paying more attention to the cinemas. The role of cinemas will continue to flourish in the future due to the sound system and greatness provided by the cinema.

The arts can offer pleasant

feelings and entertainment and the activities of artistes can lure the interest of the public. As people emulate the artistes they love and so the role of artistes is in direct contact with the people.

The Prime Minister recognizes the artistes as talented persons and professionals and also prioritizes the film industry.

A total of 121 cinemas — 27 State-owned cinemas run by the Information and Public Relations Department, and 94 of the cinemas sold permanently to the private, have been supervised by

the region/state governments after the management of these cinemas were handed over to the respective region and state governments starting 2 July 2018 under the 2008 Constitution and the operation completed on 24 May 2021.

The ministry also coordinated with the respective region and state governments including Nay Pyi Taw Council to take action against the buyers of 69 cinemas out of 94 cinemas as per the terms and conditions of the contracts.

The State Administration Council Chairman also instructed officials to take serious actions against the cinemas out of 94 sold permanently to the private if they do not show films according to the rules and regulations at the SAC Management Committee Meeting (3/2021) held on 11 March 2021.

The SAC Chairman gave directives not to permit the running of other businesses at the cinemas without showing the movies and strictly to supervise the filming in line with the terms and conditions of the contracts. The films are the supportive measure to motivate the public and country. The artistes are also should be encouraged as they offer motivation to the country.

The Union minister also highlighted the words of the SAC Chairman regarding the film industry development including the measures to return to the government if the operations do not run properly.

According to the replies of the region and state governments, of 94 cinemas, 25 were suspended the operations due to the outbreak of COVID-19, and among the remaining 69 cinemas, 10 are being constructed so far, 16 under the renovation while

43 do not run the operation at all.

He then talked about the importance of film industry development in showing the culture and characteristics of the country to the world and the emergence of proper cinemas for the film producers to receive incomes through their investment.

He then expressed the cooperation works with the artistes from different fields, the increase in screening movies between 2013 and 2021, development in film making industry from 2013 and 2019 and the highest numbers of movies screened at the cinemas in 2019.

He added that the cinemas will be resumed on 17 April (Myanmar New Year Day) and the efforts of individual business people will support the whole industry as well as the economic objectives of the government.

Then, the attendees to the meeting coordinated the discussion.

Finally, the Union minister stressed the necessary things and concluded the meeting.

The cinemas will resume their operations for the good sakes of artistes, business sectors and the public starting 17 April (Myanmar New Year Day). — MNA

'62nd anniversaries of World Meteorological Day (WMO)'

THE ceremony of '62nd anniversaries of World Meteorological Day (WMO)' on 23 March 2022 organized by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH), Ministry of Transport and Communications was celebrated at Nay Pyi Taw as an annual memento.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi, Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine, deputy ministers, heads of departments, departmental officials and guests.

In the opening ceremony, Union Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San delivered the opening address. The memorial

ceremony of World Meteorological Day has been celebrated annually every year of 23 March. The theme of this year 2022 is 'Early Warning and Early Action. Hydrometeorological and Climate Information for Disaster Risk Reduction'. Now, due to climate change, the weather, extremes of hydrological and climatic events are becoming more prevalent around the world, especially in the archipelago, developing countries are the most affected by climate change. Due to Global Climate Change, Myanmar is also suffering from the effects of climate change. Monsoon onset dates are late and monsoon withdrawal dates are early. So the monsoon duration is short. Previously the duration of the Southwest monsoon was 144 days. Now that the monsoon period is only 121 days, the monsoon period has been reduced by more than three weeks. The current cyclone was the first to hit Myanmar in March during



The 62nd World Meteorological Day (WMO) event in progress.



100 years period due to the current changing climate system.

Next, the message of Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, Prof. Petteri Taalas delivered for the 62nd anniversaries of World Meteorological Day was shown by video clip. Afterwards, the Union Minister for Transport and Communications awarded the first prize, the second prize and the third prize to the winners of the article contest commemorated WMO Day. After taking the

group photo, the Union Ministers accompanied by guests looked around the exhibition of modernized observation for instruments and record photos of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology's activities.

In the afternoon, there were presented research papers in relevance with Meteorological, Hydrological and Seismological subjects by resource persons from the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology and Partner Departments: Kengtung University (Depart-

ment of Geography), Yangon University (Department of Geography), Lashio University (Department of Chemistry) and Nay Pyi Taw, Agricultural Research Institute (Yezin).

The World Meteorological Organization was established in 1951. World Meteorological Day has been celebrated since 1961, and 23 March 2022 is the 62nd World Meteorological Day source by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, Ministry of Transport and Communications. — MNA

MoHT Union Minister attends virtual meeting to resume international tourism

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung attended a videoconferencing coordination meeting at the Jade Hall of the Ministry yesterday morning to prepare for resuming international tourism.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Htay Aung said that arrangements should be made to be smooth in operation for international tourists as international airlines will be allowed to resume regular flights on 17 April. Hotels are also prepared in accordance with the Health and Safety Protocol to provide health and safety services ensuring the health and safety of tourists.

“In case of any health issue, it is necessary to coordinate in advance what to do and state and region destination management organizations (DMOs) need preparations to provide safe

accommodation for tourists in their destinations,” the Union minister added.

Local orders and directives to be followed by tourists need to be issued on a prior basis. Efforts must be made to provide a wide range of information that tourists should know. He urged that the state and region branch officials should discuss and make suggestions on the issues to be facilitated when international tourists visit Myanmar.

The Union minister said that all hotels and quarantine hotels in states and regions need to have the health and safety certification and set up information counters systematically in order to provide necessary information to tourists in real-time.

Then, the Union minister called on officials to put the experiences of the health and safety



training of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism into practical services for the convenience of tourists. He underscored the need to coordinate and work together

with related departments and agencies for the tourists visiting Myanmar.

The directors-general, the deputy directors-general and of-

icials discussed the preparation issues and the Union minister gave necessary instructions before closing the coordination meeting. — MNA

Banking process discussed in Nay Pyi Taw

A coordination meeting was held at the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm yesterday to facilitate the transfer of clearing accounts of banks by using CBM-NET Fund Transfer and Cheque/POs.

Discussion was held with officials from state-owned banks, private banks, and foreign branches to ensure

timely delivery of taxes to the accounts of relevant government departments during the closing period of the financial year 2021-2022.

At the meeting, Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor Daw Than Than Swe said that this month is the end of the financial year so that the revenue from the State such

as taxes should be delivered to the budgets of the relevant government departments in a timely manner.

The Central Bank of Myanmar does not limit the amount for fund transfer between banks via CBM-NET, the CBM deputy governor stressed.

“Banks should fully support the tax paid by the taxpay-

ers when transferring funds to the relevant bank accounts by the fund transfer system.

“If there are large transfers from taxpayers, the bank should coordinate with the customer to arrange the transfer. As it is a financial clearance month, banks are required to inform their customers in advance of the last clearing date.

“Banks can also sell POs from customers’ old accounts or from new account. The Gold and Monetary Market Supervision Committee will oversee the percentage exchange transactions and purchasing POs by changing the cash account in the market,” she added.

Banks’ officials also discussed their activities. — MNA

Sesame seed prices jump on foreign demand

STRONG foreign demand drove the prices of sesame up in the domestic market.

The prices stood at K3,900 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) for big sesame (Samone variety), K3,650 for small Samone variety, K2,900 for winter sesame and K2,300 for brown sesame seeds on 23 March. They reflect a price gap of K550-700 per viss within three months depending on the varieties.

Additionally, those sesame seeds which pass the acid test level receive higher prices.

Myanmar’s sesame is primarily shipped to foreign trade partners. The prices fluctuate on the demand and Kyat value against the US dollar.

At present, the US dollar exchange rate is worth around K2,000.

Myanmar’s sesame was earlier exported to China,



The prices stood at K3,900 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) for big sesame (Samone variety), K3,650 for small Samone variety, K2,900 for winter sesame and K2,300 for brown sesame seeds on 23 March.

South Korea, Japan, Singapore and China Taipei (Taiwan). However, it is now relying solely on China and the shipments to other foreign countries have certain difficulties.

Additionally, some re-

gions turned to other crop substitution over the sesame due to the late monsoon season, resulting in an acreage drop compared to the previous years. The growers also faced a high input burden.

— NN/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

Unite strengths of all residents to defy natural disasters

Now is an important time for Myanmar people, especially for residents from the Ayeyawady and the Yangon regions and the Mon and the Rakhine states to encounter impacts of a deep depression that started over the Bay of Bengal.

The well-marked low pressure area has moved Magway Region near Mindon on the afternoon of 23 March. It was identified as the green colour because of no danger. It is continuous to move North-Northeastwards. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and East-central Bay of Bengal and cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

So, the country requires faithful and brave volunteers for giving a helping hand to the victims and minimizing loss and waste in the disasters. The united strength is of great importance for all. If the people have the united strength, they will have to defy the disasters at any time.

Rain or thundershowers affected by the low-pressure area might be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw and many regions and states. Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions might face regionally heavy rainfalls, accounting for 80 per cent. The surface wind speed in squalls might reach 35-40 miles per hour. The wave height would be about 8-11 feet off and along Rakhine coasts and 7-9 feet in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi coasts. On recent days, the deep depression fairly was widespread to widespread rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw and many regions and states.

Hence, the people residing in the areas along the route of the cyclonic storm should collect drinking water, rice and dried meals to be consumed during the period of the storm. They have to gather information about the storm from firm sources.

Although Myanmar is not a disaster-prone area, all people should be alert to the possible dangers of the deep depression. The impact of the deep depression is classified as the red colour as it heads to Myanmar. That is why all residents in Myanmar should make necessary preparations for doing search and rescue, relief and rehabilitation before resettlement. They all need to try hard to mitigate the impact of the deep depressions as much as possible.

Foods, water and shelter are the most important for victims from the affected areas. Aid must be distributed to the victims in a short time. So, the country requires faithful and brave volunteers for giving a helping hand to the victims and minimizing loss and waste in the disasters. The united strength is of great importance for all. If the people have the united strength, they will have to defy the disasters at any time.



Natural COVID-19 antibodies last seven months for children, finds study

ACCORDING to a new study led by the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, children previously infected with COVID-19 develop natural circulating antibodies that last for at least seven months.

The study was published in the journal, 'Pediatrics'.

Data from 218 children across the state of Texas

Researchers have examined data from 218 children across the state of Texas between the ages of 5 and 19 who were enrolled in the Texas CARES survey, which began in October of 2020 with the goal of assessing COVID-19 antibody status over time among a population of adults and children in Texas.

Volunteers who enrolled in the study provided researchers with three separate blood draws. Samples were collected before the vaccine rollout and during the Delta and Omicron variants. To date, investigators have completed three different phases of the study.



While 96 per cent of those infected with COVID-19 continued to have antibodies up to seven months later, well over half (58 per cent) of the sample were negative for infection-induced antibodies at their third and final measurement. The findings do not include the impact of vaccine protection. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/CJONLINE/ANI

pleted three different phases of the study.

"This is the first study from the Texas CARES survey that

includes data from all three-time points in the survey," said Sarah

Messiah, PhD, MPH, corresponding author of the study and professor of epidemiology, human genetics, and environmental sciences at UT Health School of Public Health Dallas campus.

"These findings are important because the information we collected from children infected with COVID-19 didn't differ at all by whether a child was asymptomatic, the severity of symptoms, when they had the virus, were at a healthy weight or had obesity, or by gender. It was the same for everyone," she said.

While 96 per cent of those infected with COVID-19 continued to have antibodies up to seven months later, well over half (58 per cent) of the sample were negative for infection-induced antibodies at their third and final measurement. The findings do not include the impact of vaccine protection.

Understanding the virus's impact

The results of Texas CARES,

Messiah said, are just a step in understanding the virus's impact on children. To date, 14 million kids in the US have tested positive for the virus, she said.

"Adult literature shows us that natural infection, plus the vaccine-induced protection, gives you the best defence against COVID-19. There has been a misunderstanding from some parents who think just because their child has had COVID-19, they are now protected and don't need to get the vaccine," she added.

"While our study is encouraging in that some amount natural antibodies last at least six months in children, we still don't know the absolute protection threshold. We have a great tool available to give children additional protection by getting their vaccine, so if your child is eligible, take advantage of it," Messiah concluded.

SOURCE: ANI



COVID-19 increases risk of type 2 diabetes, reveals study

It was unclear whether these metabolic changes are transient or whether Covid-19 disease increases the risk of persisting diabetes. To investigate this question, researchers from the German Diabetes Centre (DDZ), German Centre for Diabetes Research (DZD) and IQVIA (Frankfurt) conducted a retrospective cohort study.

ACCORDING to a study, people who have had COVID-19 are at increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

The study was published in the journal, 'Diabetologia'.

Studies have shown that the human pancreas can also be a target of the SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus type 2 viruses).

Following a Covid-19 infection, reduced numbers of insulin secretory granules in beta cells and impaired glucose-stimulated insulin secretion have been observed.

some patients developed insulin resistance

In addition, after the COVID-19 disease, some patients developed insulin resistance and had elevated blood glucose levels

although they had no previous history of diabetes. SARS-CoV-2 infection may lead to a strong release of pro-inflammatory signalling substances (cytokines). Activation of the immune system may persist for months after a SARS-CoV-2 infection and impair insulin effectiveness (muscle, fat cells, liver).

To date, however, it was unclear whether these metabolic changes are transient or whether Covid-19 disease increases the risk of persisting diabetes. To investigate this question, researchers from the German Diabetes Centre (DDZ), German Centre for Diabetes Research (DZD) and IQVIA (Frankfurt) conducted a retrospective cohort study.

Incidence of diabetes after infection with SARS-CoV-2

The cohort study included a

representative panel of 1,171 physician practices across Germany (March 2020 to January 2021: 8.8 million patients). Follow-up continued until July 2021.

"The aim of our study was to investigate the incidence of diabetes after infection with SARS-CoV-2," said first author Wolfgang Rathmann, head of the Epidemiology Research Group at the DDZ.

As a control group, the researchers selected people with acute upper respiratory tract infections (AURI), which are also frequently caused by viruses. The two cohorts were matched for sex, age, health insurance, the month of Covid-19 or AURI diagnosis, and comorbidities (obesity, hypertension, high cholesterol, heart attack, stroke). Patients on corticosteroid therapy were excluded from the study. During the study period,

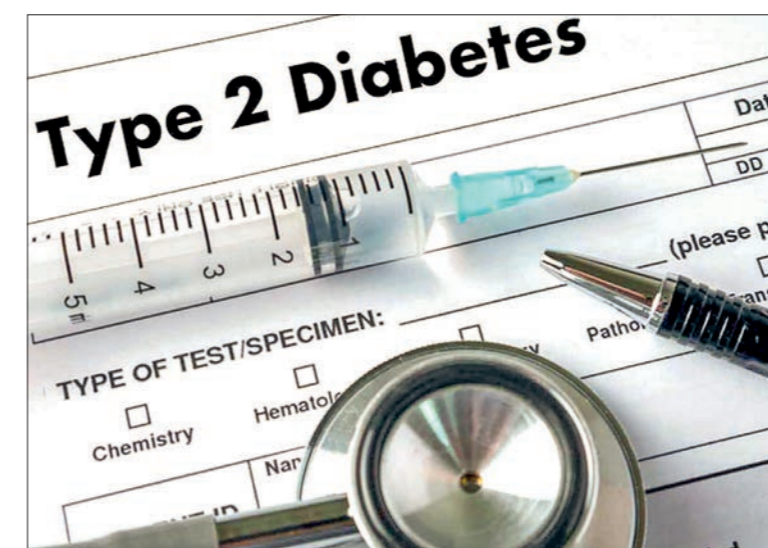
35,865 people were diagnosed with Covid-19.

"Our analyses showed that patients with Covid-19 developed type 2 diabetes more frequently than people with AURI.

Incidence of diabetes with Covid-19 infection

The incidence of diabetes with Covid-19 infection was 15.8 compared to 12.3 per 1000 people per year with AURI. The statistical analysis resulted in an incidence rate ratio (IRR) of 1.28. Put simply, this means that the relative risk of developing type 2 diabetes was 28 per cent higher in the Covid-19 group than in the AURI group," Rathmann said, summarized the results.

Although type 2 diabetes is unlikely to be a problem for the vast majority of people with mild



According to a study, people who have had COVID-19 are at increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes. PHOTO: EUROPEANPHARMACEUTICAL REVIEW/ANI

Covid-19 disease, the authors recommend that anyone who has recovered from Covid-19 be alert to the warning signs and symptoms,

such as fatigue, frequent urination and increased thirst and seek immediate treatment.

SOURCE: ANI



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 23 March 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area has moved near Minhla, Magway Region and has weakened. The present stage is coded green stage. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and cloudy over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 24 March 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway regions and Shan, Rakhine states, fairly widespread in Bago, Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Mon states and scattered in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Mandalay, Magway regions and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Shan and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of fairly widespread to widespread rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Taninthayi regions and Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 March 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 March 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 March 2022: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

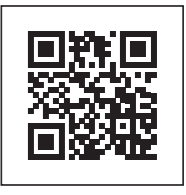
LOW PRESSURE AREA CONDITION, 2022

Issued at (18:00) hours M.S.T on 23-3-2022

ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30)hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area has moved near Minhla, Magway Region and has weakened. The present stage is coded green stage. THIS is the last news for the deep depression.

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The Global New Light of Myanmar



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Yangon Mayor inspects construction of Mayor's Pandal for Maha Thingyan Festival



MINISTER of Yangon Region Development Affairs Mayor U Bo Htay and officials inspected the storage of 100,000-gallon RC Ground Tank in front of the City Hall on Maha Bandoola Road in Kyauktada Township and the ongoing construction of Yangon Mayor Maha Thingyan Central Pavilion yesterday morning.

Firstly, the mayor and party inspected the 100,000-gallon RC Ground Tank and called on officials to store more water as reserved water ensuring other usages of sufficient water during the summer period.

For the successful holding of the Maha Thingyan Water Festival in Yangon in 1383 ME, the mayor stressed that both the entertainment pandal and the water-playing pandal should

be constructed firmly and the decoration should feature Myanmar's traditional culture while inspecting the construction of the Yangon Mayor Maha Thingyan Central Pandal.

Although the Myanmar Traditional Thingyan Festival could not have been held for two years to curb the spread of COVID-19, the plan is now underway to make Yangonites have fun and recreation following Myanmar tradition and culture in the coming Myanmar New Year.

The celebration will include Yein (group) dance competitions, ethnic cultural dance competitions, music concerts by film stars and musicians and performances by theatrical artistes in addition to the Walking Thingyan. — MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, food items, consumer goods, auto spare parts seized

UNDER the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, efforts are being made to take action against illegal trades.

On 20 and 21 March, a combined team led by the Kachin State Department of Forest seized 2.940 tonnes of illegal teak (estimated value of K347,100) during an inspection in Shwegu forest reserve in Shwegu Township, Bhamo District, Kachin State.

On 21 March, illegal food items and consumer goods carried on two trucks were confiscated under the Customs Law at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint in Mon State. On 22 March, a combined team led by the Department of Forest in Ayeyawady Region conducted inspections in Mawlamyinekyun Township, Patheingyi Township and Ngaputaw Township and seized 7.3195 tonnes of illegal timbers (estimated value of K1,268,656) under the Forest Law.

In addition, detergent powder bags (estimated value of K2,400,000) which were more than the declaration in the Import Declaration were seized



Officials confiscate illegal timbers.

at Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint and action is taken under the Customs Law.

Moreover, water pump units (estimated value of K5,000,000) which were more than the declaration in the Import Declaration were seized at the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Inspection Station and action is taken under the Customs Law.

Similarly, a customs team on-duty at the Hteetan Port Container Inspection Station conducted an inspection under the management of the Customs Department and seized

automobile spare parts and toilet accessories (estimated value of K18,770,000) under the Customs Law.

Yesterday, 34.3416 tonnes of illegal timber (estimated value of K3,488,476) were confiscated from the forest reserves in Toungoo District, Pyay District and Thayawady District in Bago Region.

Therefore, a total of 14 arrests (estimated of value K36,797,612) was made on from 20 to 23 March, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Drugs seized in some townships across Myanmar

A combined inspection team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force conducted inspections in Mohnyin Township at 5:45 pm on 22 March.

A search of a motorbike driven by Win Myint on the Mohnyin-Hopin Road near Ingyingon village turned up 1.21 kilogrammes of heroin. At 10 am the same day, a search of a motorbike driven by Ah Chu on the Monghsat-Mongtwan Road near Juulu village, Mepulone village-tract led to the seizure of 4,000 ecstasy tablets.

At 1 am on 21 March, a combined inspection team

consisting of the Sagaing Region Police examined a house of Ma Aye Than in Myoma Ward, Khamti township and seized 0.1175 kilogramme of heroin and 1,260 ecstasy tablets.

At 5:45 pm the same day, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a suspected Dongfeng 22-wheeler vehicle and found 4.18 kilogrammes of heroin with Htein Lin Aung.

They are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Myanmar Police Force stated. — MNA



An arrestee is seen together with seized drugs and a truck.

5,000 acres of oil palm to be expanded in Myeik District in 5 years

THE oil palm plantation project was developed 30 years ago in Taninthayi Region, covering a total of 404,000 acres. A plan to add about 5,000 more acres within five years is undertaken, said Daw Ingyin Khaing, head of the Myeik District Agriculture Department.

The department has been providing hybrid plants and technical assistance to the growers.

“The department will expand the oil palm plantation project to about 5,000 acres in the coming five years. There are 21 incorporations engaged in oil palm plantations in Myeik District and 39 private farm owners,” she was quoted as saying.

There are 68,960 acres of oil palm plantations in Myeik District. Oil palm yield can be found in approximately 127,000 acres across Taninthayi Region and 23,700 in Myeik District, ac-



There are 68,960 acres of oil palm plantations in Myeik District. Oil palm yield can be found in approximately 127,000 acres across Taninthayi Region and 23,700 in Myeik District. PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)

ording to the department.

“The yield is estimated at 2.8 tonnes per acre throughout the year in the 2020-2021 financial year. It can generate an income of K310,000 per tonne. There is

small oil mills in Myeik District. It has a capacity limit and cannot mill all the palm fruits produced in the district. Therefore, they are delivered to a processing factory in Bokpyin in Kawthoung

District and Yuzana crude oil mill in Kawthoung city.

The authorities are working on the establishment of palm oil plants in the district. There is an increasing requirement for

palm oil in the domestic market.

Daw Ingyin Khaing addressed expanding operations for the oil palm plantation in Myeik, Bokpyin and Kawthoung cities in the south of Taninthayi Region, effective production planning and setting up the processing palm oil plants under the guidance of the government to minimize the wastages, meet the demand and reduce the foreign currency outflows.

If the growers and companies effectively operate that business, the palm fruits can be harvested in five years of cultivation. It can cover the capital cost in three to four years starting from harvesting. It will bring long-term economic benefits to them for sure.

Enthusiastic growers can join the courses related to oil palm plantations conducted by the department. — Myint Oo (Myeik)/GNLM

Fresh elephant foot yam from Chin State sold for K950 per viss in Pakokku Tsp



Bags of elephant foot yam are loaded onto the lorry for selling in Pakokku. PHOTO: SALAI KO KEE

CHIN State's elephant foot yam, which has already penetrated external markets, is offered at K950 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) by the Shwenayon yam factory near Ngaphaungkan village, Pakokku Township.

“I sold approximately 2,000 visses of fresh yam. I have been executing this business for five years. I harvested them after three years of planting. I receive a handsome profit of K6 million after excluding the input costs, wages and transport charges. The price of yam touched the highest of K1,850 in the previous years. This year, it fetches around K950 per viss in Pakokku Township. It is priced above K1,000 per viss in the northern Chin State. We are expecting the recovery of tourism business and the good price,” a seller from Min-

dat Township, Chin State quoted in his sayings.

“We established the yam processing factory about three years ago. We primarily purchase them from Mindat and Kanpetlet townships in southern Chin State. We have started buying them from February, with a daily trading volume of 3,000-10,000 visses. Those yams are commonly shipped to China and the Republic of Korea; therefore, the price fluctuates on the demand. The processing includes rinsing, cutting, chopping, slicing and drying. Finally, they are made into powder. The dried yam is priced at K6,500 per viss. Foreign countries produce them by adding value to snacks, noodles and medicines, etc. It is low-fat food and has many health benefits. There are also value-added products of yam as well. However,

the yams are not that popular in the country as local people do not know the health benefits of elephant foot yams,” said U Pyae Sone Aung, in charge of the Shwenayon factory.

Yam production has become a lucrative business. According to Myanmar Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association, Myanmar is mostly exporting only raw yam, and value-added products made from yam will help the market grow in the long term. Myanmar is only producing semi-processed yams at present.

Elephant foot yams are the main product of Chin State, where they are cultivated on over 8,800 acres of land. The Kanpetlet, Mindat, and Matupi townships produce about 1 million visses (a viss is equal to 1.6 kilogrammes) of elephant foot yams. Elephant foot yams can be planted across the country. In addition to Chin State, yams are being grown in Kayin, Mon, and Shan states, and Taninthayi and Bago regions.

Yams produced in Chin State are getting a higher price than those from other regions as they have better quality and taste, traders said. — Salai Ko Kee, KK/GNLM

Pumpkin growers from Mongyu expect strong market

ALTHOUGH there has been a high yield of pumpkin in Mongyu town, Mongyawng township, Shan State (East), the growers are expecting to convey the pumpkin in time because of the temporary suspension of the Mongyu-Kyainichan border bridge.

The local farmers are growing rubber, corn, pumpkin, chilli and various beans on their farmland on a commercial scale. In order to get a handsome profit from the yielded crops, they export them to other areas through the Mongyu-Kyainichan border bridge.

The Mongyu-Kyainichan border bridge was closed starting

from 19 July because of COVID-19. Now, it has been almost a year and the border bridge are still suspended. This is the reason why the local farmers are faced with difficulties to export them and they hope to export the crops in time.

Last year, the pumpkin was sold for K200 per kilo. On account of the closure of the border bridge, there is no market demand for the pumpkin and the local farmers are unable to export them. The farmers have harvested the pumpkin and stored them in their backyards. They are waiting for the market demand, according to pumpkin growers. — Ko Ko Naing (IPRD)/GNLM



The farmers have harvested the pumpkin and stored them in their backyards. They are waiting for the market demand, according to pumpkin growers. PHOTO: KO KO NAING (IPRD)

How Russia's war in Ukraine rocked the global economy



Gas leverage: a worker at a Yamal Pipeline compression station in Belarus. **PHOTO: AFP/SCANPIX**

IN a month of conflict in Ukraine, global oil prices have soared, foreign companies have exited Russia and Moscow faces the spectre of default.

Here is a look at the economic fallout from Russia's 24 February invasion

of its neighbour:

Commodities soar

Oil and gas prices have surged over supply fears as Russia is one of the world's biggest producers and exporters of the fossil fuels.

Brent North Sea crude, the international benchmark, stood at around \$90 in February. On 7 March, it jumped to \$139.13, close to a 14-year high and prices remain highly volatile.

Prices have risen at the pump, too, prompting governments to take measures to ease the financial

pain for consumers: A lower VAT in Sweden, a price cap in Hungary, or a discount in France.

Gas prices have also skyrocketed, with Europe reference Dutch TTF leaping to an all-time high at 345 euros on 7 March.

The European Union has avoided sanctions on Russia's energy sector as countries such as Germany rely heavily on Moscow's gas supplies.

Food threat

UN chief Antonio Guterres has warned that the

conflict could reverberate far beyond Ukraine, causing a "hurricane of hunger and a meltdown of the global food system".

Russia and Ukraine are breadbaskets for the world, accounting together for 30 per cent of global wheat exports.

Prices of cereals and cooking oils have risen.

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization says the number of undernourished people could increase by eight to 13 million people over the course of this year and next.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Latin America's IT brain drain a regional challenge

SAFETY concerns at home in Rio de Janeiro and a bumper pay packet convinced Bruno Ribeiro to join the burgeoning ranks of Latin Americans moving to California to work in IT.

Software engineer Ribeiro used to work remotely and had no intention of emigrating, but a harrowing incident changed his mind. "It was one night that my wife and I witnessed four robberies. We didn't want to see that violence so close to our children," he told AFP from his home in Los Angeles, where he works for entertainment giant Disney. In Latin America, like elsewhere, demand for software engineers, developers and programmers has exploded.—AFP ■

Rwanda turns to event hosting for economic boost

BLUE, yellow, green: As night falls, the dome of the Kigali conference centre lights up, resplendent in the colours of Rwanda's flag as it aims to attract all eyes on the capital, and beyond. In less than a decade, the small, landlocked nation has established itself as a destination for conferences, sports tournaments and other events, billing itself as "Africa's Singapore" in a bid to boost business and the economy.—AFP ■

Non-oil-exporting Mideast countries prompted to seek solutions to contain surging food prices

POLICYMAKERS in some non-oil-exporting Middle East countries are racing to bring down surging food costs after their primary food supply chain was disrupted by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which has exacerbated staple food inflation that had already been steadily rising even before the crisis.

Policies including diversifying food imports, increasing food subsidies and lowering food taxes have been pursued by these countries, which rely heavily on wheat imports from Russia and Ukraine and have limited financial resources to respond to rising food costs.

Some countries have



A man checks prices of sunflower oil at a supermarket in Istanbul, Turkey, on 7 March 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/SHADAT**

also moved to shore up their food stocks and seek policy adjustments to cut their heavy reliance on food imports, as food security is vital to maintaining social stability in the volatile Middle East.

SURGING FOOD PRICES

Over the past few weeks, several Middle East countries have seen cereal, oil and meat prices climb, especially countries highly dependent

on imports from Ukraine and Russia, which are still fighting and engaging in tough negotiations.

Turkey now pays 346 US dollars for importing a tonne of wheat, up from 297 dollars in 2021 after the country's supply chain was affected by the COVID-19 outbreak and 230 dollars in 2020, according to statistics published by Turkish media. In Egypt, the world's largest wheat importer, the market price of a tonne of flour increased to 11,000 Egyptian pounds (nearly 700 dollars) in March, up from 9,000 pounds a month earlier, said Attia Hammad, head of the Bakeries division at the Cairo Chamber of Commerce—Xinhua ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PACIFIC GRACE VOY.NO. (2208S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PACIFIC GRACE VOY.NO. (2208S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-3-2022** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (230N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (230N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-3-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MINH HUY 19

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MINH HUY 19 VOY.NO. (V35)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-3-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **SPW-6** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

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

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(1/2022-2023)**

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

<u>Sr No.</u>	<u>Tender No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
(1)	DMP/L-001(22-23)	Assorted Sizes of Casing (3) Items	Ks
(2)	DMP/L-002(22-23)	Casing Head Housing and Accessories (1) Lot	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-003(22-23)	Spares for Drawwork and Rotary Table Drive Group Of ZJ 70L & ZJ 50D Drilling Rig (8) Groups	Ks
(4)	DMP/L-004(22-23)	Assorted Sizes of TRI Cone Rock Bit and PDC Bit (8) Items	Ks
(5)	DMP/L-005(22-23)	Spares for L-Type CNG Compressor (33) Items	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-006(22-23)	Spares for ZW Type CNG Compressor (38) Items	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-007(22-23)	Spares for 4 th Stage SAFE CNG Compressor (LP) (21) Items	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-008(22-23)	Spares for ASPRO CNG Compressor (18) Items	Ks
(9)	DMP/L-009(22-23)	Spares for Intermech CNG Compressor (HP) (31) Items	Ks
(10)	DMP/L-010(22-23)	Spares for Water Pump and Crude Pump (4) Groups	Ks
(11)	DMP/L-011(22-23)	Assorted Sizes of ERW API 5L Steel Line Pipe (4) Items	Ks
(12)	DMP/L-012(22-23)	Assorted Kinds of Shaker Screen for ZJ 70L Drilling Rigs (4) Groups	Ks
(13)	DMP/L-013(22-23)	Spares For SJS Serva Cementing Unit and Other Accessories (4) Groups	Ks
(14)	DMP/L-014(22-23)	Spares for ZJ 70L and ZJ 50D Drilling Rigs (2) Groups	Ks
(15)	DMP/L-015(22-23)	Spares for AB-100 Well Servicing Truck (30) Items	Ks
(16)	DMP/L-016(22-23)	Spares for Well Servicing Truck (KB-150 & AB-100) (2) Items	Ks
(17)	DMP/L-017(22-23)	Spares for Drive Group Ex-ZJ 70L SR-1 & SR-2 (2) Groups	Ks
(18)	DMP/L-018(22-23)	Spares for Kenworth Truck (13) Items	Ks
(19)	DMP/L-019(22-23)	Spares for Reintjes Gear Box (WAF 542 L) Ex-Mann (4) River Craft (92) Items	Ks
(20)	DMP/L-020(22-23)	Spares for CAT-G -3516 C Generating Set Gas Engine (4) Items	Ks
(21)	DMP/L-021(22-23)	Spares for GM 8V-71 Engine Ex-BJ Cementing Unit (23) Items	Ks
(22)	DMP/L-022(22-23)	10" HFERW API 5L Grade X-42 3 LPE Coated Steel Line Pipe (17,700) MTR	Ks
(23)	DMP/L-023(22-23)	Assorted Sizes of Steel Ball Valve (2) Items	Ks
(24)	DMP/L-024(22-23)	Assorted Sizes of Pipe Fitting (29) Items	Ks
(25)	DMP/L-025(22-23)	2 7/8" & 2 3/8" Seamless EU Tubing (2) Items	Ks
(26)	DMP/L-026(22-23)	Maintenance, Inspection and Spare Requirement for Engine and Compressor for (Ywataw (Pyawbwe)/ PyiNyaung) (1) Lot	Ks
(27)	DMP/L-027(22-23)	2" ERW Steel Line Pipe (20,000) MTR	Ks
(28)	DMP/L-028(22-23)	Pipe Fitting and Accessories (1) Lot	Ks
(29)	DMP/L-029(22-23)	Accessories for Gas Metering (1) Lot	Ks
(30)	DMP/L-030(22-23)	Rubber Hose Pipe (3) Items	Ks
(31)	DMP/L-031(22-23)	Mud Chemical (9) Items	Ks
(32)	DMP/L-032(22-23)	Copier & Printer Cartridge (36) Items	Ks
(33)	DMP/L-033(22-23)	Stationery Materials (20) Items	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **March 2022** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **12:00 pm on 22, April 2022**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **22-4-2022, 12:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

Public Announcement to be known INJYNN Development Co., Ltd. and its Managing Director U Soe Min Aung

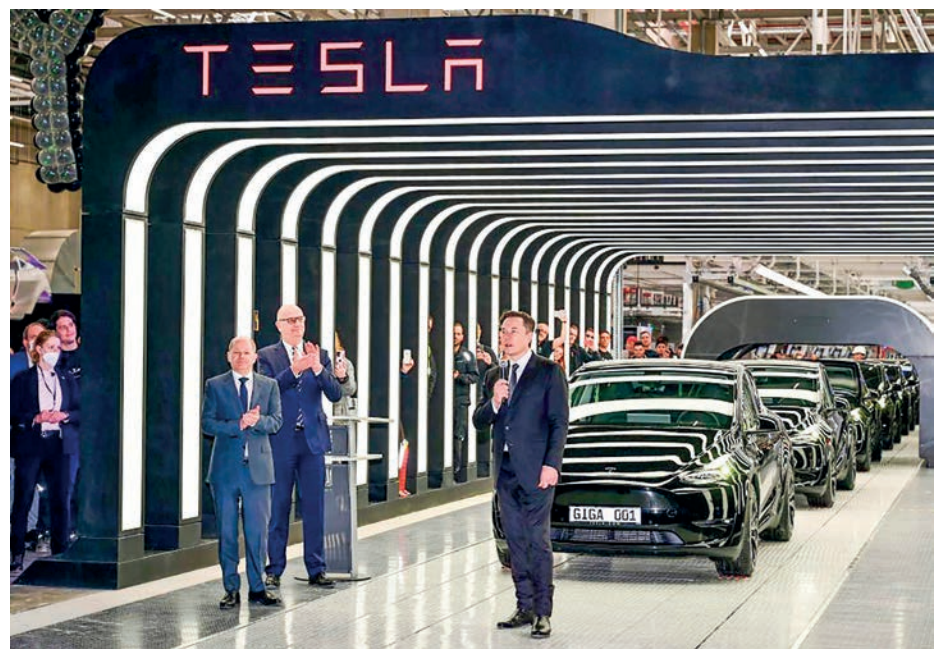
As per the instruction of my client "PT Win Offshore" a company incorporated in Indonesia with registered office address at Jalan Kebayoran Lama No.155, RT 001, RW 002, Sukabumi Selatan, Kebon Jeruk, Jakarta Barat, I declare as follows:

My client as the Contractor had by way of 2 Agreements for Provision of Anchor Handling/Towing and Supply Vessels Services dated 4 December 2014 and 14 March 2015 signed by you (U Soe Min Aung, Managing Director of INJYNN Development Co., Ltd (Company Registration: 101195961 with registered address at No. 11-(K), Kabaraye Pagoda Road, Shwe Taung Gyar (2) Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon 11201, Myanmar)) had agreed to provide vessel charter services for two motor vessels namely the "Winposh Ready" and "Winposh Resolve" for the drilling campaign in Block M Offshore in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar ("Services"). My client has rendered and completed the Services since 2015 of which you have failed to pay the amount USD 214,222.60 to my client for the Services ("Outstanding Amount").

My client has already sent the Notice of Demand five (5) times regarding the outstanding amount USD 214,222.60 which you are fully aware of. You had via email dated 5 December 2017 acknowledged the Outstanding Amount owed to my client. On 26 July 2019, in response to my client's letter of demands, you had again acknowledged and asked for time to pay back and arrange to settle the Outstanding Amount at the end of 2019. However, to date, my client has been waiting for your repayment of the outstanding amount but has not received any payment of the Outstanding Amount. Therefore, please contact my client or me to arrange for all the outstanding payment within fourteen (14) days starting from this announcement, failing which, legal action shall be taken against INJYNN Development Co., Ltd. and you (U Soe Min Aung, Managing Director of INJYNN Development Co., Ltd.) in accordance with the applicable laws.

Daw Htay Htay Win (LL.B)
Advocate of the Supreme Court (Reg. No: 2473)
No.266(4-B), Kyaikkasan Road, Htay Kwe Ka Quarter,
Tamwe Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.

Elon Musk to hand over first 'made in Germany' Teslas



Musk (right) and officials attend the factory opening and car delivery ceremony at Tesla's 'Gigafactory' in Gruenheide, southeast of Berlin, on 22 March. **PHOTO: AFP**

US electric car pioneer Tesla on Tuesday inaugurated its new "gigafactory" near Berlin, with CEO Elon Musk flying in to present customers with the first Model Y vehicles made in Europe.

"Excited to hand over the first production cars made by Giga Berlin-Brandenburg tomorrow!" Musk tweeted on the eve of the red ribbon ceremony. The opening caps an arduous two-year approval and construction process that saw Tesla run into a series of administra-

tive and legal hurdles, including complaints from locals about the site's environmental impact.

Having started construction at its own risk, Tesla finally won the formal go-ahead from regional authorities to begin production earlier this month.

Tesla aims to eventually employ some 12,000 workers at the site who will churn out around 500,000 Model Y cars annually.

The first 30 of the all-electric, compact SUVs to roll off the assembly line will be delivered to cus-

tomers during Tuesday's ceremony. Tesla's arrival is likely to jolt Germany's flagship auto industry, setting the stage for fierce competition with rivals Volkswagen, BMW and Mercedes-Benz as they pivot from traditional engines to cleaner electric vehicles.

Tesla's focus on Europe comes as the continent grapples with sky-high energy costs that have sent petrol prices soaring, prompting drivers to take a closer look at electric alternatives.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan, US remote island defence drill revealed to press

JAPAN'S Ground Self-Defence Force and the US Marine Corps on Wednesday disclosed to the press some detail about an ongoing joint exercise in which the defence of remote islands is being drilled.

As China becomes increasingly assertive in regional waters, the GSDF's Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade and the Okinawa-based US 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit have been conducting drills over three weeks since 4 March at a GSDF facility in central Japan. During the disclosed portion of the exercises, an F-35 stealth fighter jet belonging to the US Marine Corps for the first time participated in an exercise with the GSDF.—AFP ■

Recovery of crashed China Eastern jet hampered by heavy rain

HEAVY rains on Wednesday hampered the recovery of a China Eastern jet that nosedived into a mountain with 132 passengers onboard, a disaster that has mystified crash investigators who are yet to locate the black boxes.

Three days on from Monday's crash and there are no signs of survivors, yet officials have refrained from declaring all of the passengers dead, in what is almost certain to be China's deadliest plane crash in nearly 30 years. Hundreds of firefighters, officials and volunteers have scoured the rugged terrain near Wuzhou in southern China for signs of the 123 passengers and nine crew onboard the ill-fated flight MU5735, which crashed on Monday afternoon after losing contact with air traffic control.—AFP ■

US less optimistic over reaching Iran nuclear deal



Rafael Grossi (top C), Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), briefs the press after his arrival at the Vienna International Airport, in Vienna, Austria, 5 March 2022. Iran and the IAEA agreed on a roadmap to resolve Iran's nuclear safeguards issues by June, a vital step as talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal entered the final stage. PHOTO: GEORGES SCHNEIDER/XINHUA

US optimism that a deal to restore the 2015 agreement to limit Iran's nuclear developed has soured, with the State Department warning Tuesday it was headed toward "Plan B" if Tehran doesn't budge.

Just a week ago Washington officials were hopeful that an agreement that aimed to

halt Iran's march toward nuclear weapons capability, after almost one year of negotiations, was within reach.

"We are close to a possible deal, but we're not there yet," State Department spokesman Ned Price said on 16 March. "We do think the remaining issues can be bridged."

US officials said they thought Tehran would reach an agreement after Sunday's celebration of Nowruz, the Persian New Year.

Mood shift

But that tone suddenly changed the following day.

"I want to be clear that an agreement is neither imminent nor is it certain," Price said Monday.

And on Tuesday, while refusing to say the talks had reached an impasse, Price said the United States had contingency plans if a deal could not be reached and Iran's alleged plans to develop nuclear weapons were not halted.

"The onus is on Tehran to make decisions that it might consider difficult," Price told reporters. "In fact we are preparing equally for scenarios with and without a mutual return to full implementation of the JCPOA," he said, referring to the formal name of the 2015 deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.—AFP ■

Taliban order Afghan girls' schools shut hours after reopening

THE Taliban ordered secondary girls schools in Afghanistan to shut on Wednesday just hours after they reopened, an official confirmed, sparking confusion over the policy reversal by the hardline Islamist group.

"Yes, it's true," Taliban spokesman Inamullah Samangani told AFP when asked to confirm reports that girls had been ordered home.

An AFP team was filming at Zarghona High School in the

capital Kabul when a teacher entered and ordered everyone to go home. Crestfallen students, back in class for the first time since the Taliban seized power in August last year, tearfully packed up their belongings and filed out.

The international community has made the right to education for all a sticking point in negotiations over aid and recognition of the new Taliban regime.—AFP ■



Girls attend a class after their school reopening in Kabul on 23 March 2022. The reopening of secondary schools for girls across Afghanistan on 23 March prompted joy and apprehension among the tens of thousands of students deprived of an education since the Taliban's return to power. PHOTO: AFP

WikiLeaks' Assange to marry in prison



British fashion designer Vivienne Westwood is a long-time supporter and has provided the couple's wedding attire. PHOTO: NIKLAS HALLE'N /AFP

WIKILEAKS founder Julian Assange and his fiancée Stella Moris get married on Wednesday, at the high-security London prison where he is being held during his extradition case.

Assange, 50, is fighting attempts to remove him from the UK to face trial in the United States over the publication of secret files relating to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Last week, the UK Supreme

Court turned down a request to hear his appeal against the move, bringing the long-running legal saga nearer to a conclusion.

Assange and Moris announced their engagement in November and were given permission to marry at Belmarsh prison in southeast London where he is on remand. The Don't Extradite Assange (DEA) group said the wedding would be conducted by a registrar, with

just four guests, two witnesses – and two security guards – in attendance. The guests will have to leave immediately after the ceremony. Vivienne Westwood, the British fashion designer who has been a long-standing supporter of the Australian publisher, has designed Moris' wedding dress, the DEA group said.

She has also provided a kilt for Assange in a nod to his Scottish heritage, it added.—AFP ■

Russia would only use nuclear weapons faced with ‘existential threat’: Kremlin



Russian Topol-M intercontinental ballistic missiles are driven through Red Square during the Victory Day parade in Moscow. PHOTO: NATALIA KOLESNIKOVA / AFP/FILE

RUSSIA would only use nuclear weapons in the context of the Ukraine conflict if it were facing an “existential threat”, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told CNN International Tuesday.

“We have a concept of domestic security, and it’s public.

You can read all the reasons for nuclear arms to be used,” Peskov said. “So if it is an existential threat for our country, then it can be used in accordance with our concept.” Peskov’s comment came as interviewer Christiane Amanpour pushed him on wheth-

er he was “convinced or confident” that President Vladimir Putin would not use the nuclear option in the Ukrainian context.

Days after Russian troops invaded Ukraine, Putin announced on 28 February that he had put the country’s strategic nuclear forces on high alert in a move that sparked global alarm.

Asked about Peskov’s statement, and Russia’s nuclear stance more broadly, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby called Moscow’s rhetoric on potential use of nuclear weapons “dangerous.” “It’s not the way a responsible nuclear power should act,” he told reporters.

That said, Kirby stressed that Pentagon officials “haven’t seen anything that would lead us to conclude that we need to change our strategic deterrent posture.” “We monitor this as best we can every day,” he added.—AFP ■

Russia-Ukraine conflict casts shadow on tourism revival in Turkey

TURKEY had hoped for a tourism revival in 2022 as the COVID-19 pandemic ebbs. However, the Russia-Ukraine conflict will have a notable toll on the sector, making the revival with even less hope than before.

“Last year, around 28 percent of foreign visitors to Turkey came from Russia and Ukraine. The ongoing conflict will have a real impact on our tourism industry this year,” said Firuz Baglikaya, head of the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TURSAB).

Turkey welcomed 4.7 million Russian and 2 million Ukrainian holidaymakers in 2021, Baglikaya said, adding that the number of tourists would be considerably lower as there



Tourists shop at a bazaar in Istanbul, Turkey, 18 December 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA/SHADATI

were significant reservation cancellations from both countries.

“Even if the conflict ends, our tourism will be affected,” Baglikaya said.—Xinhua ■

Ukraine eyes Mariupol evacuation bid as Kyiv locks down

UKRAINIAN authorities announced a new bid Wednesday to rescue civilians from besieged port city Mariupol which has been under heavy bombardments since Russia’s invasion began almost a month ago, as capital Kyiv hunkered down in a curfew.

Tens of thousands of residents are trapped in the city described by those who managed to escape as a “freezing hellscape riddled with dead bodies and destroyed buildings”, Human Rights Watch said, quoting data provided by a local official.

“We know that there will not be enough space for everyone” on Tuesday, but “we will try to carry out the evacuation until we have gotten all the inhabitants of Mariupol out,” vowed Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk in a video address.—AFP ■

NEWS DIGEST

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

Biden heads to Europe to bolster West’s unity

PRESIDENT Joe Biden leaves Wednesday for Europe on a mission to bolster Western unity, ramp up unprecedented sanctions against Russia over its invasion of Ukraine and attempt to upset the post-Cold War balance of power.

On Thursday, Biden will attend summits with NATO, the G7 group and the European Council. He flies Friday to Poland, which neighbours Ukraine and is now the frontline in what some call a new Cold War, and on Saturday he meets President Andrzej Duda.

The intense diplomacy marks a crucial moment in the dangerous standoff with Putin, who seeks to force Ukraine from its pro-Western path. After a month of fighting, Russian forces have laid waste to swaths of the country but have made

US political scientist blames West for Ukraine crisis

“THE West, and especially America, is principally responsible” for the Ukraine crisis, John J. Mearsheimer, a US political scientist, wrote in a recent opinion piece published in The Economist.

American and European policymakers provoked the Ukraine crisis by trying to integrate Ukraine into the West and asserting that Russian President Vladimir Putin bears full responsibility for the crisis, said Mearsheimer, a political science professor at the University of Chicago, “But that story is wrong.” In his view, the Ukraine crisis “is the most dangerous international conflict since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis.” The West is now increasing aid to Ukraine while imposing economic sanctions on Russia, a step that Putin sees as “akin to a declaration of war”.

NATO invites Zelensky to address summit via video link

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has been invited to address a special NATO summit Thursday discussing the Russian invasion of his country, an official said.

“President Zelensky is invited to address the NATO summit via video link,” the NATO official said Tuesday.

“This will be an opportunity for allied leaders to hear directly from President Zelensky about the dire situation facing the people of Ukraine because of Russia’s aggression,” the official added.

Zelensky’s spokesman Serhiy Nykyforov confirmed that the Ukraine leader would be taking part in the summit and addressing it. Zelensky will seek help in ending the Russian invasion, Interfax-Ukraine quoted the spokesman as saying.

“This could be in several forms. Close airspace, provide Ukraine with powerful air defence systems and aviation,” he said.

Fortress Kyiv holds breath ahead of feared Russian assault

On day 27 of Russia’s invasion, the advance of troops northwest and east of the Ukrainian capital seems to have stalled and residents are taking advantage of a curfew to catch their breath and prepare.

Kyiv mayor and former world boxing champion Vitali Klitschko imposed the curfew from Monday until Wednesday morning, telling civilians to seek cover in bomb shelters if air defence sirens go off.

Many of Kyiv’s 3.5 million residents, mostly women and children, have fled the capital since Russia invaded on 24 February.

Those that remain are mostly the elderly and those who will defend the city: soldiers as well as those who enlisted in volunteer defence units.

SOURCE: XINHUA/AFP/ANI

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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

3. Social affairs

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

Fixtures set for SEA Games football matches for Myanmar

FIXTURES for the 31st SEA Games Men's Football Tournament plus women's competition have been confirmed, according to the SEA Games organizing committee.

The SEA Games Men's National Football Tournament will be held from 6 to 22 May

while the women's football tourney will be held from 9 to 21 May.

The SEA Games will be held from 12 to 23 May, but some sports, including football, will be held earlier than the opening day.

According to the an-

nouncement of the SEA Games, 10 teams will compete in the men's football competition. In the women's event, eight teams will compete in two groups.

Defending champions and host Viet Nam, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia,

Cambodia, the Philippines, Singapore, Laos and Timor-Leste are competing in the men's national football tournament.

In the women's football tournament, the defending champions and host Viet Nam, including the Myanmar team, Thailand, the Philippines, In-

donesia, Cambodia, Singapore and Laos will compete.

The SEA Games group drawing-lots event will be held on 6 April.

Myanmar football teams won bronze medal at the last 2019 Philippine SEA Games. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Mancini gunning for World Cup glory with Italy's qualification in the balance



Italy are aiming for World Cup glory despite having to navigate a treacherous play-off path in order to get the 2022 tournament, with North Macedonia the first barrier standing in their way. **PHOTO: AFP**

ITALY are aiming for World Cup glory despite having to navigate a treacherous play-off path in order to get the 2022 tournament, with North Macedonia the first barrier standing in their way.

The European champions begin a potential two-match mini campaign in Palermo

on Thursday with missing a second straight World Cup a real possibility, as a trip to either Turkey or Portugal awaits should they get through their semi-final.

However coach Roberto Mancini says he is looking past the playoffs and at Qatar, where the tournament kicks

off in November.

"Our goal is to win the World Cup, and to win the World Cup we have to win these two matches. There's nothing else to say," Mancini told reporters on Monday.

After so-called 'Notte Magiche' ('Magical Nights') of Euro 2020, Italy looked certain to banish the ghosts of the disastrous qualifying campaign for 2018 as Mancini's team not only won, but won playing an expansive style of football rarely associated with the Azzurri.

Those balmy summer evenings soon gave way to a frosty autumn in which Italy drew four of their final five World Cup qualifiers and two missed Jorginho penalties in their two matches with Switzerland cost them an automatic spot.

Italy's displays in those matches did not live up to the swaggering style which characterised their play right up to their Euro quarter-final win over Belgium. —AFP ■

Rooney and Vieira join Premier League Hall of Fame

MANCHESTER United great Wayne Rooney and former Arsenal captain Patrick Vieira were Wednesday inducted into the Premier League Hall of Fame.

The pair are the ninth and 10th players named in the select group, joining David Beckham, Steven Gerrard, Dennis Bergkamp, Frank Lampard, Roy Keane, Eric Cantona, Thierry Henry and Alan Shearer.

Rooney, currently manager of Championship side Derby, is second on the list of all-time Premier League goalscorers, with 208 goals for Manchester United and Everton.

"It's a huge honour for me to be named in the Premier League Hall of Fame, alongside an incredible group of players who have already been inducted," said the 36-year-old former forward. "Growing up, I watched the Premier League as far back as I can remember. My dream was always to become a professional footballer, score goals, and win trophies and I was lucky enough to win the Premier League five times.

"I have so many brilliant memories from my years playing for Everton and Manchester United and I'm really proud of what we achieved." — AFP ■

Wayne Rooney has been inducted into the Premier League's Hall of Fame. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

