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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.

Only when the country relies on own strength rather than putting too much reliance on others will the country meet development: Senior General

AS the period of taking State responsibilities is short, it is necessary to systematically manage the long term plans except education, health and regional development tasks, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with chief ministers of regions and states at the office of SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his speech, the Senior



Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers speech in meeting with Region and State chief ministers at SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 February 2022.

General said that the government adopted its political procedures: the first one is to ensure prosperity of the State and

food sufficiency and the second one is to build a firm multiparty democracy as well as the Union based on democracy and

federalism. The third one is to build army, navy and air forces with the internal strength fully capable of defending the State

at a time when the country is wealthy with economic growth and stable politics.

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The regions and states need to give a helping hand with nationalistic spirit to Chin, Kayah and Kayin states for their some regions to overcome transport, education and health difficulties due to severe climatic conditions and rare cultivable lands.

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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*

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Public Notice

THE respective district Rapid Response Teams (RRT) are organized for 24-hour information for the people living in Yangon Region who suffer from COVID-19 symptoms and have close contact with the positive patients, and the people can contact the following phone numbers of the districts.

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

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

COVID-19 confirmed patients.

**Southern District Public Health Department,
24 hours contact numbers to RRT**

- 09 882555067
- 09 882555068
- 09 882555069

**Northern District Public Health Department,
24 hours contact numbers to RRT**

- 09 882555071
- 09 882556338
- 09 882556340

**Western District Public Health Department, 24
hours contact numbers to RRT**

- 09 882555063
- 09 882555064
- 09 882555065

**Eastern District Public Health Department, 24
hours contact numbers to RRT**

- 09 882555049
- 09 882555061
- 09 882555062

Ministry of Health

Eld's Deer fawn born at Mann Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary

A total of 13 fawns of Eld's Deer, the critically endangered endemic in Myanmar, were discovered in the last week of December 2021 at the Mann Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary in Minbu Township, Magway Region, said an official of the Eld's Deer Conservation Group.

There were 32 numbers of Eld's Deer in the farm. Three fawns were born in October 2021 and 10 other fawns were bred in December 2021. At

present, there are 15 male and 30 female deer, totaling 45 deer; Ko Nyein Chan Aung, an in charge of the Group quoted in his sayings on 13 February.

A deer farm was established near Mann creek in 2010 for those pilgrims who came to Mann Shwesettaw Pagoda.

The number of Eld's Deer, Myanmar's native animals, has reached 45 for now. There is no mortality of deer in the farm so far.—Paing Zay (Magway)/GNLM



Eld's Deer are seen at Wildlife Sanctuary of Mann Shwesettaw in Magway Region. **PHOTO: PAING ZAY (MAGWAY)**

To build strength within the country!

1. In the first, our economy will be developed by our internal strength. We have abundant natural resources and human resources. We have weakness in the socio-economic development of the people as we have been relying on external products or import rather than our domestic production.
2. Secondly, we will build our political strength internally. Building a Union and multiparty democratic system based on democracy and federalism will certainly enhance our political strength.
3. Thirdly, the defence capability of the country should be strengthened with the participation of all ethnic national people. With united strength both in weals and woes, we all will build the defence capability of our country with modern military prowess (Army, Navy and Air).

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

Only when the country relies on own strength rather than putting too much reliance on others will the country meet development Senior General

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Only when the country relies on own strength rather than putting too much reliance on others will the country meet development, so efforts must be made for development of the nation based on internal strength.

Myanmar is a home to more than 55 million population, more than 37 million of whom are above 18 years old. Having abundant of human resources, the country needs to efficiently utilize underground and aboveground natural resources and human resources for development of the nation.

The regions and states need to give a helping hand with nationalistic spirit to Chin, Kayah and Kayin states for their some regions to overcome transport, education and health difficulties due to severe climatic conditions and rare cultivable lands. The government will prioritize the states having requirements in some sectors for ensuring peace and prosperity of the nation.

To do so, it is necessary to effectively utilize the human resources because some states

Experts estimate that generating of hydropower based on various creeks and rivers will be more than 40,000 megawatts. Electricity must be efficiently used. Fuel must be used in actual needed measures.

do not have adequate human resources. Hence, priority must be given to enhancement of education promotion at present.

The government firstly prioritizes learning education. Only when the students have rights of learning school education will they face easy access to techniques and knowledge. Hence, region and state chief ministers should encourage the local people for learning education in respective regions and arrange learning of all students.

If the staff wish to rejoin educational service term, it is necessary allow them under the ethics of service personnel. Education and health staff, who have been trained, should be urged to rejoin the service term. The government needs to protect education staff, more than 80 per cent of who are female, as they are under threat and coercion posed by unscrupulous persons who took advantages over the weakness of female teachers for their shamefulness and fear.

The Tatmadaw deployed military medical officers in remote areas of regions and states for ensuring smooth health care services for the local people. The Senior General expressed his deep recognition over the dutiful health staff loyal to the State. Officials need to organize the CDM health staff to rejoin the service term of health staff. Healthiness will contribute to learning education and working as well as to increasing the life expectancy of the State.

The country has been paying back to the foreign debts yearly. A larger amount of trade deficit depended on larger imports without encouraging the domestic production. Mismanagement affects a terrible loss of finance for the country. Hence, region and state chief ministers need to encourage local industries and domestic production.

As the period of taking State responsibilities is short, it is necessary to systematically manage the long term plans except education, health and regional development tasks.

Region and state chief ministers reported on regional development tasks, measures on rule of law and peace and stability, smooth flow of trade, opening of schools and universities, resumption of hospitals, vaccination process, control of Omicron infection, investment and job opportunities.

In his speech on development of the State and minimizing waste of the fund, the Senior General said the vast cultivable lands must be efficiently utilized in the country. If per-acre yield of paddy increases, crop production will be surplus rather than the sufficiency for the people. Experts estimate that generating of hydropower based on various creeks and rivers will be more than 40,000 megawatts. Electricity must be efficiently used. Fuel must be used in actual needed measures. Officials must place emphasis on thrift and systematic use of materials and funds in State building and development tasks.—MNA

1,473 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 13 February, total figure rises to 546,771

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 546,771 after 1,473 new cases were reported on 13 February 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 517,530 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,310 without casualties for 21 days consecutively.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 12-2-2022, a total of 22,810,233 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 19,745,236 people have been fully vaccinated and 3,064,997 people have yet to get the second shots.—MNA

National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee holds informal meeting with ethnic armed organizations



An informal meeting between National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee and ethnic armed organizations is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 February.

THE National Solidarity and Peace Negotiation Committee held an informal meeting with ethnic armed organizations yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Member of the State Administration Council Union Minister at the Union Government Office-1 Chairman of the committee Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and committee members, vice-chairmen, secretaries and central committee members of nine Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) signatories and non-NCA signatories and officials.

At the meeting, the SAC member chairman of the committee discussed about the situation of inviting peace meeting to ethnic armed organizations, building of a Union based on democracy and federalism, stability, peace and development, matters of further negotiations, and peace issue, and each EAOs replied their discussions freely.

In the afternoon, the committee separately met and discussed with each EAO about the matters of stability and peace in regions, development, health care and further peace process, and presented gifts.— MNA

Staff participated in Diamond Jubilee Union Day honoured

A ceremony to honour staff from 10 departments including the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, who participated in the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee Union Day, and staff who participated in the Diamond Jubilee Union Day commemorative Youth and Literature Festival Entertainment Programme was held at the hall of Ministry yesterday.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko thanked the staff who participated in the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee Union Day and expressed congratulatory words to those who helped.

“It can be seen that staff from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture have fully discharged the duties and responsi-

bilities of the Ministry in the spirit of good civil service and they all are worthy of praise,” the Union Minister said.

The Union Minister stressed officials to demonstrate the names of the staff from 10 departments including the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, rector and staff of National University of Culture and Arts (Mandalay) who participated in and supervised the event, three retired musicians and staff from the Department of the Fine Arts who performed the Diamond Jubilee Union Youth and Literature Festival Entertainment Programme, faculty members of the National University of Culture and the Arts (Yangon) who supervised the ethnic cultural groups from various regions and states who



Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko praises staff for participation in Diamond Jubilee Union Day celebration on 13 February.

came to attend the Diamond Jubilee Union Day respectively.

Certificates were presented to U Kyaw Thet Aung, Principal of Myanmar Computer Company

L.t.d. (MCC) who assisted with LED background lighting at the Diamond Jubilee Union Day Dinner through the concerned persons.

Next, U Aung San Oo, Rector of the National University of Culture and the Arts (Mandalay) thanked on behalf of the departments.—MNA

Myanmar ships over 8,000 black eyed pea over past four months

MYANMAR has delivered US\$6.6 million worth of more than 8,000 tonnes of black-eyed pea to the international trade partners as of 4 February 2022 in the current financial year 2021-2022 since October 2021,

the Customs Department's statistics showed.

The foreign trade partners prefer Myanmar's black-eyed pea due to the low content of chemical residues. The prevailing price is estimated

K115,000 per bag, whereas last year, the price inched up higher to K152,000 per bag.

It is mostly delivered to external markets; India, China, Japan and European countries. European countries pre-

fer the black-eyed bean.

Following the uncertainty in markets of black bean and pigeon pea, Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association suggested, in October-end 2020,

that the growers cultivate black eyed bean more. It is primarily cultivated in Ayeyawady, Mandalay, Bago and Magway regions and Kayin State.—KK/GNLM

Union Ministers appreciate display of parade vehicles

A fleet of parade vehicles which joined the Diamond Jubilee Union Day Ceremony from Nay Pyi Taw Council, the regions and states were parked at Tabaung ground in front of the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw and the Union Ministers observed and showed appreciations to the floats yesterday evening.

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn for Information and wife, Union Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint for Ethnic Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw Council's chair Dr Maung Maung Nang, Deputy Minister U Ye Tint for Information and Deputy



Union ministers and visitors enjoy performances of Kachin ethnic cultural troupe in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 February.

Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan and the Nay Pyi Taw Council members enjoyed and participated in it.

The Union Minister also inspected the ethnic food fair from the regions and states.

The parade vehicles in honour of the 75th Union Day displayed the culture, tradition, customs and local products of the ethnic people to raise the awareness of national integration and cultural values. The youth, government personnel and families and the local residents paid attention to it carefully and appreciated.

Additionally, the ethnic food fair, one-stop service place to enjoy the local food of the ethnic people across the State, is another attraction for the visitors.

The display of the decorated vehicles and ethnic food fair are available between 8 am and 8 pm until 15 February.—MNA



Minister U Zaw Aye Maung for Ethnic Affairs and Nay Pyi Taw Council members walked around and applauded the traditional dance performances on the decorated vehicles.

Kachin State ethnic delegates performed traditional dance and Union ministers, deputy ministers, Kachin State

A scene of Kachin traditional dance reflects national unity at entertainment of Kachin ethnic delegates on 13 February.

Kachin State traditional culture troupe visits landmarks in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Kachin State traditional culture troupe, who participated in the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee Union Day, visited significant places in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

First, the troupe visited the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) and viewed the jade and gems, pearl, silverware and natural resources on display in the gallery.

The cultural troupe then visited the Nay Pyi Taw Hluttaw buildings, and viewed the

traditional Myanmar cultural monument and 92 types of wooden crafts on display at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw reception hall and took documentary photos. During the visit to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall, Pyithu Hluttaw Hall and Amyotha Hluttaw Hall, officials explained the functioning of each Hluttaw and the knowledge of Hluttaw affairs.

Next, the cultural troupe visited the National Museum, the Safari Park and the Defence Services Museum.—MNA



Members of Kachin State traditional cultural troupe visit Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 February.

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

People express delightedness for displaying decorated floats, selling ethnic traditional foods

THE decorated floats from regions and states used in the Diamond Jubilee Union Day celebration are displayed at Tabaung Ground in front of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw. Traditional food stalls of ethnic people are sold at designated places. These venues are crowded with visitors. Hence, the interviews with some of visitors were presented as follows:-

Ma Juu Juu
(Magway Region cultural troupe)

I am satisfied with myself and pleased for entertainment at the diamond jubilee celebration to the people. I am so happy for seeing the hustle and bustle of people at the exhibition. I decided to participate in entertainment on the final day. I'd like to urge the people to buy ethnic foods at fair prices.

Ma Aye Aye Thant
(visitor)



I have felt visiting the regions and states. I am happy for viewing ethnic traditional foods in a single place. Traditional dances and entertainment of Kachin State troupe is joyfulness for chance to participate in. I think observation at the exhibition will raise our

knowledge. So, all people shouldn't miss chance to visit there.

Ma Cho Cho Latt
(visitor)



I have heard decorated floats from regions and states will be used in the diamond jubilee Union day ceremony. So, I was thoughtful for showcasing these floats to the people. Now, my dream comes true. I am very pleased for viewing these floats on a grand scale at the exhibition. I am happy for enjoying the traditional dances of ethnic cultural troupes. Observing these decorated floats is my first experience. Ethnic traditional foods are delicious. Moreover, I accumulate the knowledge in observing the landmarks, emblems and traditions aboard the decorated floats.

decorated floats.

U Myo Oo
(visitor)



I am pleased for chance to visit the exhibition. I can widen my scope of knowledge through observing the landmarks and emblems of all ethnics. It is my first experience in viewing the landmarks of regions and states. As I can taste the ethnic traditional foods, I have felt arriving at these states. I wish to visit similar exhibition next year.

Ko Kyaw Thu and family
(visitors)

At an age of 40 years, I have never visited this celebration. These decorated floats are very significant. My family is



very happy. My children have greater knowledge in the visits. Participation of all ethnics reflects friendly relations and unity among those ethnics. Being genuine works of ethnic traditional foods, I enjoy feeling about these areas. I wish to see friendly relations among ethnics in the future.

Ko Han Lin
(ethnic traditional food seller)

My happiness cannot be measured for the chance to sell Bamar traditional foods at the exhibition. I am happy for tasting delicious foods of other ethnics. The foods are sold at fair prices. I have a chance to freely view the decorated floats. I'd like to urge ethnic brethren to join the exhibition.—Khit Lunge/
GNLM/Photos: Ko Ko Htein



Yangon mayor inspects urban greenery activities

YANGON Mayor U Bo Htay, in his capacity as chair of Yangon Region City Development Committee inspected the compound of YCDC's Maugon housing in Mingala Taungnyunt Township yesterday and observed the market to offer the groceries at fairer prices, and ensure the compliance of the COVID-19 preventive measures issued by the Ministry of Health.

Afterwards, the Yangon Mayor inspected the reconstruction of the wooden bridge between the entrance to Karaweik and Tezadipa island in Kandawgyi Park, the land preparation to plant grass for new lawn, cutting overhand-

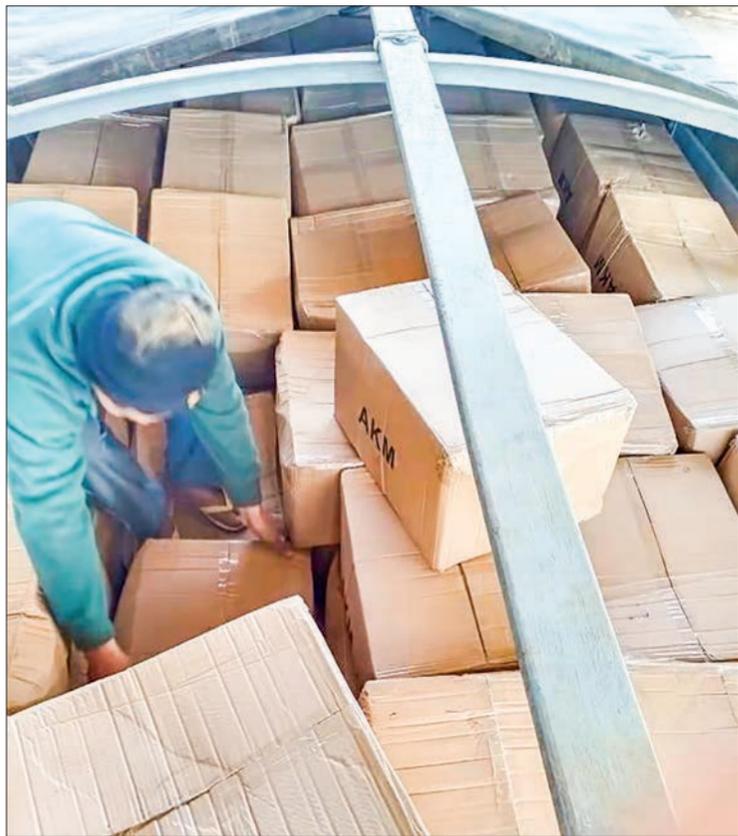
ing trees and branches and trimming the high hedges on the streets and pavements at Yangon University of Economics in Kamayut Township and greenery activities from Marlar Hall to the University of Yangon. The mayor directed the officials concerned regarding growing the grass for new lawns and constructing the bikeway pavements near Mingala Lake in Mingaladon Township.

After that, he instructed the officials to fulfill the needs after inspecting the rock fragments to prevent soil erosion at pier 4 of Shwepyitha Bridge and repair for broken bottom chords at pier 6.—MNA



Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay inspects culturing of grass to be lawn in urban area of Yangon City on 13 February.

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



Cartons of medical equipment are systematically kept onboard the cargo truck.

THE Ministry of Commerce is facilitating the importation of essential medical supplies plus anti-COVID devices that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, through border trade camps, international airports and seaports.

A total of 54 tonnes of masks were imported by four companies using nine vehicles via Chinswehew and Lwejel trading camps yesterday.

Officials from the relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the standard operating procedures for the import process.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments and treatment of COVID-19 as well as contact persons for inquiries can be reached through the Ministry's Website—www.commerce.gov.mm. — MNA

Myanmar mineral exports down by over 45 per cent as of 4 February

MYANMAR'S mineral exports have plummeted down by more than 45 per cent between 1 October 2021 and 4 February 2022 of the current mini-budget period (Oct 2021- Mar 2022).

The value of Myanmar's mineral exports has drastically sunk to US\$203.95 million as of 4 February 2022 since 1 October 2021, reflecting a severe drop of \$196.6 million as against a-year ago period, the Ministry of Commerce's data indicated.

The mineral exports hit over \$373.76 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 like gem emporium and expo last year, a trader said.

Additionally, Lonkhin, Phakant, Mawlu and Mawhan gem and jade lands 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 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 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 a period of 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 permit 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 maritime trade, while 20 of them are sent to neighbouring countries through border trade channels.—KK/GNLM

Public Notice

1. The Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to effectively curb corruption.
2. The ACC used SMS on the mobile phone to ask the public who seek services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via Short Code No "1111" for feedbacks, including the Public Feedback Programme-PFP.
3. According to the PFP, the right replies of the citizens via Short Code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.
4. Therefore, the public should make a reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at Short Code No "1111" and such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

Answer "1111" to fight against corruption
Answer "1111" to improve services
Let's work together to eliminate corruption towards
prosperity

Seek the best way for electrification and consumption

TODAY, various electricity projects are being implemented at hydropower plants, national gas power plants and recycling power plants as well as coal-fired power plants to meet the demand of local people. In fact, the electricity sector can produce some 4,200 megawatts at maximum. But the supply of electricity is lessening some 1,470 megawatts rather than the actual generation. Although the government is striving for generating electricity at full capacity, some 930 megawatts of electricity may be declining for various reasons. As a result, people partially face outages of electricity in limited times.

That is why the government and the people need to build an understanding of how to manage electrification and how to efficiently use electricity under the prescribed disciplines. It will be the best way for both.

to generate 390 megawatts. Moreover, efforts are being made to implement floating solar projects, rooftop solar projects, and small and medium-scale hydropower projects the length and breadth of the nation.

In addition, the government is striving for management of the electricity trade with neighbouring countries such as China, India, Laos and Thailand. As part of efforts for implementing the electrification projects, Myanmar, being a member of the ASEAN, decides to take out 23 per cent of the total primary energy supply from renewable energy in 2025 as planned by the ASEAN.

That is why the government and the people need to build an understanding of how to manage electrification and how to efficiently use electricity under the prescribed disciplines. It will be the best way for both.



Currently, 65 per cent of generating electricity is based on natural gas, 40 per cent from hydropower, three per cent from coal and one per cent from renewable energy such as solar energy and wind energy. The government sets the 30-year national electrification plan to electrify the whole nation in 2030. As such, plans are underway to generate nine per cent of electricity from renewable energy.

At present, about 6.6 million families across the nation are consuming electricity from the national grids. If they efficiently use the electricity, they can save some 432 megawatts in total. Hence, people need to seek the best way to fully consume electricity and for the way how to efficiently consume it. Currently, the use of LED electronic accessories is the most appropriate for consumers.

To be able to meet the missions, the government has launched 13 projects to generate 370 megawatts of electricity based on solar energy. Meanwhile, a plan is underway to implement three solar power projects

Cancer patients undergoing treatment are more susceptible to COVID-19 misinformation: Study

According to a new study, cancer patients undergoing treatment are more likely to believe misinformation related to COVID-19 than those without a history of cancer.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Patient Education and Counseling'.

"These findings help us better understand the threat of COVID-19 misinformation in an already vulnerable population," said lead author Jeanine Guidry, PhD, an assistant professor at the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture in the College of Humanities and Sciences, director of the Media + Health Lab at VCU and a member of the Cancer Prevention and Control research program at VCU Massey Cancer Center.

Certain types of misinformation

"Understanding who is more likely to believe certain types of misinformation brings us closer to understanding why this is the case, which in turn may help us address this concerning issue."

Guidry and colleagues conducted a survey of 897 adults, with roughly one-third undergoing treatment for cancer, one-third cancer survivors not currently in treatment, and one-third respondents with no cancer history. They found that cancer patients currently undergoing treatment were more likely to believe false information about COVID-19 than the other two groups. Least likely to endorse COVID-19 misinformation were cancer survivors no



REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO: Founded in 1974, VCU Massey Cancer Center is a non-profit organization part of Virginia Commonwealth University. PHOTO: MASSEYCANCERCENTER.ORG/ANI

longer in treatment.

"These results highlight that, compared to healthy adults without cancer, cancer survivors currently undergoing treatment may be more vulnerable to COVID-19-related misinformation, while those no longer in treatment are less vulnerable," the researchers wrote.

Why are cancer patients more likely to endorse COVID-19 misinformation? The reasons are not entirely clear, the researchers say.

Heightened anxiety

"It may be that survivors currently undergoing treatment have heightened anxiety about how the current pandemic will impact their course of survival, leading them to seek out more information on the internet or via social media where they are more exposed to misinformation," they wrote.

"Increased information seeking may impact cancer patients' information-processing abilities, making them more likely to use

heuristics or cues, rather than more critical, central processing routes of assessing information credibility," they added.

The study also found that cancer survivors who are no longer in treatment may have more experience evaluating the veracity of the information they read online.

"Our cancer survivors, they've gone through this journey and come out the other end, knowing you can't believe everything you read on the internet - they

know you have to talk to your doctor and other people who are knowledgeable about these issues," said study senior author Bernard Fuemmeler, PhD, associate director for population science and Gordon D. Ginder, MD, Chair in Cancer Research at VCU Massey Cancer Center as well as professor of health behavior and policy at the VCU School of Medicine.

Misinformation and unverifiable content

The results build on a previous study by the researchers that found that parents of children with cancer were more likely to believe misinformation and unverifiable content associated with COVID-19 than parents of children with no cancer history.

"Our previous study found that parents of pediatric cancer patients were more likely to consider misinformation about COVID-19 as true compared to parents of children with no cancer history," Guidry said.

"While neither of these groups was random population samples, and therefore the findings cannot be generalized, this is still concerning because these are both vulnerable groups, likely already under stress because of cancer diagnoses."

The new study's results suggest that oncologists and other providers working with patients

undergoing treatment for cancer should be mindful of the patients' potential susceptibility to misinformation and should help address patients' concerns about the pandemic and how it relates to their treatment.

Vulnerable position

"Cancer patients are in an especially vulnerable position, and it's our duty as health care providers to help them weather the 'infodemic' of misinformation so they can have the best possible outcome under these challenging circumstances," said study co-author Robert Winn, MD, director and Lipman Chair in Oncology at VCU Massey Cancer Center and senior associate dean for cancer innovation at the VCU School of Medicine.

Data for the new study was collected prior to the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines. However, Guidry said, the findings are relevant today.

"The COVID-19 vaccines and boosters so far have been very successful in preventing severe disease and mortality because of COVID-19, but infection with the virus and its variants is still a possibility, and misinformation about COVID-19 prevention and treatment is still spreading quickly, both online and in-person," she said.

SOURCE: ANI

Exercise post vaccine shot boosts antibodies? Research suggests so

Exercising post vaccination surely gets the heart pumping but can it increase one's antibodies? Researchers at Iowa State University suggested that 90 minutes of mild to moderate-intensity exercise directly after a flu or COVID-19 vaccine may provide an extra immune boost.

The newly published study in the journal 'Brain, Behavior, and Immunity', found that participants who cycled on a stationary bike or took a brisk walk for an hour-and-a-half after getting a jab produced more antibodies in the following four weeks compared to participants who sat or continued

with their daily routine post-immunization.

Similar results

The researchers found similar results when they ran an experiment with mice and treadmills.

Antibodies are essentially the body's "search and destroy" line of defence against viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites. Vaccines help the immune system learn how to identify something foreign and respond by bolstering the body's defences, including an increase in antibodies.

"Our preliminary results are the first to demonstrate a specific amount of time can enhance the body's antibody response to the

Pfizer-BioNtech COVID-19 vaccine and two vaccines for influenza," said Kinesiology Professor Marian Kohut, lead author of the paper.

The researchers said the study's findings could directly benefit people with a range of fitness levels. Nearly half of the participants in the experiment had a BMI in the overweight or obese category. During 90 minutes of exercise, they focused on maintaining a pace that kept their heart rate around 120-140 beats per minute rather than distance.

In the study, the researchers also tested whether participants could get the same bump in antibody

ies with just 45-minutes of exercising. They found the shorter workout did not increase the participants' antibody levels. Kohut said the research team may test whether 60 minutes is enough to generate a response in a follow-up study.

As to why prolonged, mild-to moderate-intensity exercise could improve the body's immune response, Kohut said there may be multiple reasons. Working out increased blood and lymph flow, which helped circulate immune cells. As these cells moved around the body, they were more likely to detect something that's foreign.

Mouse experiment

Data from the mouse exper-



The relationship between exercise and immunity is, in general, well established. Most studies show that being physically active helps protect us against catching colds and other mild, upper-respiratory tract infections. PHOTO: AFP

iment also suggested a type of protein (i.e., interferon alpha) produced during exercise helps

generate virus-specific antibodies and T-cells.

SOURCE: ANI

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed Deputy Director-General U Lwin Aung from Administration Department under the Office of Anti-Corruption Commission, as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date, he assumes charge of his duties.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 13 February 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 14 February 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Kayin and Mon states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and isolated in Eastern Shan, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 February 2022: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 February 2022: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 February 2022: Generally fair weather.

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COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various regions, states



Health staff inoculates anti-COVID-19 vaccine to a local in Ponnagyun Township of Rakhine State.

DOCTORS and nurses from public hospitals, Tatmadaw medical teams, healthcare workers and volunteers are working hard to administer 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.

The COVID-19 vaccine is inoculated 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 organizations, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP

camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively.

Doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers injected COVID-19 vaccines to 15,060 people from 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region, 7,555 people from five townships in Rakhine State and 7,420 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively yesterday.

It is reported that officials from the respective Military Commands visited the sites and coordinated the necessary work. —MNA

CRIME NEWS

Drugs seized in Bhamo, Pyigyidagun, Muse, Laukkai townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched the house of Chant Hwe (alias) Ar Ti and Ma Chit Su Wai in Aungtha Ward, Bhamo at 11 am on 12 February and confiscated 5,539 stimulant tablets.

A similar combined team inspected Soe Win (alias) Arkar Soe and Myo Hlaing Win (alias) Wai Gyi near the temporary bus terminal in Dagundaing Ward, Pyigyidagun Township and arrested them together with 1,900 stimulant tablets on that day.

On the evening of the same day, a team including members of the Anti-Drug Police

Force searched the house of Yan Kyar Wam in Swansaw Ward, Muse and seized 4,000 stimulant tablets, 0.016 kilo opium extract and 0.013 kilo of low quality opium.

A team including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force in Laukkai Township inspected the house of Law Laukfer in Lontan Village on 12 February and seized 2,000 stimulant tablets and 0.1 kilo of heroin.

They are being prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.—MNA

Terrorists set fire to teachers' dormitory in Saw Township

TERRORISTS, who did not want the students to study peacefully, destroyed buildings inside the compound of the basic education high school branch. It is reported that a dormitory built for teachers was ablaze.

The incident took place at 8:50 pm on 12 February in Yan village, Saw Township,

Magway Region. The fire was extinguished 20 minutes later and one bamboo house (worth about K300,000) was destroyed in the fire.

Security forces are working together to identify and take action against the terrorists who set fire to the teachers' dormitory.—MNA

Illegal teak, utensils, motorcycle seized



A customs official checks illegally imported foodstuff at the checkpoint.



An illegally imported motorcycle



Officials search illegal sawn timber from truck.

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

On 12 February, the Bago Region Customs Department and a combined team conducted a surprise check between Waw Township and Shwe Thanlwin Tollgate and seized K1,021,000 worth of foodstuffs and action is taken under the

Customs Law.

Similarly, on 13 February, the Bago Region Forest Department and its combined teams inspected 6.7340 tonnes of illegal teak (estimated at K1,010,100) in forest reserves in Toungoo and Pyay districts and action is taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, a combined inspection team under the management of the Sagaing Region

Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted a surprise inspection and seized one unregistered motor cycle (estimated at K300,000) in Leshi Township and action is taken under the Export/Import Law.

Therefore, a total of three arrests were made on 12 and 13 February and their estimated values are K2,331,100, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. —MNA

Mandalay Region targets cultivation of over 88,000 acres of summer paddy

MANDALAY Region Agriculture Department has planned cultivation of over 88,000 acres of summer paddy across the region, said U Nanda Htut Tin, a staff officer of the region department.

The summer paddy cultivation acres are projected 88,908 in 21 townships of seven districts, Mandalay Region. This project commenced in January last year. A total of 17,580 acres have been cultivated under summer paddy so far and the remaining 71,328 acres of farmlands are under cultivation.

“Three summer paddy varieties are primarily cultivated, mostly Shwethweyin variety, rice variety with maturity of 90-110 days and the high-yielding variety. The growing season starts in January and ends in April. The



Photo depicts thriving paddy saplings in farmland with high yield prospect in Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG**

short-duration variety for 120 days is commonly cultivated,”

he added.

The project will cover 90

acres in Mandalay of Mandalay District, 7,376 acres in Amara-

pura, 19,737 in Patheingyi, over 9,600 in Madaya of PyinOoLwin District, 6,600 in Singu, 1,367 in Thabeikkyin, 137 in Tagaung, 553 in Kyaukse, 690 in Singaing, 376 in Myittha, 115 in TadaU, 820 in Meiktila, 14 in Mahlaing, over 1,780 in Myingyan, 1,200 in Taungtha, 150 in Natogyi, 990 in Ngazun, 405 in NyaungU, 980 in Kyaukpadaung, 1,400 in Yamethin and 615 in Pyawbwe townships, totaling 88,908 acres.

Approximately 506,889 acres of monsoon paddy have been harvested out of 507,898 projected acres in the region. The summer paddy uses the irrigation system, river water pumping system and underground water tapping.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay sub-printing house)/GNLM

Muse border trade down nearly \$1,500 mln within four months this mini-budget period



Cargo trucks carrying export items are rolling to border trade camp.

THE value of trade between Myanmar and China via the Muse land border in nearly

four months of this current mini-budget period showed a drastic drop of nearly US\$1,500

million compared to the last previous year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

From 1 October 2021 to 28 January 2022, Myanmar's exports to China through the Muse land border were valued at \$425.880 million, while imports were worth \$20.801 million. The value of the Muse border trade touched \$ 446.681 million in nearly four months of this mini-budget year 2021-22.

The trade showed a fall in both exports and imports compared to the corresponding period of last year.

Compared with the same period last year, the value of trade via Muse amounted to \$1,945.917 million, including \$ 1,226.391 million in export and

\$719.526 million in imports.

The annual trade through Muse border was \$2,829.860 million in the FY2012-13, \$3,517.684 million in the FY2013-14, \$5,318.163 million in the FY2014-15, \$5,377.877 million in the FY2015-16, \$5,410.056 million in the FY2016-17, \$5,841.879 million in the FY2017-18, \$2,995.401 million in the mini budget year of 2018, \$4,917.976 million in the FY2018-19, \$4,890.587 million in the FY2019-2020 and \$4,057.724 million in the FY2020-21.

In 2020-21 FY, China topped the list of the ten Myanmar's exported counties with \$4,905.80 million, followed by Thailand with \$3,172.26 million, according to the Ministry of

Commerce.

The country also exported goods worth \$944.21 million to Japan, \$836.37 million to India, \$620.59 million to the United States, \$426.25 million to Germany, \$411.71 million to Spain, \$385.40 million to the United Kingdom, \$366.18 million to the Netherlands and \$305.76 million to South Korea, the Ministry's figures said.

The bilateral trade between Myanmar and China amounted to over \$12.13 billion from October to September of the 2019-2020FY, including over \$5.4 billion worth of exports and over \$6.7 billion worth of imports, according to the data released by the Ministry. — Aye Maung/GNLM

China demand raises Babchi seeds price to double

CHINA'S strong demand hike up the price of Babchi seeds in Mandalay market, according to Mandalay Beans and Pulses traders.

This lucrative herb has grasped Chinese export prospects. The traders are receiving a handsome price in Mandalay market, traders stated.

They are naturally found in the fields of onion, chili and chick pea. Pale, Yinmabin, Wundwin, Thedaw, Thazi and Pyawbwe townships are the supplier of Babchi seeds to Mandalay market. Babchi seeds were priced only K1,800 per viss (a viss equals to 1.6 kg) during the year-ago period. The price has risen to K3,600 per viss at present, according to

Soe Win Myint depot in Mandalay.

Earlier, the herbs in its natural habitats were destroyed. In the present, the growers see its market prospects and place them in Chinese market. Therefore, they are eyeing the seeds to convert to plantation areas from natural habitat. The depot owner suggested the growers to cultivate this marketable herb.

The seeds can be harvested in winter and they are mostly found in Taninthayi Region and Rakhine State. They are seldomly demanded in the domestic market. It is widely utilized in traditional medicine for its health benefits.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay sub-printing house)/GNLM



Seeds of Babchi lucrative herb are seen at brokerage in Mandalay market. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG**

Kabul's leisure resort Qargha Lake mired with economic difficulties

ONCE a popular recreational site, the Qargha Lake, situated on the western suburb of Kabul city, used to be crowded with visitors. But nowadays, it is almost deserted by raging economic problems.

"The number of visitors to the Qargha Lake amusement park has been drastically reduced," Zadran, a 50-year-old roadside food seller, told Xinhua, saying that his income was thus decreased.

"Last year at this time I could earn up to 4,000 afghanis daily but this year nowadays I can hardly earn 300 Afghanis a day," said Zadran, the sole bread earner of a family of eight, who started his roadside food shop in the lake area 10 years ago.

He said a high unemployment rate, poverty, among other economic problems, have sandwiched the people of Afghanistan and eventually reduced the num-



Photo taken on 7 February 2022 shows a view of Qargha lake in Kabul, Afghanistan. **PHOTO: SAIFURAHMAN SAFI/XINHUA**

ber of visitors to the park. Zadran, however, said he feels safer working in his roadside shop everyday, praising the improving security

situation in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of the US-led forces. Washington has imposed sanctions on the Taliban-led gov-

ernment after a hasty pullout in late August, which battered the economy in the war-torn country. — Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britain's GDP grows 7.5 pct in 2021

THE gross domestic product (GDP) in Britain is estimated to have grown by 7.5 per cent in 2021, bouncing back from a 9.4 per cent fall in 2020, according to official data released on Friday.

The country's GDP increased by one per cent in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2021, contributed by increased clinic visits, COVID-19 testing and tracing activities and vaccination programme, said the British Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Despite the quarterly GDP growth, the ONS said it was still 0.4 per cent below the pre-pandemic level seen in Q4 2019. — Xinhua ■

China's refined oil consumption up 3.2 pct in 2021

CHINA'S refined oil consumption reported steady growth last year as the economy continued to firm up, industrial data showed. Consumption of refined oil came in at 341.48 million tonnes for 2021, up 3.2 per cent year on year, according to data from the National Development and Reform Commission. Consumption of gasoline and aviation fuel both went up 5.7 per cent, while that of diesel gained 0.5 per cent during the period. China's economy expanded 8.1 per cent year on year in 2021 despite sporadic epidemic resurgences and a complicated external environment, underlining the country's capability of ensuring economic stability with swift policy response. — Xinhua ■

OPEC+ faces 'chronic' struggle to meet output target: IEA



Saudi Arabia possesses around 17 per cent of the world's proven petroleum reserves. The oil and gas sector accounts for about 50 per cent of gross domestic product, and about 70 per cent of export earnings. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE International Energy Agency on Friday raised its forecast for world oil demand in 2022 but

warned of a "chronic" failure by OPEC and its allies to meet their output targets. The 13 members

of the Saudi-led Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and their 10 allies, including Russia, had cut production sharply in 2020 as prices collapsed after the Covid pandemic emerged.

The group, dubbed OPEC+, began to increase output last year, renewing every month a target of 400,000 barrels per day, as demand and prices recovered after countries began to lift Covid restrictions. OPEC+ agreed on a similar increase again earlier this month despite soaring crude prices and geopolitical tensions rattling the markets.

But analysts have said some members, such as Angola and Nigeria, have been unable to

scale up their production and others, such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, are unwilling to do so. "Chronic underperformance by OPEC+ in meeting its output targets and rising geopolitical tensions have propelled oil prices higher," the IEA said in its monthly oil market report.

Prices of the benchmark US and international contracts hit seven-year highs in January and have hovered around \$90 per barrel. "If the persistent gap between OPEC+ output and its target levels continues, supply tensions will rise, increasing the likelihood of more volatility and upward pressure on prices," the IEA said. — AFP ■

Novel crisis: Iran's books shrink as US sanctions bite

FOR literature lovers in sanction-hit Iran, a new novel has long provided a brief respite from a grinding economic crisis triggered by international pressure imposed over Tehran's contested nuclear programme.

But now losing yourself in a good book is becoming harder, as cash-strapped publishers struggle because the price of paper is soaring.

"If a 200-page novel sold for 400,000 rials (\$1.60) last year, its price today is 1,000,000 rials (\$4.10), most of which is the cost of production," said Reza Hasheminejad, who runs the Ofoq publishing house. Iran does not produce its own paper pulp for publishing so relies on im-

ports, and while those are not under sanctions, they must be paid for in foreign currency. That means the price of a book depends directly on the fluctuation of Iran's rial.

So publishers are not only slashing the number of titles published, but also cutting the number of pages of those they do print by shrinking the font size. "Publishing has suffered a major crisis — which could become existential," said Emily Amrai, collection director at the Houpa publishing house. While publishers worldwide face growing challenges to the way people read and consume literature, Iran is facing an extra problem. — AFP ■



Bookstores in Iran look similar to those anywhere in the world, but publishers have had to slash the number of titles and reduce the pages. **PHOTO: ATTA KENARE/AFP**

Chinese-owned SUV brands occupy bigger market share

CHINESE-OWNED car brands occupied a larger portion of domestic market share for sports utility vehicles (SUVs) in 2021, according to data from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. Sales of Chinese-owned SUV brands jumped 12.6 per cent year on year to 5.28 million units last year, accounting for 52.3 per cent of the total SUV sales in the country.

The market share rose 2.7 percentage points from 2020. Haval H6, the popular SUVs produced by Great Wall Motors, China's largest SUV and pick-up manufacturer, was the best-selling model last year. Sales of Haval H6 reached 352,800 units last year, down 3.2 per cent from a year earlier. — Xinhua ■

Cambodia's garment, footwear, travel goods exports up 15.2 pct in 2021

CAMBODIA'S garment, footwear and travel goods industry has seen a 15.2 per cent rise in exports in 2021, according to a report from the General Department of Customs and Excise on Saturday. The Southeast Asian nation exported the products worth 11.38 billion US dollars last year, up 15.2 per cent from 9.88 billion dollars in the year before, the report said.

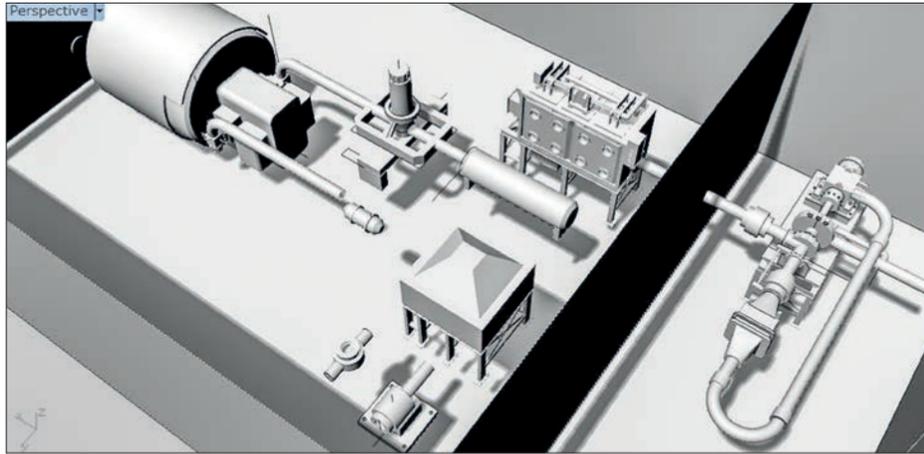
The garment, footwear and travel goods industry is the largest foreign exchange earner for Cambodia. The sector consists of roughly 1,100 factories and branches, employing approximately 750,000 workers, mostly female, according to the Labour Ministry.

The sector is one of the four pillars supporting the kingdom's economy. — Xinhua ■

Japan venture to build country's first nuclear fusion power plant

A western Japan venture plans to build the first experimental plant in the country to generate power through nuclear fusion, the company said, as the technology is drawing attention as a new way of producing energy without emitting carbon dioxide.

Kyoto Fusioneering Ltd., a startup based in Uji, Kyoto Prefecture, is aiming to start operation of the plant in the next five years, having already procured some of the funds and started designing the plant, CEO Taka Nagao



Supplied photo shows a rendering of the first experimental plant in Japan to generate power through nuclear fusion to be built by Kyoto Fusioneering Ltd. PHOTO: KYOTO FUSIONEERING LTD / KYODO

told Kyodo News in a recent interview. The experimental plant will be equipped

with a heat exchanger and turbine in addition to a reactor that generates ther-

mal energy to produce a small amount of electricity, with the generation capac-

ity expected to be several dozen kilowatts, the company said. Though experimental reactors to prove the feasibility of nuclear fusion reaction exist in Japan and abroad, "a plant that actually generates power is rare even on a global basis," Nagao said.

The venture partly funded by an investment firm set up by Kyoto University, was launched in 2019 led by Nagao and Satoshi Konishi, a professor at the Institute of Advanced Energy of Kyoto University. — Kyodo ■

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"Clothing for men, women and children; stockings; headgear; underwear; nightwear; swimwear; bathrobes; belts; shawls; accessories, namely headscarves, neck scarves, shawls, dress handkerchiefs; ties; gloves; shoes; belts of leather" included in **International Class 25**; and

"Business management, sales consultancy; marketing services; Wholesale and retail services in relation to clothing, footwear, headgear and clocks and watches, jewelry, eyewear, fashion accessories, cosmetics and perfumery, goods of leather, namely trunks and bags, purses, card wallets [leather ware], garment bags for travel, vanity cases, not fitted, toiletry bags, straps (leather), backpacks, key bags, satchels, gym bags, bags [envelopes, pouches] of leather, for packaging, umbrellas and parasols, bed linen, home textiles, household articles, namely household containers, household textiles, household linen, household utensils and household fragrances, shoe polishing sets, wine openers and wine decanters, stationery, luggage, sporting articles and smoking articles; Marketing services; Market research and market analysis; Advertising; Sales promotion; Rental of advertising space; Distribution of goods and advertising material for advertising purposes, including via electronic media and via the Internet; presentation of goods, in particular shop and shop window dressing; Organization of Exhibitions for commercial or advertising purposes; Promotion of business relationships by providing of commercial and business contacts; Commercial information and advice for consumers [consumer advice shop]; Business consultancy and administration; Business organization consulting; Professional business consulting; Fashion consultancy (business); organization of fashion shows for commercial, industrial and advertising purposes; Management of retail stores, online wholesale and retail services and online ordering services, mail ordering services and computerized online-ordering services in relation to clothing, footwear, headgear and clocks and watches, jewelry, eyewear, fashion accessories, cosmetics and perfumery, goods of leather, namely trunks and bags, purses, card wallets [leather ware], garment bags for travel, vanity cases, not fitted, toiletry bags, straps (leather), backpacks, key bags, satchels, gym bags, bags [envelopes, pouches] of leather, for packaging, umbrellas and parasols, bed linen, home textiles, household articles, namely household containers, household textiles, household linen, household utensils and household fragrances, shoe polishing sets, wine openers and wine decanters, stationery, luggage, sporting articles and smoking articles" included in **International Class 35**.

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Sri Lanka outlaws strikes as unions cripple hospitals



A man leaves a hospital as health workers hold a work strike in Colombo on 11 February 2022. PHOTO: AFP

SRI LANKA'S president banned strikes in the health and electricity sectors on Saturday as trade union action that has crippled state-run hospitals entered its sixth day.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa invoked a 1979 law prohibiting stoppages in the two sectors, declaring all related work "essential public services", his office said.

The tough regulations allow courts to hand down five-year jail terms and confiscate the assets

of those refusing work.

The move followed health unions ignoring a court order Thursday instructing them to suspend their strike pending a hearing of a petition against their action.

Sri Lanka is in the grip of a foreign exchange crisis that has crippled the economy, and the unions are demanding better promotional prospects, restructuring of their pay scales and higher allowances.

The government has re-

fused, saying the current economic situation did not allow it to increase the salaries budget.

Thousands of health workers have been taking part in the strike action, leaving only emergency services functioning at state hospitals and many routine services put off.

Electricity sector workers are not on strike, but they too have threatened trade union action if the government goes ahead with plans to sell a thermal power plant to a US company. — AFP ■

Its navy lost, Ukraine girds for Russian warship drills

UKRAINIAN captain Oleksandr Surkov looks askance at his patrol boat's machine guns and laments how futile they would be fending off an attack from Russian warships now steaming across the Black Sea.

"Our weapons are mostly designed to protect our state borders, not to wage war," the 32-year-old says as his boat bobs through grey mist enveloping the coast of Ukraine's industrial port of Mariupol. "But if they attack, we will defend ourselves with every weapon we have."

Surkov's worries reflect that of Ukraine as a whole as it girds for a feared invasion from more than 100,000 Russian troops who have encircled the ex-Soviet state from nearly every side.

Ukraine's old navy — stationed almost entirely in the Crimean port of Sevastopol — practically vanished when Russia annexed the peninsula and took all its ships in 2014.

Military analysts say Ukraine now has just one major warship and a dozen or so patrol and coastal craft of the type captained by Surkov. Russia has sent six more warships into the region for a week of naval drills involving dozens of navy ships starting this weekend. — AFP ■



Ukrainians who patrol the Sea of Azov doubt they would be able to put up any real resistance to a Russian naval assault. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan: Pilot's body found 2 weeks after fighter jet vanished from radar

JAPAN'S airforce said Sunday that it had recovered the body of one of two crewmen of a fighter jet that went missing two weeks ago.

The F-15 fighter jet was on a training mission on 31 January when it disappeared from radar shortly after taking off from Komatsu airbase in the central Ishikawa region, sparking a search for its missing crew.

The airforce said a body was found on Friday by the navy during search operations in the Sea of Japan. The military said it has confirmed the identity of the body, but did not release the name and added that the search for his co-pilot continued. Exactly why and how their plane crashed has not been made clear, but the defence ministry has not sought to ground F-15s in the wake of the incident. — AFP ■

Turkey detains 197 illegal immigrants, 10 suspected smugglers

TURKISH security forces detained Friday 197 illegal immigrants and 10 suspected human smugglers in Turkey's western province of Izmir, state-run TRT broadcaster reported.

The immigrants, whose nationalities were not immediately known, were detained on a boat sailing toward Italy, while the suspected human smugglers were captured on the boat and land, TRT said.

Unmanned aerial vehicles were used in the raids, according to the report. As a key transit point for asylum seekers on their way to Europe, Turkey hosts more than 4 million refugees, 3.7 million of whom are Syrians. — Xinhua ■

Measles cases, deaths surging in Afghanistan: WHO



Women and children are pictured at a health centre in Kabul in January. PHOTO: AFP

A raging measles outbreak in Afghanistan infected tens of thousands and killed more than 150 people last month alone, the World Health Organization said Friday, warning of more deaths.

The UN health agency said the outbreak was particularly concerning since Afghanistan is facing massive food insecurity and malnutrition, leaving children far more vulnerable to the highly contagious disease.

"Measles cases have been increasing in all provinces since the end of July 2021," WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier told reporters in Geneva.

He said cases had surged recently, ballooning by 18 per cent in the week of 24 January and by 40 per cent in the last week of the month. In all, 35,319 suspected measles cases were reported in January, including 3,000 that were laboratory confirmed, and

156 deaths. Ninety-one per cent of the cases and 97 per cent of the deaths were children under the age of five. Lindmeier stressed that the measles-related deaths were likely underreported and the numbers were expected to swell.

"The rapid rise in cases in January suggests that the number of deaths due to measles is likely to increase sharply in the coming weeks," Lindmeier said.

Measles is a highly-contagious disease caused by a virus that attacks mainly children. The most serious complications include blindness, brain swelling, diarrhoea, and severe respiratory infections.

The latest surge in cases comes as Afghanistan is in the grip of a humanitarian disaster, worsened by the Taliban takeover in August — when Western countries froze international aid and access to assets held abroad. — AFP ■

Popular incumbent Steinmeier eyes new term as German president

GERMAN President Frank-Walter Steinmeier is poised to be re-elected on Sunday for a second straight term, after gaining a reputation as a tireless defender of democratic values at a time when resurging far-right extremism and the coronavirus pandemic were putting them to the test. The Social Democrat, 66, served twice as foreign minister in Angela Merkel's cabinet, stepping back from his duties as Germany's top diplomat to take on the ceremonial role as head of state in 2017.

With his snowy white hair, round glasses and dimpled smile, the trained lawyer has become

one of Germany's most popular and trusted politicians.

The presidential role was an "honour" and an "enormous challenge" Steinmeier said in May last year when announcing his desire to stay in office until 2027. The former foreign minister has cast himself as the conscience of the nation, occasionally stepping into political debates and speaking at memorials.

He has repeatedly warned against the rising threat of right-wing extremism in Germany and criticised scenes at Kabul airport after the city's fall as "shameful for the political West".



With his snowy white hair and round glasses, Steinmeier is one of Germany's most popular and trusted politicians. PHOTO: AFP

Steinmeier's time in office has been marked by the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in Germany at the start of 2020, with

the president sometimes playing the role of a moral arbiter in public debates on health issues. Earlier this year, Steinmeier held a public debate between health experts and coronavirus vaccine sceptics, a vocal minority in the country that has increasingly taken to the streets to protest against coronavirus rules.

The presidential election, normally held in the Bundestag building, will instead take place at Paul Loebe Haus, a post-modern office complex opposite the Chancellery in central Berlin, in order to meet pandemic distancing requirements. — AFP ■

'Unite and fight': Ukrainians march in face of Russia threat

WAVING flags and singing the national anthem, thousands of Ukrainians braved the winter cold to march across Kyiv on Saturday to show unity in the face of a feared Russian invasion.

"Panic is useless. We must unite and fight for independence," said student Maria Shcherbenko, expressing a sentiment similar to that voiced by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky earlier in the day.

"I remain calm. I love Ukraine," said Shcherbenko's sign as the sun briefly peeked through the clouds on a cold and blustery day. Some carried signs reading "war is not the answer", while others held banners calling on the nation to "resist". Riven by an eight-year conflict that has claimed more than 14,000 lives across its Moscow-backed sepa-



Thousands marched across Kyiv to show unity, as Ukraine faces the threat of a Russian invasion. PHOTO: AFP

ratist east, Ukraine is now facing the threat of an all-out invasion by Russia. The Kremlin has massed more than 100,000 troops around its western neighbour, staging war games across Belarus to its north and navy drills in

the Black Sea to its south.

Washington has warned that war could break out any day. Western countries are pulling their diplomats out of Kyiv and ordering citizens to immediately get out of Ukraine. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

India to participate in Singapore Air Show-2022

INDIA'S indigenous light combat aircraft (LCA) will be showcased at the "Singapore Air Show-2022" to be held from 15 to 18 February, said an official statement issued by the Ministry of Defence on Saturday.

A 44-member contingent of Indian Air Force (IAF) has reached Changi International Airport in Singapore to participate in the air show, added the statement. The "Singapore Air Show" is a biennial event which provides a platform for the global aviation industry to showcase their products. At the air show, the IAF will be pitching the indigenous "Tejas MK-I" aircraft alongside participants from across the world, added the statement. — Xinhua ■

Yemen's Houthis seize strategic Harad city from gov't army: source

THE Yemeni Houthis drove the government army out of Harad city in the Yemeni northern province of Hajjah on Saturday, killing more than 60 soldiers and wounding 140 others, an army source said. "The rebels recaptured the al-Mihsam military camp and the range of high mountains from the army during today's battle," the source on the frontline told Xinhua. "The rebel snipers killed more than 60 soldiers who had infiltrated into the southern and western neighborhoods and wounded 140 others," he said. — Xinhua ■

US, Japan, S Korea hold open door to dialogue with Pyongyang



This image captured from the homepage of the Rodong Sinmun, an organ of the North Korean Workers' Party, on Friday, shows the North test-firing a "new-type tactical guided projectile" conducted on : 26 March 2021. PHOTO: RODONG SINMUN/KYODO/FILE

THE foreign ministers of the United States, Japan and South Korea on Saturday held the door open to dialogue with North Korea, insisting they have no "hostile intent" toward the country. The trilateral talks in Honolulu came after Pyongyang conducted a series of missile tests since the start of the year and suggested it may restart nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said after a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui Yong that the three countries "remain open to dialogue without preconditions," expressing hope that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will respond to the dialogue offer.

"We discussed ways that we can deepen trilateral cooperation to deter the DPRK, limit the reach of his most dangerous weapons (and) defend against his provocations for use

of force," Blinken also said at a joint press conference in Hawaii.

DPRK is the acronym of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, North Korea's official name. The three nations last held in-person talks between their foreign ministers in New York in September on the fringes of the United Nations General Assembly sessions. It is Hayashi's first such meeting since he took office in November. North Korea on 30 January launched what its state-run media said was a Hwasong-12 intermediate-range ballistic missile capable of striking the US Pacific island territory of Guam.

It was the nuclear-armed nation's first such missile test since November 2017 and the seventh round of test firings since the start of 2022. The missile travelled about 800 kilometres before falling in the Sea of Japan and reached an altitude of 2,000 km. — Kyodo ■

Myanmar women's team to start training next week for SEA Games



Myanmar women's team Captain Khin Malar Tun dribbles the ball against South Korean defender during their AFC women's Cup group match Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Pune, India on 24 January, 2022. PHOTO:MFF

THE Myanmar women's soccer team will start training in the third week of February for the 31st SEA Games, according to the football authorities.

The team is taking a break from the previous final round of the 2022 AFC Women's Cup to prepare for the SEA Games. The squad has been taking training for international competitions since the middle of last year.

The Myanmar women's team won the Asian Cup in the international competition and was eliminated from the group stage in the final round of the Asian Cup. The draw ended after a two-time lead over ASEAN leaders Vietnam. The Myanmar women's team will spend more than two months preparing for the SEA Games, which will be based on the finalists of the AFC Women's Cup.

Myanmar team head coach U Tin Myint Aung will organize the team with 30 preliminary players, while Win Theingi Tun, who plays for Indian club Gokulam, will not be able to join for the time being.

The team is trying to play international matches before the SEA Games, officials added. The Myanmar women's national team previously won the bronze medal at the 2019 Philippine SEA Games. The squad has won three silver medals plus seven bronze medals along the SEA Games tourney.

The 31st SEA Games will be held in Vietnam in May 2022.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM ■

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.

Norway's Boe takes men's 10km sprint biathlon gold at Beijing 2022

JOHANNES Thingnes Boe won Norway another gold medal in the men's 10km sprint biathlon in 24 minutes and 0.4 seconds at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics on Saturday.

This is the second gold for the 28-year-old, who also won the mixed relay 4x6km with his Norwegian teammates on February 5, before taking bronze in the men's 20km individual on

February 8. France's Quentin Fillon Maillet, winner of the 20km race, finished second with one miss in prone, 25.5 seconds back.

Fillon Maillet, also a silver medalist in mixed relay, has collected three medals at Beijing 2022 Games so far. The French was satisfied with his third medal, but not happy with his overall performance.—Xinhua ■



Gold medalist Johannes Thingnes Boe of Norway celebrates during the flower ceremony of biathlon men's 10km sprint at National Biathlon Centre in Zhangjiakou, north China's Hebei Province, 12 February 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHAN YAN

Odermatt silences critics with Olympic grand slalom gold



Marco Odermatt on his way to victory in the giant slalom at the Beijing Olympics. PHOTO: AFP

SWITZERLAND'S Marco Odermatt finally lived up to expectations by holding his nerve in snow and fog to win gold in the men's Olympic giant slalom on Sunday. Odermatt put the disappointment of two underwhelming outings in speed events behind him to clock a combined total of 2min 09.35sec over the two legs down the "Ice

River" course in Yanqing, north of Beijing.

Slovenia's Zan Kranjec claimed silver thanks to the fastest second leg, 0.19sec off the pace, while reigning world champion Mathieu Faivre of France took bronze, 1.34sec behind the winner.

"It was a hard day, with the conditions, with such a long wait

between the two runs," said Odermatt. "It was more than five hours for me, it was such a long time to re-think everything and it was hard to stay focused. I tried to sleep some minutes in between." Odermatt had come into the Beijing Games as current World Cup overall leader and one of the big favourites. —AFP ■