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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Prime Minister of Cambodia will pay a working visit to Myanmar



AT the invitation of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia will pay a working visit to Myanmar from 7 to 8 January 2022.

During the visit, the two leaders will hold a bilateral meeting to discuss and exchange views on matters pertaining to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation as well as on regional matters of common interests including ASEAN.—MNA

### 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.

## Military hospitals, medical corps provided healthcare services to more than 320,000 ethnic national people, enhancing health sector from January to December 2021

**H**EALTH is wealth for every person in accord with Arojam Paramam Labham. Only when everybody is healthy will they successfully take social, economic, daily consumption, accommodation and clothing, and education measures.

In accord with the policy guideline that “only when one is healthy can one do work and learn” given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Tatmadaw is discharging State defence and security duties while carrying out public welfare tasks such as healthcare services and rescue and relief tasks in natural disasters in successive eras.

The Tatmadaw took the State responsibilities by declaring the state of emergency in



The medical corps are conducting COVID-19 test on returnees from Malaysia.

accord with the Constitution 2008 owing to massive voting fraud in the 2020 election.

State service personnel must be free from party politics and faithfully serve the assigned

duties for the State and the people. But, threats of unscrupulous

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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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## Military hospitals, medical corps provided healthcare ...

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persons happened CDM activities, causing difficulties in healthcare services for the people. As the health sector which is a basic need for the people faced requirements, the Tatmadaw is giving healthcare services not only to the Tatmadaw members and their families but also to local ethnic national people at military hospitals in regions and states in accord with the guidance of Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Military hospitals and medical corps in regions and states gave healthcare services to the local ethnic national people. In this regard, **healthcare servic-**

**es were given to 329,759 outpatients, 98,328 inpatients and 19,526 maternity patients from 5 February to 31 December 2021 with a medical checkup for surgical disease, dental and oral diseases, physiotherapy, cardio-intestine, neuro-surgical disease, eye disease, ear disease, nose disease, throat disease, Obstetrics and gynaecological disease, urine and kidney disease, cardiac disease and general diseases.** At present, 816 patients are under healthcare services. Moreover, the government, the Tatmadaw and the people in unison addressed the needs of medicines, oxygen and health equipment for prevention and control of COVID-19 in the third wave. The infection rate of the pan-

demic hit 33.2 per cent in July and August when the infection reached its climax. At present, the infection rate is down to 1.3 per cent on average.

**Due to threats of terrorist groups CRPH and NUG, some health staff participated in the CDM activities. Consequent-**

Due to threats of terrorist groups CRPH and NUG, some health staff participated in the CDM activities. Consequently, healthcare services for the public faced delays. Moreover, some people unacceptably lost their lives in encountering the impacts of COVID-19 in the third wave.

**ly, healthcare services for the public faced delays. Moreover, some people unacceptably lost their lives in encountering the impacts of variant COVID-19 in the third wave.** Moreover, as some health staff participated in the CDM activities in the remote areas, some hospitals and clinics were closed, causing delays in the healthcare services.

**As such, medical doctors, medical officers and nurses from the Tatmadaw medical corps went to relevant people's hospitals, station hospitals and rural dispensaries to reopen them. But they faced some protests based on threats and incitement of unscrupulous persons. Despite facing difficulties and hindrances, members of the Tatmadaw medical corps regrouped their strengths and did their best for the interests of the people.**

The Tatmadaw gives healthcare services to the local people at military hospitals and medical battalions in regions and states. Moreover, mobile medical specialist teams of the Tatmadaw and mobile medical teams from relevant military commands provided healthcare services and raised the health awareness of the people over the COVID-19 and other diseases. As the mobile medical teams were facilitated with a modern operation theatre vehicle and X-ray vehicle in addition to the participation of experienced medical doctors, emergency treatment could be given to the patients and referred to nearby military hospitals so as to save a large number of lives of the people. Furthermore, the Tatmadaw still fulfils the requirements in beefing up the healthcare services for the ethnic national people.  
— MNA

Healthcare services were given to 329,759 outpatients, 98,328 inpatients and 19,526 maternity patients from 5 February to 31 December 2021 with a medical checkup for surgical disease, dental and oral diseases, physiotherapy, cardio-intestine, neuro-surgical disease, eye disease, ear disease, nose disease, throat disease, Obstetrics and gynaecological disease, urine and kidney disease, cardiac disease and general diseases



## All stakeholders and organizations are invited to join the peace talks

The year 2022 is of importance. Coming 12 February is the Diamond Jubilee Union Day and the 4 January 2023 will be the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day. As such, this year is the pre-Diamond Jubilee period. Hence, it is important to further strengthen the sovereignty of the State and progress of the nation with development fruits. So, we have to start the new paces for restoration of the peace this year. As it is mentioned in the fourth point of the five-point road map, all stakeholders and organizations are invited to join the peace talks.

*(Excerpt from the New Year Message delivered by  
Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister  
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 1 January 2022)*

## Union Tax Law 2021 (Amendment) enacted

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Law Amending the Union Tax Law 2021 State Administration Council Law No. 1/2022

5<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Pyatho 1383 ME  
6 January 2022

THE State Administration Council hereby promulgated this law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

1. This law shall be named "the Law Amending the Union Tax Law 2021".
2. This law shall be affected from 8 January 2022 to 31 March 2022.
3. Sub-Section (e) of Section 14 of the Union Tax Law 2021 shall be substituted as follows:-  
“(e). Five per cent of commercial tax shall be levied over the income of other services being operated at home, except services mentioned in the Sub-Section (d) and Sub-Section (e-1).”
4. The following section shall be inserted as Sub-Section (e-1), under Sub-Section (e) of Section 14 of the Union Tax Law 2021:-  
“(e-1) (1) No matter what provisions the Commercial Tax Law comprises, only once commercial tax shall be levied K20,000 per the sales of SIM cards and SIM card activation.”  
(2) Fifteen per cent of commercial tax shall be levied over the income earned from the internet services.”

5. The table of Sub-Section (a) of Section 25 of the Union Tax Law 2021 shall be substituted as follows:-

Sr.	Income (Kyat)		Income tax rate
	From	To	
1	1	300,000,000	3 per cent
2	300,000,001	600,000,000	5 per cent
3	600,000,001	1,000,000,000	10 per cent
4	1,000,000,001	3,000,000,000	15 per cent
5	more than 3,000,000,001		30 per cent

I hereby signed it under Section 419 of the Constitution.

*Sd/Min Aung Hlaing  
Senior General  
Chairman  
State Administration Council*

## Press release issued to levy increased commercial tax rate over internet services

ALTHOUGH the majority of developing countries levy the sector-specific tax in addition to regular commercial tax for internet services, Myanmar does not collect the sector-specific tax till today.

In order to recover the businesses, which face loss in

impacts of COVID-19, the government carries out easing and postponing the tax collection. However, as the use of internet services is on the rise across the nation, levying commercial tax over the consumption of internet services can increase the income for

the State. On the other hand, the effects triggered by extreme use of internet services on the employment of the people and physical and mental sufferings of new generation students can be reduced.

The commercial tax will not be increased for calling

and use of SMS. Arrangements will be made for easing the necessary restrictions for taxpayers who use the internet for the development of human resources and knowledge about health measures in levying the increased rate of commercial tax over the

internet services. On one hand, efforts will be made for providing better quality service and network coverage for the users. The Union Tax Law 2021 was amended with a plan to levy the increased commercial tax. —MNA

## Over 20,000 pilgrims throng Shwedagon Pagoda on 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day

SHWEDAGON Pagoda in Yangon Region was crowded with a total of 23,697 pilgrims on the 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day (4 January), according to the Shwedagon Pagoda Trustees Board.

The pagoda is normally open between 5 am and 6 pm

on weekdays. Many pilgrims arrive the pagoda during gazetted holidays and weekends. Therefore, beginning 27 November, the opening hours have been extended from 5 am to 7 pm, said U Bo Thin, a member of the Shwedagon

Pagoda Board of Trustees.

On 4 January, 249 monks, 212 nuns, 10,734 male visitors, 12,444 female visitors, 40 male tourists and 18 female tourists paid homage to the pagoda, totalling 23,697 visitors, the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of

Trustees recorded.

Shwedagon Pagoda daily admits approximately 20,000-30,000 visitors in early January. The Shwedagon Pagoda Trustees Board is raising awareness of the preventive measures for the COVID-19.

All the visitors are mandatory to strictly adhere to the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health, including wearing face masks, measuring body temperatures and hand-washing. — Pwint Thitsar/ GNLM



# 83<sup>rd</sup> Intake of Pilot Course of Tatmadaw (Air) concluded



On behalf of State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw gives the concluding remarks at the graduating ceremony in Meiktila yesterday.

THE graduation ceremony of Tatmadaw (Air) Pilot Course No.83 was organized in Meiktila Township yesterday.

During the event, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw addressed on behalf of State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

It was attended by Lt-Gen Teza Kyaw of office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko Oo, Maj-Gen Myint Kyaw Tun, senior officers of Tatmadaw (Air) and Meiktila station and guests.

First, the graduate company and Guard of Honour marched into the parade ground and saluted the State Flag.

Then, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw took the salute of companies and training aircraft.

He then presented the flying wings to graduated pilots one by one.

He also gave the respective awards of Pilot Course (83) to Lt Hein Myat Aung, Lt Wai Yan Htet and Lt Daw Lei Wai Aung.

In his speech, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw said the

trainees made efforts during the training days and now they are graduated and have to start the life of fighter pilots of Tatmadaw (Air). The fighter pilots also have to serve the flying duties of the country and accomplish the adventurous spirit and missions. They must maintain the good practices of Tatmadaw (Air) and share the skills of a fighter pilot.

He underscored the needs to study the ethics of fighter pilots to ensure the quality, skills for the missions and training sessions, including the developing technologies.

He continued that although there were only male fighter pilots as of course (79), the female fighter pilots were trained

starting course (80). There are 20 female fighter pilots so far until the course (83). The female fighter pilots who completed the flying training are currently serving the practices and missions in their respective duty assignments.

In course (83), two female fighter pilots Lt Daw Wah Wah Maw and Lt Daw Lei Wai Aung completed the training and they will become the very first fighter pilots of Tatmadaw (Air). It is such a significant achievement not only for Tatmadaw (Air) but also for the entire Tatmadaw and is also a new historical page for Tatmadaw (Air). The women pilots should be proud of their achievements and duty assignment and also should perform

their duties by keeping abreast of the male pilots.

Then, he highlighted the guideline of SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General

Min Aung Hlaing regarding the preventive measures against COVID-19 pandemic, and activities of Tatmadaw (Air) in the fight against the pandemic while the government, people, Tatmadaw and other organizations work together in the processes.

He added that Tatmadaw tries hard for the stability of socio-economic status of the people and Tatmadaw (Air) will also serve the duties including the flying missions and strictly follow directives and orders without fail.

The graduate pilots will join the high-level aviation courses of the respective planes/aircraft. — MNA



The Commander-in-Chief(Air) gives the model pilot award.



The Commander-in-Chief (Air) presents the best pilot award.



The Commander-in-Chief (Air) offers the outstanding award.

## Myanmar preps for manufacturing of electric buses

MYANMAR is preparing to export approximately 50 per cent of buses assembled in the country and manufactures electric buses, according to the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

“The country is striving for the production of electric

buses in the coming years,” U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations replied to the media while inspecting the SC Auto company on 22 November 2021.

The Singapore-based SC Auto company, which has a 100-per-cent investment in

Myanmar, is assembling, manufacturing, repairing and maintaining passenger vehicles. Its factory was established at the Yangon Industrial Zone in Mingaladon Township of Yangon Region in 2019.

About 600 buses can be produced under the Com-

pletely Knocked Down system every year and about 50 per cent of them are aimed for exports to some regional countries. Those assembly plants are operating with wholly foreign investments, the MIFER stated.

Moreover, a series of discussions for the importation

of the spare parts and components of electric buses and distribution of electric buses in the domestic market is being undertaken. Singaporean investors are also conducting business analysis and feasibility studies for manufacturing electric buses. — Ko Naing (Bago)/GNLM



# Diamond Jubilee Union Day Organizing Committee discusses event preparations



The MoI Union minister chairs the coordination meeting 2/2022 of the Diamond Jubilee Union Day Organizing Committee yesterday.

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, in his capacity as chairman of the Diamond Jubilee Union Day Organizing Committee, presided over the 2/2022 committee coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, the Union minister said the ceremony to be conducted at the parade ground marking the Diamond Jubilee Union Day is an event with the participation of all ethnic people and it is important for national unity. Therefore, the officials need to discuss the respective sectors

during the meeting.

Then, committee vice-chairman Union Minister U Min Thein Zan and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Maung Maung Naing made remarks.

Committee secretary Deputy Minister U Ye Tint briefed all on the preparations for the ceremony and other attendees clarified their respective work plans.

Afterwards, the committee chairman gave proper guidelines and discussed matters related to decorated vehicles of regions/states for the event. — MNA

# Discussion on Debt, Deposit and Suspense Accounts in conjunction with Union Budget (Non-Budget) held

ACCORDING to the Capacity Building, Human Resources Development and Knowledge Sharing Programme-KSP of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, Discussion No-11 of the Knowledge Sharing Programme on “Debt, Deposit and Suspense Accounts in conjunction with the Union Budget (Non-Budget)” was held at the Assembly Hall in the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union (Nay Pyi Taw) yesterday in compliance with the Covid-19 Prevention Rules.

At the discussion, Dr Kan Zaw, the Union Auditor-General, delivered an opening speech that Budget Accounts of the Union of the Government Organizations states the capability of financial position of the State and it is crucial in the financial accountability and effective decision making; therefore law, rules and regulations are prescribed in order that financial transactions can be managed systematically; reforms in the financial manage-

ment regulations are conducted step by step in accordance with the age in order to strengthen the financial management; in government accounts, it is included financial matters regarding income and expenditure of the State Fund and Debt, Deposit and Suspense Accounts in conjunction with the Union Budget (Non-Budget); Auditors of Audit Offices are required to audit whether Non-Budget of Government Organizations are supervised and controlled effectively and systematically by the responsible persons in accordance with the section 11 (q) of the Auditor General of the Union Law; therefore it is required to emphatically note the discussion points of today on the Non-Budget, and to raise questions and exchange views in return, and thus apply it in conducting audit.

Then, Daw Thin Thin Maw, Director of the Budget Department, Ministry of Planning and Finance discussed the Debt,



Deposit and Suspense Accounts in conjunction with the Union Budget (Non-Budget) in 8 Parts: the meaning of Non-Budget; cause of the need to prepare Non-Budget; financial matters included in Non-Budget, the difference between Budget and Non-Budget, account heads in Non-Budget; getting sanctions;

prescription of financial rules; maintaining accounts and auditing.

Then, Union Auditor-General, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Deputy Directors-General, Officials and other attendees raised questions and exchanged knowledge and experiences of the working place.

The discussion was attended by Deputy Permanent Secretary, Deputy Directors-General, Staff Officers and Senior Auditors totalling 140 not only from Assembly Hall but also virtually from two training school rooms and the Myanmar Accountancy Council Office in accordance with the Covid-19 Prevention Rules. —MNA

## Notice amending public request on lower electricity production rate of power plants

MINISTRY of Electricity and Energy has released a public request regarding the lower electricity production rate of power plants to understand if there is any inconvenience caused by the reduction of load in some areas for lower power generation for balance load and the ministry is working hard to implement new projects to supply the power on 5 January 2022.

Therefore, the load reduction period stated in the public request such as high-power consumption hours is changed between 7:00 am and 11:00 am and between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm instead of between 7:00 am and 11:00 pm and between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

Ministry of Electricity and Energy

## Full-time courses of Universities, Degree Colleges, Colleges opened

TO ensure continuous learning for students, full-time courses of universities, degree colleges and colleges under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education were opened yesterday as the COVID-19 outbreak could be brought under control in Myanmar.

Fourth-year of Law (second semester) courses, fourth year of Education (second semester) courses, Honour Third Year (first semester) courses, Master Qualification (first semester) courses, Master's Degree First Year (first semester) courses and Master's Degree second year (first semester) courses have been open for the 2019-2020 and 2021-2022 Academic Year.

Students from relevant universities, colleges and degree colleges are studying as per the rules of COVID-19, officials said. — MNA



# Yangon circular railway plans more coaches for local commuters

MYANMA Railways (MR) will expand its service for the Yangon circular railway, with more schedules and more coaches added depending on the increasing number of commuters. At present, four-coach trains are running around Yangon metropolitan area, MR stated.

RBE four-coach trains (up and down) are daily running 22 rounds for Yangon-Hlawga (eight rounds), Yangon-Mingaladon (4), Yangon-Ywathagyi (4) and Yangon-Insein (6) plies. The daily commuters are estimated at 1,500.

MR will increase coaches and add more schedules upon the number of passengers. MR reduced the number of coaches amidst the railway

upgrading project and travel restrictions set by the Ministry of Health and the Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 and the number of commuters also simultaneously dropped during the spike in infections.

Prior to the upgrading project on the Yangon circular railway in February 2018, the Yangon circular railway ran 220 plies per day by 25 trains. Train commuters totalled approximately 80,000-90,000 passengers.

When the Yangon circular railway upgrading project commenced, the number of trains decreased to 21 with 168 rounds. It commuted about 50,000 passengers at the time of project start.



RBE four-coach trains (up and down) are daily running 22 rounds for Yangon-Hlawgar (eight rounds), Yangon-Mingaladon (4), Yangon-Ywathagyi (4) and Yangon-Insein (6) routes. The daily commuters are estimated at 1,500. PHOTO: KO NAING (BAGO)

During the COVID-19 period, MR scaled down the number of coaches from six to three owing to the unprecedented decrease in passengers. — Ko Naing (Bago)/GNLM

# Illegal goods seized at various checkpoints



Confiscated illegal trade goods.



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

On 4 January, vehicles from Myawady to Yangon were inspected at the Kawkareik (Broken Bridge) checkpoint Station. An estimated value of K580,000 was confiscated and a case was filed.

Similarly, on 5 January, vehicles from Myawady to Yangon were inspected by the Customs Team on duty at Kawkareik (Broken Bridge) checkpoint.

The estimated value of 31 Chinese speakers worth K4,650,000 without any official documents plus 100 packs of Thai perfumed detergent solution worth K1,200,000 and a total estimated value of K5,850,000 was found and the case was filed.

Next, according to the report, officials inspected a vehicle parked in the middle of Shwe Phyu Rubber Farm bypass road near the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint, Yangon-Myawady Union Highway and seized six cartons of Dietary Supplements worth K7,800,000 which cannot submit any official documents.

A Mitsubishi truck carrying the goods was estimated to be worth K15,000,000 and a total value of K28,650,000 was confiscated.

Thus, on 4 January, the estimated value of the seizures was K580,000 and the total number of seizures on 5 January was K28,650,000. The total value of the five seized items was estimated at K29,230,000.

According to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, the work is being carried out following Customs procedures. —MNA



# K590 mln worth of drugs seized in Myitkyina

A combined team seized drugs worth K 590 mln in Myitkyina town, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

Acting on a tip-off, the combined team comprising the anti-narcotic police raided a house of Makhaw San at No 249, Janmaikaung ward, Myo-thitgyi, Myitkyina town, Kachin

State at 6 pm on 4 January and found 3.75 kilogrammes of heroin and 336,000 stimulant tablets worth over K 590 million.

Police have filed charg-

es against her under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law and are still investigating the perpetrators in the chain of crimes, it is learnt. — MNA

An arrestee is seen with seized drugs.





## Price of rice conveyed to China fetches 150 yuan per bag

THE rice price fetched about 150 Yuan per 108-pound bag which reached China, said U Min Thein, vice-chairman of Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

About 10,000 rice bags are daily exported to China through the Kyinsankyawt border post at the Muse border trade zone.

The rice and low-quality rice, stranded in Muse, are being exported to China. But the rice from the lower region had not yet been exported to Muse, U Min Thein clarified.

“We are not allowed convey the rice from the lower region to Muse. We have to clean up the items in Muse that were stuck six months ago,” he added.

ed.

China has closed down most of the border posts from the Muse trade zone following COVID-19 cases in Myanmar. Among the Sino-Myanmar land borders, Kyinsankyawt crossing resumed operations on 26 November.

About 40 trucks of Myanmar products consisting of rice and broken rice, rubber, various types of peas, dried plums, watermelon, melons and other foodstuffs are daily conveyed to China through the Kyinsankyawt checkpoint at the Muse border trade.

Currently, Myanmar has shipped over 500,000 tonnes



About 40 trucks of Myanmar products consisting of rice and broken rice, rubber, various types of peas, dried plums, watermelon, melons and other foodstuffs are daily conveyed to China through the Kyinsankyawt checkpoint at the Muse border trade.

of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners between 1 October and 30 November in the current mini-budget period (2021-2022), the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) stated.

od (2021-2022), the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) stated.

Among them, the country sent over 27,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice to the neighbouring countries through border trade zones, whereas it placed over 470,000 tonnes in the international market via maritime trade.

Last 2020-21 FY, Myanmar also generated an income of over US\$700 million from two million tonnes of rice exports to foreign countries.

Myanmar shipped rice to nearly 60 foreign countries and of them, China is the main buyer of Myanmar rice and broken rice. — NN/GNLM

## Value-added products using banana fibre to be produced in Kachin state



This banana fibre can be used to make high-value personal goods such as banana cotton, tablecloths, landscape painting, umbrella and various packaging.

KACHIN State Small-Scale Industries Department will provide the technology to produce value-added products such as personal goods using banana fibre, according to its department.

“We don’t need to throw away of the trunks and roots of banana leaves. They are all useful. These banana things can now be processed into high-quality souvenirs by painting and embroidering. In order to produce value-added products, if the business owners request technology to make this happen, we are ready to provide technical assistance at any time,” said U

Aung Moug, the head of Kachin State Small-Scale Industries Department.

This banana fibre can be used to make high-value personal goods such as banana cotton, tablecloths, landscape painting, umbrella and various packaging.

There are about 100,000 acres of tissue-culture banana in Mohnyin, Bhamo and Myitkyina districts in Kachin State. It can also be created more job opportunities for locals. Due to the wide cultivation of tissue-culture bananas, the region’s GDP is increasing due to foreign income. — Phong Kan (Putao)/GNLM

## Rubber price likely to rise due to lower production of rubber latex in Thuwanawady

THE rubber prices are likely to rise due to the lower production of rubber latex in the plantation of farmers in the villages near Thuwanawady town in Thaton Township, Mon State.

“The rubber production was good in the early rubber season. Now the rubber production has plummeted down due to the less soil moisture. Although the price of rubber was K925 per pound at the end of last year, the price has currently increased to K1,000 per pound each,” said U Thein Tun, the rubber grower from Htonebogyi village.

“The price of rubber was K1,000 per pound when I started buying in the last 9 months, but later it declined to K850 per pound. Now, we have to buy the rubber for K1,000 per pound again. We have been trading about 15,000 pounds per day. There are also other rubber traders in the town. The rubber price is likely to rise further,” said U Htin Lin Soe, the owner

of the Shwe Lathsauing Rubber Trading from Thein Seik ward, Thuwanawady Town.

Nowadays, there are more and more semi-subsistence farmers in the rubber latex collection industry. Although they have faced some difficulties as declined rubber production and more absence of workers, the farmers have been continuously working on the rubber business due to the regular income from the rubber plantation.

Rubber is primarily cultivated

in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber seasons’ data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres, according to the MRPPA.

Myanmar annually exports over 200,000 tonnes of raw rubber to foreign countries. — Khun (Winpa)/GNLM



As per 2018-2019 rubber seasons’ data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres, according to the MRPPA.

## Total border trade value decreases by US\$966 mln this mini-budget period

THE total border trade value at 18 border trade camps exceeded US\$1.4 billion this mini-budget period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the mini-budget period, the total border trade amounted to 1.44 billion, down

\$966 million compared with the last year’s figure of \$2.409 billion.

From 1 October to 24 December of the 2021-22FY, the country’s export via land borders amounted to \$1.02 billion, while its import shared \$427.7 million.

Myawady topped the list

of border checkpoints with the most trade value of \$581.36 million, followed by Hteekhee with US\$402.06 million.

The country conducts border trade with neighbouring China through Muse, Lweje, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw and

Kengtung, with Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Meisei checkpoints, with Bangladesh via Sittway and Maungtau and with India through Tamu and Reed border crossings, respectively.

Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, marine products, minerals, forest products, manufacturing goods and others while capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods are imported to the country. — ACM/GNLM



# Follow moral ethics contributing to society forever

MORAL ethics are disciplines for specific societies. Although societies can be built in various forms, participants of the relevant societies need to abide by the disciplines adopted by the respective societies. That is why moral ethics in various forms are of disciplines for society participant people.

As a Universal truth, despite the diversification of societies, the people need to follow moral ethics without fail. The disciplines called ethic morals are restrictions for the people not to harm others without any reason in physical and mental activities.

The politics comprise various topics of moral ethics on a wider scale. All the people are responsible for following moral ethics without fail. Hence, tangible and intangible restrictions of moral ethics are adopted for all people. Significantly, no matter how different the situation is, people, including politicians, need to be loyal to the State and the people.

Moreover, they all have to tackle the public affairs related to moral ethics by setting the norms for clear moral ethics, exercising legal frameworks, following the guidance for morals, restricting the disciplines, adopting decisions in a transparent manner, sustaining bilateral effects between individual and public sectors, uplifting the moral disciplines and taking action for the violation to moral ethics.

The politics comprise various topics of moral ethics on a wider scale. All the people are responsible for following moral ethics without fail. Hence, tangible and intangible restrictions of moral ethics are adopted for all people. Significantly, no matter how different the situation is, people, including politicians, need to be loyal to the State and the people.

The politicians whether they won the authority or not are always struggling with the chances of committing corruption. Most of the politicians have a high capacity for avoiding corruption and briberies but some politicians are not mature to encounter the persuasion of the corruption which is a danger to all the people.



# 24<sup>th</sup> Olympic Winter Games 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics

By Mg Han Tin

THE Winter Olympics are an international sports competition held every four years. The XXIV Olympic Winter Games, commonly known as the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics is scheduled to take place from 4 to 20 February 2022 in the People's Republic of China capital Beijing and towns in the neighbouring Hebei province. The 15 sport disciplines of the Winter Olympics are categorized into three main categories: (1) ice sports (figure skating, hockey, speed skating, curling, bobsled, luge, and skeleton) events, (2) snow sports (alpine skiing, snowboarding, ski jumping, biathlon, freestyle skiing, and Big Air snowboarding/freestyle skiing) events, and (3) Nordic combined sports (cross-country skiing, ski jumping) events.



Politics is the highest role among others. Politicians are taking a specific role in the country with their movements to promptly bring advantages and disadvantages to the country. As such, they have to keep rationality in their colourless minds. They try to have the wisdom to analyze root causes and possible effects over everything and every event and have the knowledge to predict potentials and possibilities for everything and every event without bias. Their correct movements will bring the deserved fortune to them.

Not only all the people but the politicians need to follow the moral ethics—telling truth, taking responsibility and accountability, taking position above the disputes, listening to the people's voice, criticizing the proposals, not for the person and not giving promises they cannot do.

Moreover, they all have to tackle the public affairs related to moral ethics by setting the norms for clear moral ethics, exercising legal frameworks, following the guidance for morals, restricting the disciplines, adopting decisions in a transparent manner, sustaining bilateral effects between individual and public sectors, uplifting the moral disciplines and taking action for the violation to moral ethics.

The politicians whether they won the authority or not are always struggling with the chances of committing corruption. Most of the politicians have a high capacity for avoiding corruption and briberies but some politicians are not mature to encounter the persuasion of the corruption which is a danger to all the people.

The events will be staged at six venues in central Beijing:-

**National Aquatics Centre:** For the Winter Olympics, the Water Cube has been transformed into the "Ice Cube" in preparation for the curling competition. (Beijing 2008 Legacy Venue)

**Events/Competitions:** Curling / Wheelchair Curling (Paralympic Winter Games). It will take place over 10 days from 4 to 13 March, with athletes competing in six sports in two disciplines: snow sports (alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, biathlon and snowboarding) events and ice sports (para ice hockey and wheelchair curling) events.

**Events/Competitions:** Ice Hockey / Para Ice Hockey (Paralympic Winter Games).

**Wukesong Sports Centre:** It will serve as the main indoor venue for ice hockey at the 2022 Winter Games alongside the National Indoor Stadium. (Beijing 2008 Legacy Venue) Events/Competitions: Ice Hockey.

**National Speed Skating Oval:** It is the only new venue built on Beijing's Olympic Green (the Olympic Park constructed for the 2008 Games) for the Winter Olympics. Events/Competitions: Speed Skating.

**Capital Indoor Stadium:** It will stage the figure skating and short track speed skating competitions during the Winter Olympics. (Beijing 2008 Legacy Venue) Events/Competitions: Short Track Speed Skating, Figure Skating.

**Big Air Shougang:** The most unique venue of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics. It is the world's first permanent venue for Big Air. Events/Competitions: Freestyle Skiing Big Air, Snowboard Big Air.

The events will be staged at six venues in central Beijing:-

**Yanqing zone**  
It is located 75 kilometres northwest of Beijing's city centre, Yanqing is a mountainous suburb of China's capital filled with hot springs, national parks, ski resorts, and the Badaling section of the Great Wall of China. Events/Competitions: The alpine skiing events as well as the sliding events: bobsled, luge, and skeleton. The events will be staged at two venues:-

**National Sliding Centre:** It is the first sliding track in China and only the third in Asia. Events/Competitions: Bobsleigh, Skeleton, Luge.

**National Alpine Ski Centre:** It is situated in the Xiaohaituo Mountain Area in northwest Yanqing. Events/Competitions: Alpine Skiing / Para Alpine Skiing (Paralympic Winter Games).

**Zhangjiakou zone**  
It is a popular Chinese ski destination approximately 180 kilometres northwest of Beijing. It will stage the majority of the ski and snowboarding events, including freestyle, cross-country, ski jumping, Nordic combined, and biathlon. The events will be staged at four venues:-

**National Biathlon Centre:** It is located in Zhangjiakou City in north China's Hebei Province. Events/Competitions: Biathlon / Para Biathlon & Para Cross-Country Skiing (Paralympic Winter Games).

**National Ski Jumping Centre:** The architectural design facility. Events/Competitions: Ski Jumping, Nordic Combined (Ski Jumping).

**National Cross-Country Centre:** The new one. Events/Competitions: Cross-Country, Nordic Combined (Cross-Country).

**Genting Snow Park:** It is an existing ski resort. Events/Competitions: Freestyle Skiing, Snowboarding / Para snowboarding (Paralympic Winter Games).

## Winter Olympics Sports Events

Winter Olympics Sites up to now are:-

1924: Chamonix, France | January 25-February 4

1928: St. Moritz, Switzerland | February 11-19

1932: Lake Placid, New York | February 4-15

1936: Garmisch Partenkirchen, Germany | February 6-16

1940/1944: No Olympics because of World War II

1948: San Moritz, Switzerland | January 30-February 8

1952: Oslo, Norway | February 14-25

1956: Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy | January 26-February 5

1960: Squaw Valley, California | February 18-28

1964: Innsbruck, Austria | January 29-February 9

1968: Grenoble, France | February 6-18

1972: Sapporo, Japan | February 3-13

1976: Innsbruck, Austria | February 4-15

1980: Lake Placid, New York | February 14-23

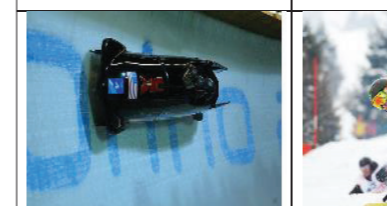
1984: Sarajevo, Yugoslavia | February 7-19

1988: Calgary, Canada | February 13-28

1992: Albertville, France | February 8-23



Curling



Ice Hockey



Bobsleigh



Speed Skating



Skeleton

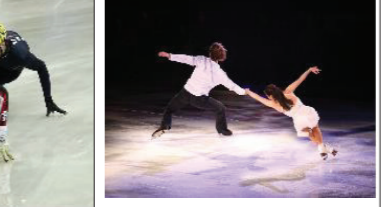
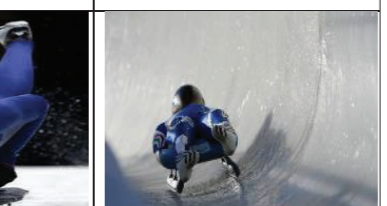


Figure Skating



Luge

1994: Lillehammer, Norway | February 12-27

1998: Nagano, Japan | February 7-22

2002: Salt Lake City, Utah | February 8-24

2006: Turin, Italy | February 10-26

2010: Vancouver, Canada | February 12-28

2014: Sochi, Russia | February 7-23

2018: Pyeongchang, South Korea | February 9-25

2022: Beijing, China | February 4-20

The Olympic Games are an athletic festival that originated in ancient Greece and were revived in the late 19th century. They are the world's foremost sports competition and include athletes from all over the world. The Summer Olympic Games and Winter Olympic Games are each held every four years. After 1992, when both the Summer and Winter Games were held, they have been held on an alternate two-year schedule so that the Olympic Games occur every two years in either summer or winter.

The seven Olympic and Paralympic values: friendship, respect, excellence, equality, determination, inspiration, and courage are important values for everyone, not just at Olympics time. Olympic athletes can compete and practice the sport without any discrimination based on their colour, race, age, sex, religion, disability, or any other unchangeable status. It confines equal and fair gender representation as well.

The hosting process usually begins some 11 years before

the Games are held as cities within various countries vie to become national candidates. (Comparably it also takes more than a decade to prepare FIFA World Cup). After two years of evaluating cost estimates and high-end marketing campaigns, national applicants make their bid to the International Olympic Committee on the ninth year for an entry fee of \$150,000. Three to five cities are chosen as finalists with more-elaborate proposals. International Olympic Committee (IOC) chooses the location of each Olympic Games. (The IOC is an organization that was formed in Paris in 1894. It conducts, promotes, and regulates the modern Olympic Games). The choice is based on applications made by the chief authority of a city, with the support of the national government.

Hosting the Olympics is an enormous, high-risk undertaking. Many cities have found that welcoming the world's athletes and their fans for two weeks produces far fewer benefits than what was anticipated in the heady days when the city first made its bid. Unlike most other megaprojects, Olympic facilities have a rock-solid completion date that must be met. Dams, courthouses, and highways can be completed late; Olympic facilities can't. Neither athletes nor competitors like wet concrete. As a result, finishing construction has often involved extra crews working around the clock, which means costs running over.

SEE PAGE-10

## MYANMAR GAZETTE

### Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of U Aung Naing Oo, Managing Director of No. 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise under the Ministry of Industry after the one-year probationary period.

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 6 January 2022)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 7 January 2022:** Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Northern Shan, Chin States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Generally fair in the whole country.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 January 2022:** Generally fair weather.

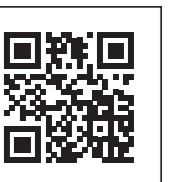
**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 January 2022:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 January 2022:** Generally fair weather.

## Trademark Caution

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## 24<sup>th</sup> Olympic Winter Games 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics

**FROM PAGE-9**

Winning a bid to host the Olympic Games has been considered a major boon for any city. Most people believe that hosting the Olympic Games can increase valuable tourism, boost local economies, and grow a host country's global trade and prominence. But in reality, the Olympics are a financial drain on host cities and force them to create expensive infrastructure and buildings, while streets and bridges are refurbished or, like mass-transit lines and public buildings, constructed anew. After the Olympic Games celebrations, most of the sports stadiums and parks are left behind in decommission or disuse. Refurbishing them as tourist sites or training centres are the future plans that can be implemented.

The budget for hosting the Olympic Games usually gets busted, but then there's a big reward. Tourists will come to see the competition, stay in hotels, eat in restaurants, and buy stuff. On the other hand, some tourists will visit other interesting tourist attractions based mainly on their stay, worthiness, and time availability.

The sports on the winter Olympic program are at least not easy, and in many places, largely impossible to practice in at least half of the world's countries. Therefore, sports are not universally practised by people in every country across the globe. Only countries that are situated approximately north of N.350 latitude, where there is enough snow to hold the athletic events, can host the Winter Olympic Games. As a result, aside from the United States, Canada, Russia, China, Japan, and South Korea, the majority of northern and central European countries are eligible to host the Winter Olympic Games. Australia, New Zealand, and a handful of countries which are situated approximately south of S.350 latitude have to join the winter Olympic Games celebrations held in the north due to the opposite season. The countries

situated in those regions mostly send their national teams to compete in the tournaments. But the other countries not from those regions could also send their eligible athletes to participate in the winter Olympic Games. These challenges make the Olympic Winter Games a compelling event.

The Winter Games have grown from approximately 250 athletes competing in 16 events at the first competition in 1924 to over 2,800 athletes competing in 102 events from 93 nations at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea. Twelve nations (Austria, Canada, Finland, France, Great Britain,

Chinese region of Xinjiang, and other minorities. Athletes will still be able to attend, and they will have the country's "full support". Chinese officials point out they have received more than 1500 applications from the US Olympic Committee, which is responsible for submitting names of American athletes to attend the Winter Games in February.

Australia, Canada and Britain have joined the United States in announcing a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics as a protest against alleged human rights abuses in China.

Australia has said it will join

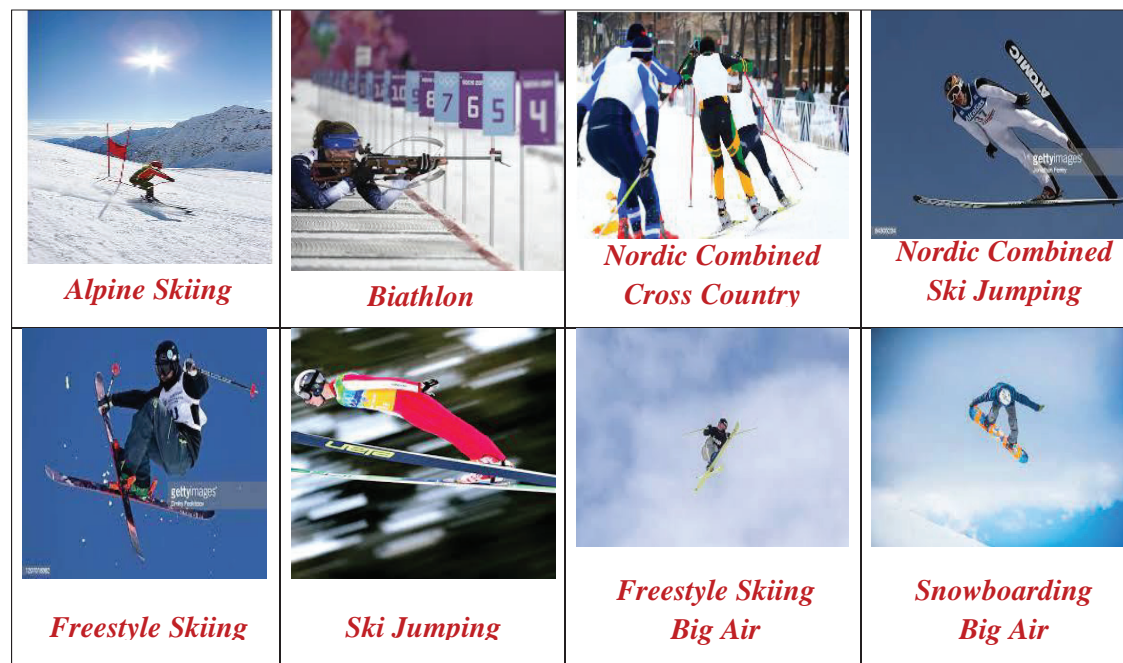
"no plans to send any government ministers or officials to Beijing in 2022."

Canada's PM, Justin Trudeau, also said of the diplomatic boycott on 8 December, 2021. He said that "We have been very clear over the past many years of our deep concerns around human rights violations and this is a continuation of us expressing our deep concerns for human rights violations." The Canadian Olympic Committee and Canadian Paralympic Committee said in response that they "remain concerned about the issues in China but understand the Games will create an important platform

he has no plans to join a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. (France is due to hold the Summer Olympic Games in 2024). China reacted by saying that countries that boycott the games "will pay the price for their mistaken acts", and hope that "all parties" can "stop politicizing sports". Nonetheless, they cite strict COVID-19 restrictions for plans to limit spectator attendance and Chinese state media says Beijing does not intend to invite Western politicians who have threatened a boycott. Russia President Vladimir Putin is the only leader of a major country who has accepted China's invitation to attend. Meanwhile, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he had accepted an invitation to attend the opening of the games.

China's Olympic Organizing Committee would allow athletes to speak their minds at press conferences. It has given the guarantee that there will be freedom of speech for athletes. According to IOC rules, competitors cannot stage protests during sporting events or medal ceremonies. Rule 50 of the Olympic Charter is strictly against any form of propaganda or political statements made during the Games.

Beijing is now ready as the game preparations have been finalized. During the 7 December 2021, International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board (EB) meeting, the Beijing 2022 Organizing Committee reported its highlights on readiness and anticipation as it prepares to welcome the world for next year's Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, which will take place between 4 February and 20 February 2022, and the Paralympic Winter Games, which will be held from 4 to 13 March 2022.



Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States) have participated in all twenty-three previous winter Olympic Games to date. But for this forthcoming twenty-fourth winter Olympic Games, the US, the UK, Canada, and Australia have said they will not send government representatives to the February games because of concerns over China's human rights record.

The United States confirmed that diplomatic boycott on December 6, 2021, that it would not send government officials to next year's Beijing Winter Olympic Games because of the ongoing genocide against minority Muslims, which includes allegations of abuse against Uyghurs in the

US in a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in China, which means that no Government officials will attend the Games in the Chinese capital. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the decision was in response to "human rights abuses" in China's Xinjiang region and "many other issues that Australia has consistently raised". PM confirmed that Australian athletes will still be able to attend and compete in the Games.

UK PM Boris Johnson confirmed in Parliament on December 8, 2021, that "there will be a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics Games." Meanwhile, the PM said he did not support a sporting boycott of the Games but admitted there were

to draw attention to them," but that "athlete boycotts only hurt athletes without creating meaningful change," so it was correct for them to send teams to Beijing in 2022.

New Zealand is also joining the diplomatic boycott, with Deputy Prime Minister Grant Robertson saying today that the country had informed China in October that no government ministers would attend the Beijing Winter Olympics Games, in February, citing COVID-19 as the reason. China said that New Zealand athletes are welcome at Beijing Winter Olympics despite no ministerial representation.

France's President, Emmanuel Macron, has said that the boycott is insignificant and that

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## Robot tractors may be heading to a farm near you

DRIVERLESS plows and autonomous tools to weed vegetable plots are the latest innovations ready to help farmers juggling labour shortages, climate change and environmental protection, while trying to feed a growing world population.

Venerable American farm equipment manufacturer John Deere and French agricultural robot start-up Naio debuted their latest innovations at the Consumer Electronics Show, which began Wednesday in Las Vegas.

Touted as a means to feed the world, John Deere combined its popular 8R tractor, a plow, GPS and 360-degree cameras to create a machine a farmer can control from a smartphone.

Once the tractor is driven into the field, the farmer can

simply swipe right to send it on its way, with no need to be in the cab.

Equipped with six pairs of cameras and artificial intelligence capabilities, the equipment constantly checks its position to the inch, and stops

automatically as soon as it perceives an obstacle and sends a warning signal.

The autonomous plow will be available in North America this year, John Deere Chief Technology Officer Jahmy Hindman told AFP.—AFP ■



# China to test 13 million in Zhengzhou as Xi'an outbreak eases

THE city of Zhengzhou ordered its nearly 13 million residents to take Covid-19 tests Wednesday after a handful of cases were detected, as China fights to stamp out virus clusters ahead of the Beijing Winter Olympics.

Everyone in Zhengzhou, which has been placed under a partial lockdown, must be tested to "thoroughly uncover infections hidden among the public", the city's government said in a statement Wednesday.

The city has detected 11 cases in recent days. The mass-testing order came as case numbers in the locked-down city of Xi'an fell to their lowest in weeks, with officials saying that outbreak had been "brought under control".

Xi'an's 13 million residents have been under stay-at-home



A medical worker works in a lab for COVID-19 nucleic acid testing in Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province, 11 August 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA/LIAN

orders for the last fortnight.

"Although the case number has been high for many days, the rapid rise in Covid spread at community level has been brought

under control compared with the early stages of the outbreak," said Ma Guanghui, deputy director of Shaanxi province's health commission, at a press conference.

"The epidemic is showing a downward trend."

China has stuck to a rigid approach of stamping out Covid cases when they appear, with tight border restrictions and targeted lockdowns since the virus first emerged in the country in 2019.

But, with less than a month to go until the Winter Olympics in the capital, a series of small outbreaks across the country has put the strategy under pressure.

Although the number of reported cases in China is very low compared with other nations, infections in recent weeks have reached a high not seen in the country since March 2020.

China recorded 91 cases Wednesday — including 35 in Xi'an, the city's lowest tally since mid-December.— AFP ■

# Rio de Janeiro cancels carnival street parade over Omicron



The street parade by musical bands called "blocos" is different to the better known procession by samba schools that takes place in Rio's Sambadrome. PHOTO: AFP

AUTHORITIES in Rio de Janeiro announced on Tuesday the cancellation of next month's

carnival street celebrations due to an increase in Covid-19 cases brought on by the rapidly

spreading Omicron variant. It is the second year running that the coronavirus has forced the Rio street parade, which was due to take place from 25 February to 1 March, to be called off.

"The street carnival in the form that took place in 2020, which did not happen in 2021, will not take place in 2022," Mayor Eduardo Paes said in a live broadcast on social media platforms.

The street parade by musical bands called "blocos" is different to the better known procession by samba schools that takes place in Rio's Sambadrome.

The Sambadrome can hold 70,000 people in a stadium that allows authorities to control those that enter. Amongst the options

available to them are proof of vaccination, a negative covid test and the wearing of masks for those in attendance. "The street carnival, given its nature and its democratic aspect, makes any type of control impossible," said Paes.

In 2020, there were an estimated seven million revellers for the days-long street parades, according to the Riotour travel agency.

Although previous meetings between Rio authorities and the blocos failed to reach a compromise, new talks are planned for Friday where the musical groups association president Rita Fernandes told AFP they will make "a more decentralized proposal."—AFP ■

# Israel records highest daily rise in Covid infections

ISRAEL'S health ministry on Wednesday announced nearly 12,000 new coronavirus cases, constituting the largest daily rise in infections since the beginning of the pandemic nearly two years ago. According to the figures, 11,978 new Covid cases were detected over the course of Tuesday, surpassing the country's previous record high of 11,344 cases recorded on September 2 last year.

While there were currently nearly 60,000 people with Covid in Israel, the number of serious cases on Wednesday was only

125, according to the health ministry. Nearly 4.3 million of Israel's 9.4 million inhabitants have received three shots of coronavirus vaccine. In recent days, authorities began administering fourth shots to at-risk groups.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett predicted a continued rise in cases and encouraged people to get vaccinated.

"The wave now is really increasing and we expect to have tens of thousands of verified cases already in the next few days," he said during a tour of a hospital in central Israel.—AFP ■



A boy receives a dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at the Clalit Healthcare Services in the Israeli city of Holon near Tel Aviv on 21 June 2021, as Israel begins coronavirus vaccination campaign for 12 to 15-year-olds. PHOTO: JACK GUEZ / AFP

## NEWS IN BRIEF

India logs 58,097 new COVID cases, positivity rate at 4.18 %

INDIA has logged 58,097 new COVID cases in the last 24 hours, and the daily positivity rate is at 4.18 per cent the Union Health Ministry informed on Wednesday.

The active caseload of COVID cases in the country now stands at 2,14,004.

As per the Ministry, 2,135 cases of the Omicron variant have been detected in India, of which 828 have recovered.

Maharashtra and Delhi are among the worst-hit states with the highest number of recorded Omicron cases at 653 and 464 respectively.

As many as 4,82,551 recoveries and 534 deaths from the virus in the last 24 hours were also reported by the Ministry. While the cumulative recoveries from the virus stand at 3,43,21,803, the total COVID deaths were reported to be 4,82,551.

Further, the Ministry informed that over 147.72 crore COVID vaccine doses have been administered across the nation so far. — ANI ■

## Greece's daily COVID-19 cases hit new record

SCHOOLS across Greece will reopen on 10 January as planned under strict health protocols, the government said on Tuesday, as the number of daily confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country hit a record high.

The National Public Health Organization (EODY) confirmed 50,126 infections within 24 hours. The previous record was registered on New Year's Eve (40,560 cases), while a week ago there were fewer than 10,000 cases per day.

Greek officials said that the returning students and teachers will be required to take more COVID-19 tests regardless of their vaccination status. More than 70 per cent of the new cases in Greece's daily COVID-19 cases hit new records five big regions are linked to the highly contagious Omicron coronavirus variant, EODY's President Theoklis Zaoutis told a press briefing on Monday.— ANI ■



NEWS  
IN BRIEFBOJ's gov't bond holdings down in 2021 for 1<sup>st</sup> time in 13 years

The Bank of Japan said Wednesday its holdings of Japanese government bonds as of the end of 2021 fell for the first time in 13 years as the central bank reduced the pace of its massive asset purchases.

The BOJ's holdings totaled 521.12 trillion yen (\$4.5 trillion) as of 30 December down 14.39 trillion yen from a year earlier and prompting some private-sector economists to call the development "de facto tapering."

To achieve its 2 per cent inflation target, the BOJ has maintained its credit easing policy through aggressive purchases of Japanese government bonds, exchange-traded funds, commercial paper and corporate bonds. But the speed of increase of ETF holdings slowed significantly in 2021, with the outstanding balance of the assets totalling 36.35 trillion yen, up 1.04 trillion yen from a year earlier. The growth in the balance compares with a 7.05 trillion yen increase logged in 2020.—Kyodo ■

## Pakistan struggles to meet domestic and industrial gas consumption needs

PAKISTAN struggles to meet its domestic and industrial gas consumption needs as its supplies are stretched between its domestic household consumption during the winter and the industrial needs to be distributed among its provinces.

Pakistan's Sindh province produces 70 per cent of the natural gas of Pakistan. However, in the third week of June this year, the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) stopped gas supply to industries in Karachi for an indefinite period, which gave rise to panic in the sector, according to News International.—AFP ■



Supply chain havoc and pandemic stimulus spending have fueled inflation worldwide — but Brazil, which is haunted by the memory of hyperinflation in the 1980s and 90s, is suffering a particularly traumatic adjustment. PHOTO: FILIPE ARAUJO /AFP

## Brazilian families slammed by debt, inflation

JUSSARA Romero's credit card is nearly maxed out, and the sky-high interest payments have left her family struggling to get by.

Still, inflation-battered Brazil's soaring prices have left the 37-year-old mom little choice when she gets to the cash register, she says: she often breaks out the plastic yet again.

Many workers in Brazil have found themselves trapped in a vicious circle of soaring prices and soaring debt as Latin America's biggest economy is hit by high inflation, high inter-

est rates and recession.

Romero, who runs a private daycare center, lives with her husband and baby in the economic capital, Sao Paulo.

She has cut back everywhere she can, she says, but is barely getting by.

"We buy the cheapest brands, we stopped driving the car to work, we don't go out anymore," she told AFP.

Still, she has found herself forced to use her credit card, which has an annual interest rate of 346.1 per cent.—AFP ■

## EU under pressure on 'ghost flights'



Belgium's Brussels Airlines, for instance, says it will have to operate 3,000 under-capacity flights up to the end of March. PHOTO: TRAVELLANDYNEWS/AFP

THE European Union is under increasing pressure to further ease rules on airport take-off and landing slots to cut the number of "ghost flights" airlines are running to retain them.

Carriers say the requirement for them to use 50 per cent of their slots — down from 80 per cent in pre-pandemic days — or lose them is forcing them to operate empty or half-empty flights.

A sluggish return to air travel, as travellers shrink away from the Omicron Covid variant and quickly changing rules for passengers, is dragging out the practice longer than they planned.

Belgium's Brussels Airlines, for instance, says it will have to operate 3,000 under-capacity flights up to the end of March.

Its parent company Lufthansa warned last month it expected it would have to run 18,000 "pointless flights" over the European winter.

Belgium's transport minister, Georges Gilkinet, has written to the European Commission urging it to loosen the slot rules, arguing the consequences run counter to the EU's carbon-neutral ambitions.

The current reduced quotas were introduced in March last year in a nod to the hardship

airlines faced as Covid washed over Europe for a second year running, shrivelling passenger numbers.

In December, the commission said the 50-per-cent threshold would be raised to 64 per cent for this year's April-to-November summer flight season.

"Despite our urgings for more flexibility at the time, the EU approved a 50 per cent-use rule for every flight schedule/frequency held for the winter. This has clearly been unrealistic in the EU this winter against the backdrop of the current crisis," a spokesman for the International Air Transport Association (IATA) told AFP.—AFP ■

## Laos earns over 900 mln USD from agricultural exports in 2021

LAOS earned more than 900 million US dollars from the export of agricultural products in 2021, reaching 82 per cent of the target figure set for 2021.

According to local daily Vientiane Times report on Thursday, bananas were the highest earner, bringing in 225 million US dollars, while the export of rubber earned 214 million US dollars, cassava sales brought in 196 million US dollars, sugarcane earned 25 million US dollars, and watermelon exports earned 26 million US dollars.

The figures were reported by Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and Investment, Sonexay Siphandone, at a meeting held by the government, which was attended by cabinet members and provincial governors.

In addition, the export of 8,100 cattle and buffaloes earned 33.9 billion kips (some 2.9 million US dollars), of which 1,992 cattle and 21 buffaloes were sold to China.

Under an intergovernmental agreement, China has given

Laos an export quota of 500,000 cattle.

The sale of livestock to China was hampered by an outbreak of lumpy skin disease in cattle and restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.—Xinhua ■



A young Lao girl sells bananas at her family's roadside stall on the outskirts of Vientiane. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



# General Motors unveils electric Silverado, its top-selling truck

GENERAL Motors formally launched its all-electric Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck on Wednesday, an emission-free version of its top-selling vehicle.

Mary Barra, chief executive of the Detroit automaker, unveiled the behemoth vehicle in a virtual appearance at the Consumer Electronics Show that also showcased other new EV and autonomous technologies.

GM, which has announced a series of major investment drives around all electric and self-driving vehicles over the last 18 months, began taking reservations for the 2024 Silverado at 1800 GMT.



GM says the 2024 Chevrolet Silverado EV will have a roomier cabin than a traditional pickup truck's. PHOTO: GENERAL MOTORS/AFP

"Charge up your imagination," reads Chevrolet's reservation page for the EV Silverado. "Smart. Agile. Aerodynamic. Fast. Not typically what you

think of when you think of a truck."

The move raises the stakes in the battle for market share in the massive US pickup truck

market.

Pricing for the Silverado begins at around \$40,000, essentially identical to its main competitor, Ford's F-150 Lightning. But the Silverado can price at more than twice that sum for versions with more amenities.

The Silverado can run an estimated 400 miles on a full charge, has up to 664 horsepower and capacity to tow up to 10,000 pounds.

Barra also announced a new venture with Walmart to sell the retail giant 5,000 EV delivery vans for e-commerce, as well as an expanded venture with FedEx for similar vehicles.—AFP ■

# No fries with that: Kenya's KFC in hot oil over non-Kenyan potatoes

FURIOUS Kenyans are calling for a boycott of the fast-food giant KFC after it announced Monday it had run out of potatoes. While spuds are the second-largest crop in Kenya, KFC uses imports to make its chips, hence the shortage.

The news comes during Kenya's potato harvesting season.

KFC said the shortage was the result of shipping delays caused by Covid, and instead offered buns, ugali maize porridge and other alternatives to make up for the lack of chips in its combo meals.

Washira Kaguongo, CEO of the National Potato Council in Kenya, which works with local farmers, told RFI it was not sustainable for KFC to continue sourcing its potatoes from abroad.

"Because we are offering a market for their food, we expect that they should also offer a market for our farmers," he said.

However KFC's East Africa boss, Jacques Theunissen, told local media that approval procedures could not be sidestepped to bring in local farmers on global quality standards. Kenya grows 62 different varieties of potatoes.—AFP ■

# Sales prices down at New Year's tuna auction at Tokyo market

TOP sales prices were down at this year's first bluefin tuna auction at Tokyo's Toyosu wholesale market amid growing concerns over a surge in coronavirus cases in Japan.

The most popular item in the New Year's auction, which began at 5:10 am was a 211-kilogramme bluefin tuna caught off Oma, Aomori Prefecture, which sold for ¥16.88 million, down some 20% from the level at last year's first auction. The price of the top bluefin tuna at a New Year's auc-

tion fell below ¥20 million for the first time in six years.

Average prices at this year's auction were relatively low partly because the number of tuna put up for sale totalled some 230, nearly double the previous year's level, and participants felt hesitant to bid up amid the COVID-19 crisis.

The top tuna was bought by intermediate wholesaler Yamayuki for the second straight year.

"I hope all of us will work hard for survival this year," a senior official of



A 211-kilogramme bluefin tuna caught off Oma, Aomori Prefecture, which sold for ¥16.88 million in this year's first bluefin tuna auction at Tokyo's Toyosu wholesale market. PHOTO: KYODO

a wholesaler told participants in a speech before the start of the auction.—Kyodo ■

## THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY DEPARTMENT OF POWER TRANSMISSION AND SYSTEM CONTROL

### Invitation for Expressions of Interest (EOI) – Consulting Services

Date	: Thursday, 6 January 2022
Tender No	: 12(T)/DPTSC(PSD)/2021-2022(Mini)
Title of Assignment	: In-house Consultancy Services for the Development of Power System, and the Upgrading and Rehabilitation of Existing SCADA-EMS Myanmar
Deadline for Submission of EOI:	[8 <sup>th</sup> February 2022, 14:00 hr]

1. Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar ("the Client") invites firms to submit EOIs for Selection of Consulting Services for: In-house Consultancy Services for the Development of Power System, and the Upgrading and Rehabilitation of Existing SCADA-EMS Myanmar.
2. The consulting service of the project is required to assist DPTSC and MOEE throughout the implementation of the Power System Development Project and the Upgrading and Rehabilitation of Existing SCADA-EMS Myanmar. The main tasks are: (i) to enhance the utilization capacity of NEPLAN Software for Power System Analysis, (ii) to set up Centralized Disturbance Fault Recording Management System, (iii) the scheduling for tertiary frequency control activation to all possible imbalances affected by active and reactive power, (iv) the discrimination and coordination of protective relaying scheme, (v) transmission system outage planning, for each and every aspects of maintenance methodologies, (vi) upgrading and rehabilitation of the existing SCADA-EMS system, (vii) to assist the proceeding of contract management for the Project (viii) to support the Quality Control, Quality Assurance and Least Cost Management of the Project and (ix) transfer of know-how, advanced planning and analysis software and tools and training.
3. The location of the Assignment is in Myanmar, and the duration is five years.
4. Quality-Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) process will be used and only the short-listed firms will be invited to submit the Request for Proposal (RFP).
5. DPTSC will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by firms in connection with the preparation or submission of EOIs.
6. Further information and Terms of Reference (TOR) can be obtained by sending the official request via email at the address below during office hours, 09:30 to 16:30 hours. The TOR will be sent by email.
7. EOI documents must be delivered in a written form to the address below by mail or in person before [8th February 2022, 14:00 hr].

Director General  
Department of Power Transmission and System Control  
Ministry of Electricity and Energy  
Office Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw  
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
consultant.wg.dptsc@moe.gov.mm  
+95 0673410362, +95 0673410394

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (181W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (181W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-1-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALVAN VOY.NO. (SCY1117)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALVAN VOY. NO. (SCY1117)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-1-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS  
SDN BHD LINE**



# Having pets not kids robs us of 'humanity': pope



Pope Francis is not known to have a pet at his Vatican residence. PHOTO: AFP

POPE Francis risked the ire of the world's childless dog and cat owners Wednesday, sug-

gesting people who substitute pets for kids exhibit "a certain selfishness".

Speaking on parenthood during a general audience at the Vatican, Francis lamented

that pets "sometimes take the place of children" in society.

"Today... we see a form of selfishness," said the pope. "We see that some people do not want to have a child.

"Sometimes they have one, and that's it, but they have dogs and cats that take the place of children. This may make people laugh but it is a reality."

The practice, said the head of the world's 1.3 billion Catholics, "is a denial of fatherhood and motherhood and diminishes us, takes away our humanity".

Thus, "civilisation grows old without humanity because we lose the richness of fatherhood and motherhood, and it is

the country that suffers", the pontiff said at the Paul VI Hall.

Francis has been photographed petting dogs, allowed a baby lamb to be draped over his shoulders during Epiphany in 2014 and even petted a tiger and a baby panther.

But while his predecessor, Benedict XVI, was a cat lover, Francis is not known to have a pet at his Vatican residence.

Italy's International Organization for the Protection of Animals (OIPA) said it was "strange to think that the pope considers the love in our lives limited quantitatively" while citing the sacrifices of volunteers who save the lives of animals.— AFP ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Oxfam says 'severely' affected by Indian foreign funds ban

OXFAM India says restrictions on its access to international funds will have severe consequences for its humanitarian work and hinder provision of vital medical equipment to fight the Covid pandemic.

The charity group's local arm said a decision by the country's home ministry meant that from January 1 it was no longer able to receive foreign funding to finance relief work.

It comes just a week after India imposed the same restrictions on the Missionaries of Charity, founded by the late Catholic nun Mother Teresa.

Oxfam India chief Amitabh Behar said his organisation had worked closely with local partners to "provide life-saving equipment and support" during the pandemic.

The ministry's decision "will severely hamper these collaborations which were providing relief to those who needed it the most during times of crisis", he said in a Sunday statement.

Charities and non-profit firms in India need to register under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) to receive money from abroad. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has been accused of cutting off access to funding for rights groups and charities based in the country. Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, which runs shelter homes across India, had its permission revoked last week for "not meeting the eligibility conditions", according to the home ministry, which did not give further details.—AFP ■

## South Korea grounds F-35s after malfunction forces emergency landing

SOUTH Korea has grounded its entire fleet of advanced F-35 fighter jets, officials said Wednesday, pending a probe into a dramatic emergency landing.

After the landing gear on a South Korean F-35A stopped working during a major systems malfunction, the pilot chose not to eject and instead landed the jet on its belly -- walking away without any injuries.

The heart-stopping incident on Tuesday, at an air force base in the west of the country, has prompted a probe during which South Korean F-35s will be grounded. "With the investigation under way, the entire (F-35) fleet is suspended from flying," a defence ministry official told AFP.

South Korea ordered 40 F-35A variants from its American maker Lockheed Martin in 2014, receiving the first batch five



A South Korean F-35 stealth fighter in Daegu, South Korea, 1 October 2019. PHOTO: JEON HEON-KYUN/POOL /AFP/FILE

years later:

Republic of Korea Air Force vice chief of staff Shin Ok-chul shared the dramatic details at a parliamentary hearing on Wednesday. The F-35A was flying at low altitude when the pilot heard bangs, prompting him to

check aircraft systems, Shin told lawmakers.

"All systems had stopped working except flight controls and the engine," he said, adding that the pilot then chose not to eject and decided to attempt a belly landing.—AFP ■

## Canada agrees to US\$31bn compensation for Indigenous children taken from families

CANADA announced a US\$31.5 billion agreement on Tuesday to reform its discriminatory child welfare system and compensate Indigenous families who suffered because of it, in what an official called the country's largest settlement.

The agreements-in-principle include \$20 billion Canadian dollars (\$15.7) for First Nations children who were removed from their families and caregivers

and put into state care, typically schools meant to forcibly assimilate them.

The other \$20 billion Canadian dollars will be earmarked for reforming the child and family services system over the next five years.

"No compensation amount can make up for the trauma people have experienced," said Patty Hajdu, the Minister of Indigenous Services. "But these Agree-

ments-in-Principle acknowledge to survivors and their families the harm and pain caused by the discrimination in funding and services." The deal, which stemmed from lawsuits brought by First Nations families against the Canadian government, acknowledges that "discriminatory underfunding" of child and family services in indigenous communities had inflicted suffering on those involved.—AFP ■



A Canadian maple leaf with a red hand print on Parliament Hill during the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Ottawa. PHOTO: LARS HAGBERG/AFP



## Japan seeks restrictions on US troops after virus surge



Photo taken on 5 Jan 2022, shows the US Marine Corps' Camp Hansen in the Okinawa Prefecture town of Kin, southern Japan. A large number of COVID-19 cases were recently reported at the US base.

PHOTO: KYODO

JAPAN'S Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi urged his US counterpart Thursday to consider restricting American troop movement in the country after a surge in Covid cases on bases and surrounding communities.

The request to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken comes as virus cases surge in Okinawa,

which hosts most of the US forces in Japan and is now seeing a rise in community infections.

The region's governor has blamed the rise in local cases on the clusters first seen among US troops.

Okinawa will request that the central government authorise new virus restrictions, its

governor said, after the southern island region reported 623 cases on Wednesday -- nearly triple the previous day's figure.

In a call with Blinken, Hayashi "strongly requested the strengthening of measures to prevent an expansion in infections", Japan's foreign ministry said in a statement Thursday.

Hayashi called on Blinken to "consider restricting outings (by US troops) to ease worries among local residents, given the situation of coronavirus infections among US forces in Japan".

US Forces Japan said in a statement Thursday it has tightened anti-infection measures at its bases nationwide, including mask mandates on and off base and requiring a negative test for trips outside.

It added that it "now requires no less than three negative Covid-19 tests upon travelling to Japan" including immediately on arrival.—AFP ■

## UK jury clears four over toppling of slave trader statue

A British court cleared four people Wednesday of criminal damage for pulling down a statue of slave trader Edward Colston during a Black Lives Matter protest in Bristol in 2020.

The jury in the western English city cleared the defendants — three men and a woman — after they had pleaded not guilty.

The quartet admitted taking part in the protest that saw the

colonial-era slave trader's statue thrown into Bristol harbour at the height of anti-racist protests in June 2020.

There were cheers from the packed public gallery as the verdicts were returned following a two-week trial.

Three of the defendants wore T-shirts designed by world-famous artist and Bristol native Banksy to raise funds for their legal fees. Rhian Graham, Milo Ponsford, Jake Skuse and Sage Willoughby admitted their involvement but said that the statue of the 17th-century trader itself was a hate crime.

Three of the accused were caught on security camera footage attaching the ropes to the statue that were used to pull it down, while the fourth orchestrated the plan to throw it into the water. Outside court, Graham thanked everyone who protested on the day "in the name of equality". "One thing we know now is that Colston does not represent us," she said.

The Bristol protests followed demonstrations in the United States over the police killing of unarmed African American father George Floyd.—AFP ■



The statue of Edward Colston being retrieved from the harbor in Bristol, southwest England, the UK on 11 June. PHOTO: AFP

## Moscow-led bloc to send 'peacekeeping forces' to protest-hit Kazakhstan

PEACEKEEPERS from a Russian-led alliance of ex-Soviet states will be sent to Kazakhstan to help stabilise the country after President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev appealed for help quelling protests that he said were being led by "terrorists". The Central Asian country has been rocked by protests since the start of the year over a hike in fuel prices.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan announced the peacekeepers' deployment in a statement published by a Russian news agency.

Kazakhstan's president had earlier in the day asked for assistance from the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), a military alliance of Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

"Today I appealed to the heads of CSTO states to assist Kazakhstan in overcoming this terrorist threat," Tokayev said on state television early Thursday. "In fact, this is no longer a threat," he added. "It is undermining the integrity of the state."—AFP ■



Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has declared a two-week state of emergency in the Central Asian nation's biggest city Almaty and in the western Mangistau province where protests turned violent, his office said early Wednesday. PHOTO: AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Online sleuths track down US Capitol attackers

The FBI is still searching for people who stormed the US Capitol on 6 January.

The 34-year-old from Washington state is one of a number of online sleuths tracking down participants in the attack on Congress.

"We're somewhere between journalists and law enforcement," said Kay, who declined to use her last name for security reasons. "We're dedicated to finding everyone."

"January 6 broke my heart and I have never really gotten over it," Kay told AFP, her voice breaking with emotion. "It seemed, like, sacrilegious.—AFP ■

#### Japan, Australia sign defence treaty with eyes on China

JAPAN and Australia on Thursday signed a "landmark" treaty to strengthen defence ties, saying the accord would contribute to regional stability, as China expands its military and economic clout.

While Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison did not mention Beijing directly in a statement released ahead of the signing, the agreement is seen as another step by the regional allies to signal their concern over China's military expansion.

Ahead of Thursday's online summit with his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida, Morrison called the agreement "a statement of two nations' commitment to work together in meeting the shared strategic security challenges we face and to contribute to a secure and stable Indo-Pacific".—AFP ■



## We are back in a few weeks: Aung La N Sang

FORMER ONE Championship Middleweight and Light Heavyweight World Championship Aung La N Sang said he will be back into action, on his official social page.

“Contract signed. One Championship we are back in a few weeks. Go to sleep early, eat a good breakfast, drop the kids off, train hard, recover with Redmondrelyte and repeat! Like a wise Myanmar man once said, “We are coming HARD!” Aung La N Sang said.

Next, the Burmese Python said the new year will be for him as the old one teach him a lot.

“Happy New Year! Four years ago today I drove down to Florida to work with Henrihooff and the team now called Sanford MMA. I am very thankful that Henri and Phatthaikam welcomed me and my family with



Former ONE Championship two-division World Championship Aung La N Sang. PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

open arms. Thankful to Kamibazini Coachgiones Drepeacock for working with me day in day out. All my training partners are working hard to elevate the room we train in. I think 2022 is going to be a fun year because 2021 sure taught me a lot of lessons.

“I drive to and from Sanford MMA for training two times a day and take training six days a week. On average I drive about 600 miles a week. Just like that, we are back! Fight News coming soon for early 2022,” Aung La N Sang added. — GNLM

## Chelsea take control as Spurs splutter in League Cup semi



Chelsea beat Tottenham Hotspur 2-0 in the first leg of their English League Cup match at Stamford Bridge on 5 January 2022. PHOTO: CHELSEAFC/TWITTER/AFP

THOMAS Tuchel warned Chelsea their League Cup semi-final against Tottenham is not over yet after they took control of the tie with a 2-0 first leg win on Wednesday. Tuchel’s side are within touching distance of a first League Cup final appearance since 2019 after brushing aside Tottenham at Stamford Bridge.

Kai Havertz put Chelsea ahead with a deflected strike before Ben Davies’s farcical own goal increased their lead before half-time.

Although Chelsea were un-

able to completely kill off their London rivals, they head to Tottenham for the second leg on 12 January as firm favourites to reach the final against Liverpool or Arsenal. Liverpool’s semi-final first leg, scheduled for Thursday, has been postponed until next week after a significant coronavirus outbreak among Jurgen Klopp’s squad.

Chelsea’s victory was their first in three games, building on their spirited fightback from two goals down to draw 2-2 against Liverpool on Sunday.

“It seems like a deserved win, an excellent result because it reflects the game. We could have scored more but it is hard to score against Tottenham,” Tuchel said.

“We did create a lot, some huge chances. The up-side is everybody knows it is going to be a tough match in the second leg. It’s not decided yet.”

With Romelu Lukaku back in the fold, albeit once again looking far from his best, Tuchel will hope he has navigated a storm that threatened to derail Chelsea’s season.—AFP ■

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

### 1. Political affairs

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

### 2. Economic affairs

- To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

### 3. Social affairs

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

## Swiatek thrashes US Open finalist Fernandez

IGA Swiatek showcased her Australian Open credentials with a 6-1, 6-2 demolition of US Open finalist Leylah Fernandez at the Adelaide International on Thursday.

The Pole, who won the 2020 French Open as a 19-year-old, took just 77 minutes to dispose of the Canadian and set up a quarter-final clash against former world number one Victoria Azarenka. Azarenka, a two-time Australian Open champion, was made to work hard by Australian wildcard Priscilla Hon before winning 6-3, 7-5. Swiatek, the defending champion this week, was in superb touch against an opponent who had been expected to trouble her.

She hit 20 clean winners and made just 10 unforced errors as the power and precision of her groundstrokes kept Fernandez on the defensive.

She broke Fernandez twice in each set and faced no break points of her own in a dominant display.

“I felt really confident and

I was happy I could finish it so quickly,” Swiatek said.

The fifth-seeded Swiatek, 20, said playing Fernandez presented a new problem for her.

“I was pretty stressed because this was the first time I was playing someone younger than me,” she said of her 19-year-old opponent. “I’m usually the young one.” Azarenka, who will also be a threat at the Australian Open later this month, found the going tougher than she might have expected against Hon, the world number 263.—AFP ■



Polish player Iga Swiatek celebrates her win over Leylah Fernandez. PHOTO: AFP