

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

## Ethnic trade fair held for 5 days in Mandalay to promote local products

**I**N a bid to promote local products and create market access, a five-day ethnic trade fair is now taking place in Mandalay starting from 2 March, said Daw Thet Thet Naing, assistant director of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

The fair, organized by the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization and the Capital Mall Mandalay, is held at 9:30 am to 5 pm on the second floor of the Capital Mall Mandalay until 6 March. There are 30 booths displayed at the fair. The fair aims to effectively promote local products and break into a new market.

“It is the five-day trade fair



The fair, organized by the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization and the Capital Mall Mandalay, is held at 9:30 am to 5 pm on the second floor of the Capital Mall Mandalay from 2 March until 6 March.

showcasing local products from the different regions and states. Also, the fair marked the Peasants Day. The trade fair is held in coordination with the health protocol for COVID-19. The preventive measures, including body temperature measurement, and mandatory tasks are undertaken. Some products have export market prospects.

This fair is aimed to support those products and connect to international trade partners. The fair is crowded with the participants,” she elaborated.

The fair displays SME products, local products, petrified wood items, jade and jewellery, Kachin traditional costumes, PyinOoLwin coffee, Sacha Inchi products,

medicinal herbs, value-added honey products, Karaya gum products, macadamia, damson wine, morinda juice, sunflower oil, Magway’s products (black sesame seeds cultivated under GAP method, peanut and green grams), organic toddy liquor and rice wines. – Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

INSIDE TODAY

**NATIONAL**  
MoC organizes meetings on domestic rice consumption, increasing maize and sesame production, continuous export to foreign markets  
**PAGE-3**

**NATIONAL**  
Distribution of free sunflower seeds results in over 5,800 acres expansion in Bago region  
**PAGE-4**

**TOURISM**  
Mawtinsun Pagoda - one of the religious destinations for pilgrims  
**PAGE-6**

**LOCAL BUSINESS**  
Efforts underway to grow 2 crops per year in Naga Self-Administered Zone  
**PAGE-10**



## Objectives of 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Armed Forces Day

1. THE Tatmadaw to participate in the leading role of national politics for the emergence of the Union based on democracy and federalism while safeguarding the Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
2. The Tatmadaw to take responsibility for substantial contribution to measures of peace and prosperity of the country and food sufficiency as a national task the government primarily emphasizes
3. The Tatmadaw to join hands with all ethnic national people in the national reconciliation and peace processes
4. The Tatmadaw to provide necessary assistance for convening a free and fair multiparty democracy general election for ensuring the emergence of the Union based on democracy and federalism upon completion of endeavours in accord with the provisions of the State of Emergency
5. To build a powerful, capable and modern patriotic Tatmadaw to protect the national interest of the State

### State Administration Council Press Release

#### Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who reside in various regions for many reasons

1. Some student youths, State service personnel and citizens, with worries, have evaded to areas of EAOs and foreign countries due to the incitements and intimidation of NLD members, extremist followers, unlawful associations and terrorist groups such as CRPH and NUG, stimulation of CDM, and persons and organizations at home and abroad not wishing to restore peace and stability of the State since Tatmadaw assumed the State responsibilities on 1 February 2021.
2. They are further worried about the dictatorship statement and speeches of unlawful association and terrorist group CRPH and NUG, and some relevant persons. As they face no security guarantee and difficulties in socio-economic life in those areas, they wish to return to their native lands.
3. **The State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.**
4. As those who evade their native areas are also citizens, the State Administration Council will arrange their returns from the evaded areas to various parts of Myanmar.
5. As such, the information was released that if those who evaded to various areas, except for persons who committed any kinds of crime, wish to return to their native lands in Myanmar of their own accord due to multiple worries, the citizens abroad can contact nearby ward, village, township and district administration bodies and relevant embassies, military attaché offices and consulates in accord with the easing restrictions under the law.

*Information Team  
State Administration Council*

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### Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

The following telephone numbers, fax and email address can be reached to safely report information in connection with illegal trade.

Auto telephone number - 067 409 883  
Mobile phone - 09 404339969  
Fax - 067 409 886  
Email address - [antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com](mailto:antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com)

*Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee*

### Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

Regarding the "request for money from departmental organizations in conducting trade", the following numbers can be reached to safely report such information.

Auto telephone number - 067 409 881  
Mobile phone - 09 699611116  
Fax - 067 409 887  
Email address - [antiillegaltradeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:antiillegaltradeoffice@gmail.com)

*Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee*

## 1,819 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 3 March, total figure rises to 593,958

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **593,958** after **1,819** new cases were reported on 3 March 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **541,648** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **19,379** after **4** died.—MNA

### Daily newspapers available online

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

*News and Periodicals Enterprise*

## Further State responsibilities to be discharged

- There are many examples of the consequences of the instability of the state in the world.
- Tatmadaw is not an institution for seeking its own sakes or for only one organization. It is an institution to protect all national people. It conducted defence services by cooperating with the people in successive eras and it faithfully served to be a firm multiparty democracy pathway for 10 years. I pledge that we will carry out it in line with such a process.
- If we review the situations, the desires of the local/foreign terrorists and their supporters lead to the absolute destruction of the country rather than democracy. The state defence is to protect the people and we cannot let the anarchy and we cannot neglect it. Therefore, we have to sacrifice in some places.

*(Excerpt from the speech made by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on one-year State responsibilities discharged by the State Administration Council on 1-2-2022)*

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar Central Bank of Myanmar Notification 5/2022

2<sup>nd</sup> Waxing of Taboung 1383 ME  
3 March 2022

1. The Central Bank of Myanmar has hereby issued this notification exercising the power conferred under Sections 17 and 22 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law.
2. The Baht/Kyat direct payment is allowed on the Thai-Myanmar border to boost bilateral trade between Thailand and Myanmar; to facilitate smooth flow of goods, to make easy access to cross-border payment between the two countries and to promote local currency in line with the objectives of ASEAN Financial Integration.
3. The exporters and importers are allowed to open baht accounts at the designated banks for cross-border trade.
4. Therefore, the designated banks are required to adhere to the guidelines for the direct use of Baht/Kyat on the Thai-Myanmar border.
5. This notice shall take effect from the date of the issuance.

*Than Nyein*  
Governor

## MoC organizes meetings on domestic rice consumption, increasing maize and sesame production, continuous export to foreign markets

THE Ministry of Commerce organized a coordination meeting on domestic rice consumption and continuous export to foreign markets, and a coordination meeting on increasing maize and sesame production and continuous export to foreign markets, on a virtual format yesterday.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Pwint San called for sectoral discussions to ensure domestic rice consumption and continuous export to foreign markets. He said that an emphasis is being placed on food sufficiency according to the current situation around the world, and efforts must be made to increase the price of Myanmar rice internationally at reasonable prices and to export more high-grade rice.

He also called for cooperation to ensure that all stakeholders in the rice supply chain, from agriculture to export, receive a fair return, and instead of selling

the bran from rice milling as animal feed, advanced milling must be done to produce bran oil in order to meet domestic oil demand.

For domestic food security, policies that are in line with the current global context will be formulated and implemented, and relevant departments and organizations in each sector will work together, he said.

He urged all to openly discuss if there are any challenges, ensuring that relevant ministries will provide necessary assistance. Attendees discussed measures for the development of the rice sector and further activities, and the Union minister coordinated as necessary.

In the afternoon, the coordination meeting on increasing maize and sesame production and continuous export to foreign markets was held. At the meeting, the Union minister said the ministry is providing necessary support for the production and



export of Myanmar products as per the SPS Protocols and regulation requirements of each country.

It is necessary for the private sector to step up its efforts to find new markets, and the

State is focusing on intergovernmental coordination, he added. He stressed the need to increase oilseed plantations and reduce oil imports by meeting the needs of the domestic market.

Afterwards, attendees pre-

sented the production of pulses, sesame seeds and maize, exports of the products, local/international prices, the situation of farmers changing according to market demand and changes in trade patterns.—MNA

# MoEA Union Minister inspects Director Office, ethnic literature, culture associations in Mandalay

UNION Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Saw Tun Aung Myint, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Zaw Aye Maung, inspected the Director Office of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs in Mandalay Region and met with ethnical literature and culture associations on 2 March.



TA/LA teachers for respective subjects, protections of the rights of ethnic people in the Constitution and the authorities of Ethnic Affairs Ministers.

Then, the deputy minister coordinated the discussion and Mandalay Region Ethnic Affairs Minister U Sai Nuam explained the intentions of forming the ethnic literature and cultural associations.

Afterwards, the attendees to the meeting discussed the conservation of literature, culture, angible culture and intangible culture.

The Union minister handed over K400,000 to each literature and culture association and concluded the meeting. — MNA

First, the Union minister and party arrived at the Director Office and stressed the necessary things regarding the building of wall, drainage system and maintenance of office building to be carried out in the 2022-2023FY during the meeting with the department staff.

He then received the literature and cultural troupe members of the Mandalay Region. During the meeting, he high-

lighted the State development and peaceful nation through

ethnic unity, the important role of unity in ensuring State sta-

bility, Pankhinn project, NCA talks, arrangements to appoint

# Distribution of free sunflower seeds results in over 5,800 acres expansion in Bago region

BAGO Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win, along with the Region Government's cabinet members, watched the successful cultivation of farmer U Myint Soe's 307 acres of sunflower and U Thein Tun's 10 acres of sunflower fields in Thayawady Township, on 2 March, and fulfilled requirements.

ter met township-level officials and town elders at the meeting hall of the Gyobingauk Township General Administration Department to discuss water supply, agriculture, livestock, rural lighting, healthcare, education and regional development.

The chief minister also inspected the paving of (0/6.84) furlongs long earthen road and (0/6.84) furlongs long gravel road in Gyobinwine village in Gyobingauk Township, and supported U Myint Naing's successful cultivation of eight acres of tomatoes using GAP system, and visited Thayawady railway station and gave necessary instructions to the authorities. — MNA



The 2,225 baskets of sunflower seeds have been distributed free of charge to bean farmers since October 2020, and now 5,830 acres of oil-producing sunflowers have been expanded.

In order to produce more edible oil in the Bago Region, by the plan of the chief minister, 2,225 baskets of sunflower seeds have been distributed free of charge to bean farmers since October 2020, and now 5,830 acres of oil-producing sunflowers have been expanded.

Afterwards, the chief minis-

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

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

trading posts, international airports and seaports.

A total of eight tonnes of masks was imported via international seaports yesterday.

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

It is reported that the Ministry of

Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments and treatment of COVID-19 as well as contact persons for inquires can be reached through the Ministry's Website — [www.commerce.gov.mm](http://www.commerce.gov.mm). — MNA



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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

## Myeik residents receive booster doses, COVID-19 vaccines

THE government conducts COVID-19 vaccination programmes in Myeik Township of Taninthayi Region as per the target groups. The officials administered booster doses to the villagers from ten wards/villages and departmental staff yesterday.

More than 300 government employees received booster doses at the General Hospital in Kankaung Ward. Moreover, about 1,000 villagers also received their first and second doses of vaccines at their respective wards and villages.

A total of 852 government employees from education, health and police, and those

aged over 50 received booster doses six months after they were fully vaccinated in Myeik Township.

The number of estimated people aged above 18 to get vaccinated against COVID-19 is 195,413 and there are 160,911 people who received the first shots, while 150,158 have been fully vaccinated until yesterday. Therefore, 82 per cent of the estimated population are inoculated and officials will continue the inoculation processes as planned, according to the township COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee. — Khine Htoo (Myeik IPRD)/GNLM



Myeik residents get jabbed against COVID-19 in Taninthayi Region.

## CRIME NEWS

### Police seize illegal timbers, agricultural materials, foodstuffs, vehicles, motorcycles



Confiscated timbers in Bago Region.



Seized foodstuffs in Lashio.

ANTI-ILLEGAL Trade Steering Committee focuses on strict control of illegal trade under the law.

On 2 and 3 March, the Bago Region Forest Department seized 7.691 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1,013,870 in the forest reserves of Bago and Toungoo districts and took action under the Forest Law.

Similarly, the Lashio Township Customs Department of Shan State examined the vehicles on the Lashio detour yesterday and seized undocumented K17,695,000 worth of China-made softdrinks and three vehicles worth K60,000,000 which carried these products. The officials took action under the Cus-

toms Law.

Moreover, the combined inspection led by Myanmar Police Force conducted inspections team in Monywa Township of Sagaing Region and seized two unregistered motorcycles worth K200,000 and K4,340,000 worth of agricultural materials and foodstuffs and took action under the Export and Import Law. They also seized K3,529,680 worth of illegal teak (weighing 21.576 tonnes) in Bamauk Township and took action under the Forest Law.

Therefore, a total of 13 arrests (estimated value of K86,778,550) were made on 2 and 3 March, according to the committee. — MNA



Seized items in Sagaing Region.

## Stimulant tablets seized across Myanmar

COMBINED teams consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force conducted search operations across the country and seized stimulant tablets in some townships.

On 2 March, Ma Kine Brein's motorcycle was stopped

by the police on the Lonekhin-Sankhar Road near Mazupyang village in Phakant Township, and 10,000 stimulant tablets were found and confiscated from her motorbike.

On the same day, the police arrested Saw Mai Awar,

Ma Aye Thaung and Ma Lwin Mar Hlaing together with 10,000 stimulant tablets from their Honda Fit car on the Hpa-an-Eindu Road near Eindu village in Hpa-an.

In addition, a combined team consisting of members

of the Sagaing Region Police Force searched the house of Ma Win Mar in Saobwa ward in Tamu and seized 78,000 stimulant tablets.

On 1 March, Moe Zaw Oo was arrested in Myeik (South) ward in Myeik together with

3,850 stimulant tablets during a search in his motorcycle.

It is reported that action is taken against the arrestees under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Myanmar Police Force stated. — MNA

# Mawtinsun Pagoda - one of the religious destinations for pilgrims

By Thein Zaw (Shweli Oo)



An aerial view shows a serene pagoda—Mawtinsun Pagoda.

**W**HEN arriving at Pathein Port, it seems to be hearing the song 'My Dear Ma Ma Pathein Thu'. Remembering the visit of Mawtinsun Pagoda by boat from Pathein over thirty years ago, several large and small ships along the Pathein Port and Pathein River were seen with flags onboard and the rumbling sounds of loudspeakers from these ships were heard. Indeed, there were fun and happiness.

The song My Dear Ma Ma Pathein Thu is repeatedly played along the Pathein River. That is a symbol of the Maw-

at the Cape of Negrais (Mawtin Point) in the south-westernmost mountain ranges in Ngaputaw Township of Pathein

sides of the winding road. They all looked like colourful paintings. Crossing over the Pathein Cable Bridge and Pathein No.

appeared temporarily. Plenty of bathing facilities is also built up on the beach.

A long queue of stalls can

Dragon King Zayyathena. The Dragon King took two of the Buddha's hairs and built the pagoda, which is originally a small stupa, at the top of Mawtin mountain and it was called Maha Makutaranthi.

Then King Thiri Dhamma Soka renovated the pagoda. In 236 Sasana Era, by using the power of Ashin Maha Moggali-puttata Tissa and Ashin Uttara, the pagoda was renovated by the king, queen and servants. In 457 Sasana Era, King Alaungsithu saw the radiance emanated from the pagoda at the top of the mountain while he was visiting overseas. So he stopped his royal raft and paid homage to the pagoda. He built one stupa at the place his royal raft was berthing. He named it PhaungtawOo Stupa on the reef of the beach at the foot of the Mawtinsun Pagoda.

After Mawtinsun Pagoda, pilgrims can pay homage to the Ngwetaung Pagoda. Ngwetaung is also a sea beach for Mawtinsun pilgrims to enjoy



tinsun Pagoda festival. It can never be an outmoded scene. Every year, the pagoda festival period is from the first waxing day of Taboung to the full moon day of Taboung. Now, it can be reached not only by waterway but by road.

Mawtinsun Pagoda is located 96 miles off the motorway from Pathein Township

District in Ayeyawady Region.

Riding on the motorway, travellers can see the mountainous territory on the eastern side of beautiful western mountain ranges, natural forest areas, pleasing beauty of livelihoods of Ayeyawady Region, farmlands, rubber plantations and croplands and teak forests along both left and right

2 Bridge in downtown Pathein, travellers will get to a crossroad to Chaungtha Beach soon. When reaching the Seintaung crossroad, another crossroad to Ngwesaung can be seen. Then, the road to the southernmost is heading towards glorious Mawtinsun Pagoda with 18 wonders.

Mawtinsun Pagoda is one of the most attractive religious places for Myanmar people. It is a pagoda that is usually visited not only by local pilgrims but also by international tourists. It is a special opportunity for pilgrims who want to experience the added spectacular view of both the Bay of Bengal and the reefs in its vicinity.

The annual pagoda festival is held with crowded people. The festival lasts from the first waxing day of Taboung to the full moon day of Taboung. Series of traditional makeshift guest huts, which are built of bamboo, wood and thatch, are

be seen and vendors are selling various kinds of local-made shell beads, shell necklaces, shell curtains, shell hats and shell vases in addition to local foods. Visitors can enjoy sea baths at Ngwetaung not far from Mawtinsun. They can wear palm-leaf hats and have coconut sap as well.

There are also some fun sports. When looking at the Mawtinsun Pagoda from the beachside the Mawtin Point can be seen obviously reaching to the sea as it is located at the cape of the southwest tip of the Myanmar map.

The tip is called Mawtinsun or Negrais Mountain or Tharaka Mountain or Niraban Mountain. In 103 Maha Era, two merchant brothers namely Tapussa and Bhalika of Okkalapa received the eight Buddha's hairs during the Buddha era. While returning to their home by sea route they passed the Negrais Cape belonging to

sea bathing. The beach where Mawtinsun Pagoda is located and the pagoda festival is held is submerged all year round. The beach appears during the festival period when stalls and stages can be built. Visitors and their cars can travel on the beach as well. The beach would be submerged again once the festival winds up after the 1<sup>st</sup> waning day of Taboung.

The Mawtinsun Pagoda festival is held now. Visitors can experience and enjoy various pleasant scenery to explore the environment. Pilgrims can go there by waterway from Yangon to Pathein and thereby to Mawtinsun-Khamaukmau. They can use the motorway from Yangon to Pathein. They can choose any route – waterway or motorway – to the Mawtinsun Pagoda. When arriving in Pathein, the capital of Ayeyawady Region, from all over Myanmar, travellers can pay homage to the Shwemokht-

## Mawtinsun Pagoda - one of the religious ...

aw Pagoda, YegyiOo Pagoda, Tagaung Pagoda, Footprints Pagoda and other pagodas.

In addition, they can see and learn a three series of lakes, pleasant Pathein Port and Pathein No. 2 Bridge. Apart from the Mawtinsun Pagoda, pilgrims can visit Chaungtha, Ngwesaung, Ngwesaung Elephant Camp, and then proceed to the Goyangyi Island that is situated at Ngayokekaung (South) Village along the Mawtin Road.

From the Mawtinsun Pagoda Road, visitors can go to Hainggyikyun town through Kanchaing and Khamaukmaw villages by crossing the Hainggyi Island Bridge. There are many interesting sightseeing places on Hainggyi Island where they can see the exe-

cution site of foreign invaders during the reign of King Alaungphaya. Travellers can go to the Tortoise Island which can be seen very small from far in the sea. They can tour the Kyauk Klap (rock club). When travelling by boat, they can see the fleet of dolphins happy in the water near the confluence.

Visitors can explore the beauty and nature of coastal villages as well as their different types of works. The author wrote this article to welcome the Mawtinsun Pagoda festival that will be held from 2 March to 16 March for 15 days and would like to invite all to pay homage to the Mawtinsun Pagoda and enjoy the pagoda festival.

Translated



Pilgrims pay homage to Mawtinsun Pagoda.

## Vehicles consuming less fuel selling well in Yangon automobile market

WITH the prices of fuel oil skyrocketing, the most fuel-efficient gas-only cars (660 CC and 1000 CC) that consume less fuel are selling well in the Yangon automobile market.

The most fuel-efficient 660 CC cars (Suzuki Alto, Daihatsu Mira, Pino) and the 1000 CC cars (Toyota Passo/Boom, Belta) valued at below K10 million and over K11 million are in strong demand. Those bi-fuel cars (Toyota Corolla and Toyota Caldina) are worth approximately K15 million, according to the Yangon taxi

dealers' market.

"The fuel oil prices are bullish for now. Only the most fuel-efficient cars are demanded. The market of cars above 1500 CC, 1800 CC are quite sluggish. However, the market of CNG cars is raising its head again in recent days. The market of those brand-new cars at showrooms is inactive. Only the second-hand automobile market sees strong demand for the most fuel-efficient cars," said a dealer.

The fuel oil price hit a record high of above K2,000 per litre.

The oil prices per litre stood at K2,015 for 92 Octane, 2,155 for 95 Octane, K2,020 for diesel and K2,045 for premium diesel on 3 March 2022. The prevailing prices are about two times the previous rates recorded in the same corresponding period last year.

"In 2020 and 2021, the oil price was less than K100,000 per barrel. Now, it tremendously soared to over K300,000 per barrel. The prices jumped to an all-time high," an oil distributor was quoted as saying. — Pwint Thitsar/GNLM



A traffic jam is pictured at the city centre of Yangon. PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG

## Public Notice

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

Anti-Corruption Commission

Answer "1111" to fight against corruption

Answer "1111" to improve services

Let's work together to eliminate corruption towards prosperity

## The Global New Light of Myanmar

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## Seek excellent potent therapies of Myanmar traditional medicine

**C**URRENTLY, the government has decided to cooperate with the international community in conducting research on infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and non-infectious chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and cancer.

Myanmar's life expectancy is about 67.42 years which is lower than that of regional and neighbouring countries. It is necessary to expose the root cause of the low life expectancy based on the medical research works. If so, findings of applied health research should be disseminated to the people in various ways and means for having basic health conditions and healthy longevity.

In the past, some veteran traditional medicine practitioners confined followers and observers to their experiences and knowledge based on methods of traditional medicine not to pass this medical knowledge on to their juniors. Regrettably, invaluable knowledge about traditional medicines was lost in the event of those veteran practitioners when they passed away. Hence, very potent Myanmar's traditional medicine knowledge is gradually down.

plants. Various ways and methods of indigenous medicines can be identified as traditional medicines.

In the past, some veteran traditional medicine practitioners confined followers and observers to their experiences and knowledge based on methods of traditional medicine not to pass this medical knowledge on to their juniors. Regrettably, invaluable knowledge about traditional medicines was lost in the event of those veteran practitioners when they passed away. Hence, very potent Myanmar's traditional medicine knowledge is gradually down.

Now is an important time for all citizens to discover potent therapies of Myanmar traditional medicine to be applied for benefiting the entire people. Acutally, both Myanmar traditional medicine and western-style medicines will help raise the life expectancy of Myanmar people in the coming years.

The arena of medical research needs to cover traditional medicine and western-style medical education. Traditional medicines are made of their own therapies to create the excellent potent items of traditional medicines to be used in treatment for people. As such, it is necessary to seek advice, experiences and expertise from veteran traditional medicine practitioners in discovering new therapies for the diseases. Consequently, Myanmar's traditional medicines will be capable of penetrating the international community.

Now, the arena of traditional medicine has progressed in taking preventive, control and treatment measures against the COVID-19 pandemic. If the firm and exact data come out from the research works, the treatment using traditional medicines can be given to the COVID-19 patients, bringing a great benefit to the people.

If those from traditional medicine can show off their brilliant skills in treatment, it can win the trust of the entire people. It is because all the ethnic nationals residing across the nation have their own techniques of giving treatment to ethnics with the use of relevant herbal

## Two years into the pandemic

**T**WO years after the official start of the pandemic, some countries are now trying to "live with Covid", however scientists warn that potential new variants and unequal vaccination rates threaten any long-awaited return to normality.

When US global health researcher Christopher Murray wrote "Covid-19 will continue but the end of the pandemic is near", in *The Lancet* medical journal in late January, he summed up the hopes of many national health authorities around the world.

In the weeks leading up to the two-year anniversary of the World Health Organization declaring a pandemic in March 2020, countries such as Britain and Denmark lifted all legal Covid restrictions. Many US states also relaxed mask and other rules.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the change marked the beginning of learning "to live with Covid", as the global death toll falls after the more transmissible though less severe Omicron variant swept the world.

The WHO has said that the "acute phase" of the pandemic could end by the middle of this year -- if around 70 per cent of the world is vaccinated.

### From pandemic to endemic?

Spain has been among the nations calling for approaching

Covid as having transitioned to an "endemic" phase, meaning it has milder seasonal outbreaks that humanity can live with, such as the flu.

However some scientists worry governments could use the somewhat vague term to justify lifting life-saving measures.

University of Oxford evolutionary virologist Aris Katzourakis said "the word 'endemic' has become one of the most misused of the pandemic."

"A disease can be endemic and both widespread and deadly," he wrote in the journal *Nature* last week, pointing out that malaria killed more than 600,000 people in 2020, while 1.5 million died of tuberculosis.

There are also other options than just pandemic or endemic. The British government's scientific advisory body SAGE has laid out four potential scenarios for the years to come.

Under the "reasonable best-case" scenario, there will be smaller regional or seasonal outbreaks, as the higher Covid numbers lead to fewer flu cases.

Under the worst-case scenario, new unpredictable variants build into repeated damaging virus waves, requiring the return of harsh restrictions.

The different outcomes hinge on two key uncertainties: the possible emergence of new variants, and the ability of vaccines to protect against the disease in the long term.

### The new variant threat

When it comes to vaccines, Omicron has served as both a warning and a test.

Many epidemiologists say that simply letting Covid spread unchecked gives it a greater chance of mutating into new strains.

And there is no guarantee that such new variants will be less deadly.

"There is a widespread, rosy misconception that viruses evolve over time to become more benign," Katzourakis said.

"This is not the case: there is no predestined evolutionary outcome for a virus to become more benign," he said, pointing out that the Delta variant was deadlier than the first strain that emerged in Wuhan, China.

Omicron also partly evades protection from the currently available vaccines.

But they are very effective in preventing severe disease and death -- particularly third booster shots which have been rolled out across the world.

### Vaccines to the rescue?

Countries such as Israel and Sweden have started administering fourth doses, but experts fear that an endless number of booster shots is a short-sighted strategy. An Israeli trial in January also found that a fourth dose was less effective against Omicron.

## Russia-Ukraine conflict could increase COVID-19 disease: WHO

THE World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Wednesday that the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict is likely to drive COVID-19 transmission ever higher and in turn increase the risk of large numbers of people developing severe disease.

"WHO is deeply concerned about the unfolding humanitarian emergency in Ukraine," said WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesu at a press briefing.

### Low rates of testing

"Prior to the conflict, Ukraine had experienced a re-



People wait for a train to Poland at the railway station of the western Ukrainian city of Lviv on Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP**



# Omicron, is the end in sight?



Children are escorted from school in Hong Kong on 11 Jan 2022, as the city announced the suspension of face-to-face learning at all kindergarten and primary schools until after the Lunar New Year. PHOTO: PETER PARKS/AFP

Pharma giants have raced to develop a vaccine that specifically targets Omicron, but none seem close to becoming available. Several recent preliminary results of tests carried out on animals and not peer reviewed have suggested the targeted vaccines are no more effective against Omicron than their predecessors. But there could be another way: broadening rather than narrowing the scope of the vaccine.

Three researchers including Anthony Fauci -- US President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser -- have called for a "universal coronavirus vaccine" that would protect not just against Covid but also against future coronaviruses that could spread from animals and trigger another pandemic. "We must now prioritize development of broadly protective vaccines," the researchers wrote in the New England Journal of Medicine over the weekend.

However such a vaccine faces major hurdles and the first efforts have only just begun trials on humans. In the meantime, the WHO emphasises that the best way to end the acute phase of the pandemic is for rich countries to share their doses rather than boost their populations again. Only 13 per cent of Africans had been fully vaccinated as of late last month, according to the WHO -- far below the 70 per cent target needed by mid-year. SOURCE: AFP

## Ukraine sees large numbers of severe

cent surge of cases of COVID-19. Low rates of testing since the start of the conflict mean there is likely to be significant undetected transmission. Coupled with low vaccination coverage, this increases the risk of large numbers of people developing severe disease," he said, adding that critical shortages of oxygen will have an impact on the ability to treat patients with COVID-19 and many other conditions. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as of Tuesday, more than 870,000 people had left Ukraine, and that number

is expected to increase rapidly, the WHO chief said. "Mass population movements are likely to contribute further to transmission of COVID-19, potentially increasing pressure on health systems in neighbouring countries." Also at the briefing, Mike Ryan, executive director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, warned that mass population movements as a result of the conflict could possibly not only drive COVID-19 transmission higher but also favor the emergence of new variant of COVID-19 virus.

**Essential medical supplies**  
WHO is delivering essential medical supplies from the hub in Dubai. The first shipment will arrive in Poland on Thursday, including 36 metric tons of supplies for trauma care and emergency surgery to meet the needs of 1,000 patients, and other health supplies to meet the needs of 150,000 people. However, it urges to establish a corridor to ensure humanitarian workers and supplies have safe and continuous access to reach people in need. SOURCE: XINHUA



### Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 3 March, 2022)

**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observations at (17:30) hrs M.S.T today, the Depression over Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean moved north-northwestwards. It is centered at about (760) Nautical miles southwest of Coco-Island, (875) Nautical miles southwest of Hainggyigyun (Myanmar), (190) Nautical miles south-southeast of Trincomalee (Sri Lanka), (350) Nautical miles South-Southeast of Nagapattinam, (410) Nautical miles south-southeast of Puducherry and (455) Nautical miles south-southeast of Chennai (India). Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Bay of Bengal and a few clouds over the Andaman Sea.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 4 March, 2022:** Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi region and Rakhine state. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon, Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon 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 (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi region.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 March 2022:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 March 2022:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 March 2022:** Partly cloudy.

#### Depression News, No.3, 2022 3 March, 2022 19:00 MST Today

**Depression:** According to the observations at (17:30) hrs M.S.T today, the Depression over Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean moved northnorthwestwards. It is centered at about (760) Nautical miles Southwest of Coco-Island, (875) Nautical miles Southwest of Hainggyigyun (Myanmar), (190) Nautical miles South-Southeast of Trincomalee (Sri Lanka), (350) Nautical miles South-Southeast of Nagapattinam, (410) Nautical miles South-Southeast of Puducherry and (455) Nautical miles South-Southeast of Chennai (India). IT is not moving towards Myanmar coasts, the present stage of the depression is coded yellow stage.

**Position of depression, center pressure and wind:** Depression is located at Latitude (6.1) degree North and Longitude (83.4) degree East, centre pressure of depression is (1004) hPa and maximum wind speed near the center is (32) miles per hour.

**During next (48) hrs Forecast:** The depression is continuous to move Northwestwards and may further intensify into a Deep Depression. It is likely to reach coast of Sri Lanka towards north Tamil Nadu Coast during next 48 hours.

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## Efforts underway to grow 2 crops per year in Naga Self-Administered Zone

EFFORTS are being made to grow two crops a year in the Naga Self-Administered Zone, only one crop is grown each year, said U Thein Tun Tin, the Agriculture Department head in the Naga Self-Administered Zone.

“Naga region mostly grow only one crop per year. This year, they are making efforts to engage double cropping per year. We are also providing the awareness to the local farmers to grow more crops to ensure sufficient domestic consumption,” he was quoted as saying.

The local farmers from the Naga area are urged to cultivate terrace cultivation instead of shifting cultivation.

“Upland paddy and vegetables are mainly grown during



Naga region mostly grows only one crop per year. This year, they are making efforts to grow two crops per year.

monsoon in Naga area. The farmers are mainly engaging in shifting cultivation. The shifting cultivation is a waste of soil and impact on the envi-

ronment. Besides, forest fires also affect biological processes. Therefore, we are urged them to cultivate a model cultivation system,” he elaborated.

“The stair cultivation is used mostly in Leshi and Htanparkhwe townships. The local farmers from Leshi, Htanparkhwe and Pansawng areas

are focusing on the farming system and it makes sufficient of the domestic consumption. There are many shifting cultivation areas in Donhee and Nanyun and it will need to be sufficient of the domestic consumption,” he added. “Now, they are cultivating orange, avocado and pineapple. There is a shortage of perennial crops in Lahe township. So, we urged them to cultivate perennial crops. But we need to distribute the seeds of crops. Leshi township is one of the developed townships in the Naga area. The terrace farming are developed a lot in the area which can make sufficient of the domestic consumption,” explained the Agriculture Department head. — Lu Lay/GNLM

## Butter bean prices rise almost three times in Pwintbyu Township

GROWERS of butter beans are making handsome profits in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region as the butter bean fetches higher prices at the beginning of the harvest season.

“The harvest season started. The butter beans cultivated with the irrigation network of the Maezali diversion weir and underground water are highly yielded. The butter bean price rises almost three times to K42,000 per basket at the beginning of the harvest season, whereas it was priced at only K16,000 per basket in the year-ago period. Growers are harvesting butter beans to grow summer sesame seeds. The workers are also happy with daily income,” said U Kyaw San, a grower from Nyaungpinsauk village of Pwintbyu Township.

Growers from Pwintbyu Township are relying on irri-

gation water and underground water. Last winter, they primarily grew butter beans, chickpeas and green peas and some were engaged in intercropping. The farmers reaped success from the access to irrigation water and favourable weather conditions.

The exports of butter beans exceeded 3,466 tonnes in the nearly past four months of the current mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022), generating a revenue of US\$2 million, as per the Ministry of Commerce’s data.

The exports of butter beans to China, Japan and European markets have been falling. Now, it is relying only on the domestic market, said a trader from the Mandalay market.

Normally, Myanmar exports about 75 per cent of butter bean production to foreign markets

– Japan, China, Denmark, Singapore, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan (China Taipei) and Viet Nam, with an export volume of 15,000-30,000 tonnes per year.

There are over 160,000 acres of butter bean plantations both in winter and monsoon crop seasons. The butter beans are grown in June and July for the monsoon growing season and harvested in October and November. The winter season is in October/November and harvest time is from January to March.

The butter beans are primarily cultivated in Sagaing, Bago, Magway, Mandalay and Ayeyawady regions and Mon and northern Shan states. Magway Region produces good-quality butter beans and Japan buyers prefer them. — Ye Win Naing, KK/GNLM



The exports of butter beans exceeded 3,466 tonnes in the nearly past four months of the current mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022), generating a revenue of US\$2 million, as per the Ministry of Commerce’s data.

## Companies registered on MyCO exceeds 2,100 in two months: DICA

THE number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, totalled 2,102 in the past two months (January-February) 2022, the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) indicated.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018 under the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

The figures of registered companies stood at 8,011 in 2021, 15,080 in 2020, 17,380 in 2019 and 8,506 in 2018. The number of registered companies has reached 46,377 till 31 January 2019 since its establishment on 1 August 2018 as per statistics of the DICA.

In addition, all registered companies need to file annual returns (AR) on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation) under Section 97 of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5)

simultaneously.

All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA’s report, about 16,000 companies were suspended so far for failing to submit AR forms within the due date.

Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company’s status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/GNLM

## Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University embraces the digital transformation of higher education amid COVID-19 pandemic

OVER the last quarter-century, the meteoric rise of the internet and portable electronic devices has swiftly transformed education. Over just the last two years, however, the pace of transformation has accelerated further and even more profoundly as the world has dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Amidst such upheaval in the education industry, Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (PMU) has agilely adapted and innovated to ensure that its student body of more than 18,000 enrollees has retained access to the best available resources and is equipped for the altered workplace of the present and future.

“The last couple of years have presented major obstacles



An Effat University filmmaking student uses the latest technology to work on an animated feature. Effat University is a private non-profit institution of higher education for women in Saudi Arabia. **PHOTO: HUDA BASHATAH/ AFP**

to the enterprise of higher education as it has existed in our modern technological era,” said

Dr Issa Al Ansari, President of PMU. “Yet by embracing the power of educational technology

and skillfully adapting our pedagogy, we are continuing to meet our goal at PMU as a service provider of higher education by aligning with the latest practices and advancements.”

This new era where administrators, faculty, and students engage some, most, or even all of the time in the enterprise of higher learning offsite through digital tools has required institutions to revamp their operations.

In this regard, the Information Technology (IT) Department at PMU has worked alongside the university’s faculty and staff, as well as with the students themselves, in managing to effectively stay the academic course during the COVID-19 crisis.— ANI ■

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### US colleges lose 1 mln students since pandemic: media

US colleges have lost almost one million students since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, an unacknowledged crisis on many levels, said a recent report of The San Diego Union-Tribune. This number is about one third of the number over the last 10 years, according to the report, citing data of the US National Student Clearinghouse Research Centre. “This is an unacknowledged crisis on many levels. It means lower lifetime earning potential for workers, less economic and social mobility, and a less educated citizenry among a host of other undesirable outcomes,” said the report.—AFP ■

#### Indonesia reports 40,920 new COVID-19 cases, 376 more deaths

INDONESIA on Wednesday confirmed 40,920 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the total tally to 5,630,096, said the Ministry of Health.

According to the ministry, the death toll from COVID-19 in the country rose by 376 to 149,036, while 42,935 more people recovered from the disease, bringing the total number of recoveries to 4,944,237.

The Indonesian government is accelerating its national vaccination programmes to curb the spread of the virus, and more than 190.97 million people in the Southeast Asian country have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, while over 144.50 million have taken their second dose.—Xinhua ■

#### China conditionally approves recombinant protein COVID-19 vaccine

CHINA conditionally approved the registration application of a self-developed recombinant protein subunit vaccine against COVID-19, the National Medical Products Administration said Wednesday. The vaccine, developed by Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical Co., Ltd., was allowed to enter the market on a conditional basis, said the administration.—Xinhua ■

## Chinatown eateries in Indonesian capital adapt to life under COVID-19

AMID the spread of the Omicron variant in Indonesia, more eateries in “Glodok”, the largest Chinatown in capital city Jakarta, have begun selling Chinese style herbal and medicinal foods. In a rented space in front of a storey house in Glodok on Monday morning, Cindy Tan was busy selling Chinese style chicken herbal soup, popularly known in Chinese-Indonesian communities as Cia Po Tim Ayam, to her customers.

“Cia Po Tim Ayam can be consumed by anyone. It’s to build or boost one’s stamina. This is good for a woman who just gave birth,” the 32-year-old woman told Xinhua recently.

Cia Po Tim Ayam basically comes in the form of chicken

stock that is infused with herbs such as goji berries, ginger and other herbal ingredients.

Of Chinese descent, Tan has been on cloud nine for the past few months as she has been gaining a small fortune from her modest food business.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the habit of consuming healthy foods as a method of building immunity. Noticing that, Tan decided to start her business last September. “I want to sell foods that can boost the human immune system. In my family, my mother often cooks herbal soups when her kids feel unwell or unhealthy,” Tan said, adding that she learned how to make herbal soup from her mother.—Xinhua ■



Amid the spread of the Omicron variant in Indonesia, more eateries in “Glodok”, the largest Chinatown in capital city Jakarta, have begun selling Chinese style herbal and medicinal foods. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Vietnam’s daily COVID-19 cases surpass 110,000



Personnel are on duty on the street amid the COVID-19 pandemic in the Vietnamese capital Hanoi on 23 August 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA / FILE**

THE daily COVID-19 tally in Vietnam surged to 110,301 on Wednesday, up 11,539 from Tuesday, according to the Ministry of Health. The new infections, logged in 63 localities nationwide, included 110,280 domestically transmitted and 21 imported.

The Vietnamese capital Hanoi remained the epidemic hotspot with 15,114 cases on Wednesday, also its new daily record, followed by the northern Bac Ninh province with 4,698 cases, and the central Nghe An province with 4,329 cases.

On the same day, health authorities also documented 41,551 COVID-19 cases detected earlier in the northern provinces of Nam Dinh, Bac Giang, and Thai

Nguyen.

The infections brought the total tally to 3,709,481 with 40,452 deaths. Nationwide, as many as 2,516,785 COVID-19 patients, or 68 per cent of the infections, have so far recovered.

Over 195.3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the country, including 178.5 million shots on people aged 18 and above, said the ministry. Vietnam has by far gone through four coronavirus waves of increasing scale, complication, and infectivity. As of Wednesday, it has registered over 3.7 million locally transmitted COVID-19 cases since the start of the current wave in April 2021, said the ministry.—Xinhua ■

# China's Congress to focus on boosting slowing economy

A property downturn, slowing economy and war in Ukraine loom large over this week's annual convening of China's legislature, with policymakers expected to focus on shoring up faltering growth.

The rubber-stamp parliament starting Saturday in Beijing gathers some 3,000 members of the National People's Congress (NPC) for highly choreographed meetings over bills, budgets and personnel changes.

The ruling Communist Party uses the opportunity to tout its achievements while also setting the country's economic blueprint and GDP target for the year ahead. Much of the NPC's agenda is unknown until during — or even after — the multi-day meeting, with many sessions taking place behind closed doors.

But this year, concerns are



Workers weld at a workshop of an automobile manufacturing enterprise in Qingzhou City, east China's Shandong Province, 28 Feb 2021. **PHOTO: WANG JILIN/XINHUA**

bound to centre on the country's sluggish economic growth, partly

down to a crunch in the crucial property sector — which makes

up as much as a quarter of national output. Stringent “zero-Covid”

measures including harsh lockdowns and closed borders have also been a major blow to manufacturing hubs, tourist centres and port cities.

Meanwhile, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has raised the prospect of spiking food and oil prices, with fears over supplies of crucial commodities from the region being affected.

Commerce Minister Wang Wentao admitted to journalists this week that China's economy faces “huge” pressure this year.

## GDP and stability

Beijing traditionally announces its new economic growth target at Premier Li Keqiang's annual “state of the nation” speech at the NPC, followed by his rare — but heavily stage-managed — press conference. — AFP ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Germany begins slow move away from Russian gas after Ukraine invasion

THE invasion of Ukraine has thrown Germany's problematic dependence on Russian gas into stark relief, forcing Europe's largest economy to urgently reshape its energy mix.

In a previously unthinkable step for Chancellor Olaf Scholz's young government, the crisis even has politicians considering delaying Germany's planned exit from nuclear energy and coal to keep the lights on.

“We will change course to overcome our import dependence,” Scholz said Sunday at an extraordinary session of the Bundestag, or lower house of parliament, on the Ukraine crisis.—AFP ■

### IMF urges Sri Lanka to raise taxes, devalue currency

THE International Monetary Fund warned crisis-hit Sri Lanka on Thursday that its foreign debt was “unsustainable”, and called for devaluation and higher taxes to revive the almost bankrupt economy.

The pandemic pushed the South Asian island's tourism sector — a key foreign-exchange earner — off a cliff, and the government in March 2020 imposed a broad import ban to try to shore up foreign currency.

But more than two years on, Sri Lanka is grappling with food and fuel shortages, which this week saw its public transport crippled as buses ran out of diesel and the state imposed blackouts.—AFP ■

## Ukraine war impact on US economy ‘highly uncertain’: Fed chief

THE impact of the conflict in Ukraine on the US economy is “highly uncertain” and the central bank will need to move with care to contain rising inflation and ensure the recovery continues, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said Wednesday.

With US prices rising at their fastest pace in four decades and oil soaring to nearly \$113 a barrel on Wednesday due to the war and the sanctions imposed on Moscow by Washington and Brussels, the Fed chief repeated that policymakers are ready to raise interest rates to tamp down inflation.

However, Powell said the central bank will “proceed carefully,” and he favours increasing the benchmark borrowing rate by a modest quarter-point at the Fed's meeting later this month, although more aggressive moves



A Citgo gas station, the US-based subsidiary of the Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA, is seen in Washington, DC, 31 January 2019. **PHOTO: SAUL LOEB / AFP/FILE**

are possible if inflation remains high.

He expressed confidence central bankers can achieve a “soft landing” of the world's largest economy.

“The near-term effects on

the US economy of the invasion of Ukraine, the ongoing war, the sanctions, and of events to come, remain highly uncertain,” he said in his semi-annual testimony to Congress. “We will be monitoring the situation closely.”—AFP ■



People shop at an open-air market in Ankara, Turkey, 8 May 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Turkey inflation woes pit tenants against landlords

KICKED out in the middle of a harsh Turkish winter, 30-year-old Erdem Yilmaz calculated that he spent two and a half months' salary to urgently relocate to a new home in Istanbul.

The father of a two-year-old is not the only Turk in this situation after last year's currency crisis.

Disputes between homeowners and tenants have risen sharply in recent months in Turkey after annual inflation reached nearly 50 per cent in January, the highest since April 2002 and may well reach a new peak on Thursday when new monthly data will be published.

In the same period, rents

have exploded by 85 per cent in Istanbul and by 69 per cent at the national level, according to analysis by Bahcesehir University.

But salaries have not risen at the same pace, with most increasing by between 30 and 50 per cent on average in January.—AFP ■

# Japan's Toyota suspends operations at Russia plant



The world's top-selling carmaker said its plant in Saint Petersburg produced around 80,000 vehicles last year. PHOTO: KAZUHIRO NOGI, KAZUHIRO NOGI/ AFP

TOYOTA said Thursday it would suspend operations at its only factory in Russia and stop shipping vehicles to the country, citing "supply chain disruptions" linked to Moscow's assault on

Ukraine.

The world's top-selling carmaker said its plant in Saint Petersburg produced around 80,000 vehicles last year, mainly for the Russian market and represent-

ing just a fraction of the 10.5 million vehicles made worldwide by the Japanese group.

The Saint Petersburg plant employs around 2,600 people, a Toyota spokeswoman told AFP, confirming the supply disruption was linked to the conflict.

Toyota has no factories in Ukraine but said sales operations in the country had been suspended since 24 February, when Moscow launched its assault.

Western governments, sporting organizations and big companies have cut Russia off or dealt it punishing sanctions over the internationally condemned attack. And other Japanese firms announced Thursday that they were halting or altering business as a result of the situation.—AFP ■

# Fitbit recalls 1.7 mn smartwatches due to burn risk

FITBIT on Wednesday recalled 1.7 million of its Ionic smartwatches used for tracking steps and other activity due to the risk of batteries overheating and burning wearers.

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission said in a recall notice that it received slightly more than 100 reports of Ionic wearers being burned by the smartwatches.

A handful of those burns were reported to be second-degree or third-degree.

"Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled Ionic smartwatches," the com-

mission urged.

About a million Ionic smartwatches have been sold in the United States and another 693,000 or so outside the country, according to the notice.

Fitbit is offering refunds of \$299 each for the recalled smartwatches, which the company had manufactured in Taiwan but stopped producing in 2020.

Google completed its buy of Fitbit early last year in a deal valued at \$2.1 billion and is expected to soon release a Pixel smartwatch designed to sync with Android-powered smartphones.—AFP ■



Fitbit is recalling 1.7 million of its Ionic smartwatches used for tracking steps and other activity due to the risk of batteries overheating and burning wearers. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

# Equities rise as Powell soothes rate fears, oil close to \$120

STOCKS rose Thursday after Federal Reserve chief Jerome Powell said the bank would hike interest rates gradually to fight inflation, though oil marched towards \$120 as the Ukraine conflict continues to roil energy markets.

With the Russian invasion of its neighbour hammering all assets across the board as uncertainty reigns supreme, traders were given a much-needed shaft of light on Wednesday when the Fed boss eased concerns over its plans for tightening policy.

Powell told lawmakers he

was in favour of a moderate pace of rate increases, with a 25-basis-point lift this month, as he tries to nurture the economic recovery while keeping a lid on prices, which are rising at their fastest pace in 40 years.

He warned that the "near-term effects on the US economy of the invasion of Ukraine, the ongoing war, the sanctions, and of events to come, remain highly uncertain".

The comments soothed concerns that officials could announce an aggressive 50-basis-point lift. The issue of Fed tightening has cast a pall over

markets for months, bringing a near two-year rally to an abrupt end, and that has now been compounded by the Ukraine crisis.

Powell did, however, say the bank would remain "nimble" to events and would act more aggressively if needed down the line.

Meanwhile, St. Louis Fed chief James Bullard said he was for a "rapid withdrawal of policy accommodation", as Chicago president Charles Evans added that policy was currently "wrong-footed" and should be tightened.—AFP ■

# Auctioneer Sotheby's sees double benefit to crypto wave

SOTHEBY'S auction house is almost three centuries old but its top brass want to embrace the cutting edge of technology and all of its buzzwords -- metaverse, NFT and crypto among them.

"The reason Sotheby's has existed for 277 years is because we have a history of embracing innovation and so NFTs is no different," Charles Stewart, the firm's American chief executive,

tells AFP in an interview.

He is talking about non-fungible tokens, the ubiquitous digital objects that are linked to pieces of art or other items, some of which the ancient auction house has sold for millions of dollars over the past year. And even better for Stewart's business, he says there is plenty of cross-pollination between the old and new art worlds.—AFP ■

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (050N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (050N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-3-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V FILOTIMO VOY.NO. (207N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FILOTIMO VOY.NO. (207N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-3-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNIVERSE PROSPERITY

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNIVERSE PROSPERITY VOY.NO. (2201)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-3-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD**

## Ukraine side playing for time at behest of US: Russian Foreign Minister



Ukrainian Territorial Defence fighters patrol the streets after a fight in Kharkiv, on 27 February 2022. **PHOTO: SERGEY BOBOK/AFP**

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said that Moscow is preparing for the second round of talks with Kyiv but the Ukrainian side is dragging its feet at the behest of Washington.

“We are ready for the second round of the negotiations, but the Ukrainian side is playing for time on the US’ orders”, Lavrov told Al Jazeera.

Amid Russia’s military action in Ukraine, the second round of talks between the Russia and Ukraine delegation is scheduled to be held on Wednesday in Bela-

rus. Earlier, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that the Russian delegation will wait for the Ukrainian negotiators at the site of the talks late in the evening on Wednesday, Sputnik reported.

Peskov had confirmed that presidential aide Vladimir Medinsky remains the main Russian negotiator in Russia’s talks with Ukraine. The first round of talks between the two sides was held in the Gomel region of Belarus on Monday. The talks are aimed at finding a way to end the Ukraine conflict.

Vladimir Medinsky told reporters that during the negotiations, the sides managed to find “some common points on which we predict common positions can be found”. Following the talks, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s office said Russia and Ukraine identified some priority topics on which they have outlined certain decisions.

His office had said earlier that the key “issue of the negotiations is an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of troops from the territory of Ukraine”.—ANI ■

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Japan to accept people displaced by Russian invasion of Ukraine

JAPAN is planning to accept people fleeing Russia’s invasion of Ukraine at an early date, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Wednesday as Tokyo ramps up its humanitarian support.

The government will first allow in people who have fled Ukraine and have relatives or acquaintances in Japan. But the door will also open to those who do not, given the severe humanitarian situation, Kishida said.

“Japan will allow in people who have fled Ukraine to third countries as we wish to show our solidarity with the people of Ukraine when the world is at a critical juncture,” Kishida told reporters after speaking by phone with German and Polish leaders. “The Ukrainian situation is tense, and refugees are growing in large numbers. We will make preparations to cope with this situation as soon as possible,” he said.—Kyodo ■

#### US expels Russian national working for UN

THE United States is expelling a Russian national who is working with the UN Secretariat, said a UN spokesman on Tuesday.

“I can confirm that the US Mission to the United Nations informed the Secretariat on 28 February (of) its decision to take action under Section 13b of the UN-US Headquarters Agreement with respect to a staff member in the Secretariat,” said Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. “We regret that we find ourselves in this situation, but are engaging with the host country under Section 13b of the agreement,” he said.—Xinhua ■

#### Athens evacuates Greeks from Ukraine as Russia advances

ATHENS on Wednesday launched an operation to evacuate Greek diplomats, journalists and other citizens from the Ukrainian city of Mariupol as Russian forces push further into the country. A convoy of 21 cars with over 80 people had set out, accompanied by the ambassador to Ukraine, Greek public television ERT reported.

A Greek foreign ministry source said the convoy would head west under Russian assurances of safety, picking up people from other cities including Dnipro and Zaporizhzhia.

“Mariupol today is under fire from the north and south, it is a surrounded city,” junior foreign minister Miltiadis Varvitsiotis told ERT, warning the journey of 1,100 kilometres (685 miles) will be “difficult, even in terms of obtaining fuel”.—AFP ■

## A summary of the latest developments

HERE are the latest developments in Russia’s war in Ukraine:

#### Russian advances in the south

Russian forces take the Black Sea city of Kherson in southern Ukraine, a significant victory for Moscow after a string of military setbacks.

Russian forces also reportedly surround Mariupol, a strategic port on the Sea of Azov that sits between Russian-controlled Crimea and breakaway Donbas republics.

#### Kharkiv bombarded

Ukraine’s second city Kharkiv continues to come under severe Russian shelling, with police and university buildings among the latest struck.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe says a member of its Ukraine observer mission died in the shelling.

#### Kyiv column ‘stalled’

A senior US defence official says the massive column of Russian military vehicles amassed north of Kyiv has “stalled” due to fuel and food shortages, and Ukrainian resistance.

#### One million flee

More than one million people have fled Ukraine since the Russian invasion, the UN’s refugee agency says, with the number rising rapidly.

#### First Russian toll

Russia says 498 of its troops have been killed in Ukraine, its first declared death toll since President Vladimir Putin launched his invasion a week ago.

The true number of casualties on each side is not known. The UN has recorded 227 civilian deaths.

#### War crimes probe

The International Criminal Court’s chief prosecutor says an active probe into possible war crimes in Ukraine “will immediately proceed” after his office received the backing of 39 countries.

#### Ceasefire talks

Russia moots the possibility of discussing a ceasefire in talks with Ukraine scheduled for Thursday on the Belarus-Poland border.

#### Humanitarian corridors

Russia’s Defence Ministry announces so-called humanitarian corridors for civilians to leave the most exposed Ukrainian cities including Kyiv, Kharkiv and Mariupol.

#### UN demands Russia’s withdrawal

The UN General Assembly overwhelmingly adopts a resolution demanding Russia “immediately” withdraw from Ukraine. Moscow wins support from only four other nations — Belarus, North Korea, Eritrea and Syria. Its allies China and Cuba abstain.

#### Russian jets over Swedish airspace

The Swedish Armed Forces say that four Russian fighter jets entered Sweden’s air space to

the east of the island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea.

#### Oligarchs targeted

The US launches “Klepto-Capture” tasked with the aim of seizing the yachts, private jets and luxury homes of Russian oligarchs.

Chelsea Russian owner Roman Abramovich confirms he will sell the Premier League club, saying it is in its “best interest”.

#### Appeal to Russian mothers

Ukraine’s defence ministry invites the mothers of Russian troops captured on the battlefield to come and collect their sons, in an apparent attempt to embarrass Moscow.

#### Navalny tells Russians to protest

Jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny urges Russians to protest daily against the invasion of Ukraine, saying they should not be a “nation of frightened cowards”.

#### Belarus punished

The United States follows the EU in targeting Russian ally Belarus with sanctions, choking off its import of technological goods. Washington also hits Russia’s defence industry.—AFP ■



Armored personnel carrier (APC) of the 92nd separate mechanized brigade of Ukrainian Armed Forces move to park in their base near Klugino-Bashkirivka village, in the Kharkiv region on 31 January 2022. **PHOTO: SERGEY BOBOK/AFP**

# Georgia to apply ‘immediately’ for EU membership

GEORGIA will “immediately” apply for EU membership, the Black Sea nation’s ruling party said Wednesday, a day after the European Parliament backed war-torn Ukraine’s bid to apply for EU membership. The ruling Georgian Dream party chairman, Irakli Kobakhidze, announced the party’s “decision today to immediately apply for the EU membership”.

Georgia calls on the EU “to review our application in an urgent manner and to make the decision to grant Georgia the status of an EU membership candidate”, he told journalists.

The decision was made “based on the overall political context and the new reality”, he added.

Georgia’s EU integration would put the country “on a path

which will lead our country to a qualitative increase in our population’s wellbeing, security, and to de-occupation,” he added.

Georgia’s decision followed a similar move by Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky, who won backing from MEPs in a non-binding resolution recommending EU bodies grant Ukraine the status of candidate country.— AFP ■



Georgian President Salome Zurbishvili met with European Council President Charles Michel in Brussels on 1 March 2022 -- the Black Sea nation’s ruling party says Tbilisi will “immediately” apply for EU membership. PHOTO: FRANÇOIS WALSCHAERTS/ AFP/FILE

# Russia seizes key southern Ukraine city after week of war



Russian forces have shelled Ukraine’s second-biggest city, Kharkiv. PHOTO: AFP

RUSSIAN troops have seized Kherson, the first major Ukrainian city to fall in a devastating week-old war that has already

created one million refugees.

The capture of the Black Sea city of 290,000 people, which just last year hosted NATO-supported war games, appeared a significant boost for Moscow as it readied for potential ceasefire talks on Thursday.

Russian “occupiers” were in “all parts” of Kherson, Ukrainian regional official Gennady Lakhuta conceded late on Wednesday. After a three-day siege that left Kherson short of food and medicine, and struggling to collect and bury its dead, the town’s mayor also announced he was in talks with “armed guests”.—AFP ■

# US delays ICBM test to avoid raising nuclear tensions with Russia

THE US Defence Department said Wednesday it will postpone an intercontinental ballistic missile test in an effort to avoid any actions that could further heighten tensions with Russia amid its ongoing invasion of Ukraine.

“We have no intention in engaging in any actions that can be misunderstood or misconstrued,” Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said as he announced the delay of the Minuteman III ICBM test launch scheduled for this week, after Russian President Vladimir Putin said he was putting his country’s nuclear forces on high alert.

Kirby criticized Russia for its “provocative rhetoric”, and emphasized the United States has “not taken any similar steps,” while insisting its ability to defend its homeland, as well as its allies

and partners, remains “fully intact and ready”.

The decision to postpone the ICBM test has not been taken lightly, but is intended to demonstrate that the United States is “a responsible nuclear power”, Kirby told a press conference.

Russia’s invasion of the former Soviet republic has been underway for about a week, although the Pentagon views the Russian troops’ advance towards the capital Kyiv as having stalled in the face of resistance by Ukrainians.—Kyodo ■



Russian forces are waging a multipronged assault on Ukraine. PHOTO: SERGEY BOBOK/AFP

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### EU lays out plan for Ukrainian refugees to stay 2 years

THE European Commission on Wednesday set out its proposal for EU member states to let Ukrainians fleeing Russia’s invasion stay and work in the bloc for an initial two years.

The urgent plan is being rolled out as over 650,000 people have already fled across the border into eastern EU states Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania that neighbour Ukraine.

Many more are expected as the Kremlin’s forces unleash ferocious bombardments against major cities.

The United Nation’s refugee agency, UNHCR, said on Tuesday an estimated one million people were displaced inside Ukraine by the Russian invasion.

“Europe stands by those in need of protection. All those fleeing Putin’s bombs are welcome in Europe,” European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said in a statement.

“We will provide protection to those seeking shelter and we will help those looking for a safe way home.”

The proposal by the EU’s executive would give refugees from Ukraine and family members a residence permit and the right to access work and education for an initial two years.

### Hundreds of Ukrainian Jews to arrive in Israel on Sunday

HUNDREDS of Ukrainians are set to arrive in Israel over the weekend, the body in charge of processing immigration for Jews abroad said on Wednesday, following Russia’s invasion of its neighbour.

According to the Jewish Agency, over 300 “Ukrainian Jewish refugees will arrive on three separate flights from Warsaw, Moldova and Romania” on Sunday.

The Romanian flight will carry 100 orphans, it added in a statement.

### Blinken to visit Poland, Baltics, Moldova in support of Ukraine

US top diplomat Antony Blinken will travel in the coming days to Belgium, Poland, the Baltic states and Moldova to reaffirm Washington’s support for Ukraine, the State Department announced Wednesday. The trip, from 3 to 8 March “continues extensive consultations and coordination with our NATO Allies and European partners about the Russian Federation’s continued premeditated, unprovoked, and unjustified war against Ukraine,” State Department spokesman Ned Price said in a statement.

SOURCE: AFP

## Myanmar players to compete in World Snooker & Billiard Championship

MYANMAR players will compete in the Asian Billiards and Snooker Championships and the 2022 World Snooker Championship to be held in Qatar this year.

Dr Min Naing (President of the Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation) will be the team leader of the Myanmar Billiards and Snooker team and Aung San Oo will be in the billiards team while Pauksa, Min Si Thu Tun, Win Ko and Aung Phy are playing as snooker players.

The players are taking training ahead of the 31<sup>st</sup> Viet Nam SEA Games in May.

The competition is in preparation for the SEA Games.

Both events are hosted by Qatar, with eight World Snooker Championships taking place from 1 to 11 March. The Asian Billiards and Snooker

Championships will be held from 12 to 19 March.

The World Snooker Championships include the Senior Snooker Individual. There will be a women's tournament and a U-21 men's tournament, with two Myanmar players competing in the senior men's singles.

The tournament starts on 1 March, but the Myanmar players will compete from 6 to 11 March.

The Asian Billiards and Snooker Championships will continue after the World Championship, with Myanmar players competing in the individual snooker and individual billiards tournaments.

Myanmar billiards and snooker players have not competed in international competitions since the 2019 SEA Games and will be allowed to compete again this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

## Abramovich to sell Chelsea with net proceeds going to Ukraine war victims



Chelsea have become serial trophy winners under Roman Abramovich. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

CHELSEA'S Russian owner Roman Abramovich said on Wednesday he had made the "incredibly difficult" decision to sell the Premier League club, pledging that proceeds would go to victims of the war in Ukraine.

The billionaire believes it is in the "best interest" of the

Champions League holders if he parts ways with the club he has transformed since he bought it in 2003.

The dramatic development comes days after Abramovich said he was handing over control of Chelsea to trustees of its charitable foundation following

Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"I have always taken decisions with the club's best interest at heart," Abramovich said in a statement. "In the current situation, I have therefore taken the decision to sell the club, as I believe this is in the best interest of the club, the fans, the employees, as well as the club's sponsors and partners."

It is a seismic moment for English football after nearly two decades during which Abramovich's team have consistently challenged for the sport's top honours.

Chelsea have won 19 major trophies in the Abramovich era, including their first two Champions League crowns and five Premier League titles.

But the 55-year-old's reign will come to an end in the fall-out from Russia's invasion of its neighbour. —AFP ■

## Juve seize late control of cup semi on Vlahovic's return to Fiorentina

JUVENTUS took control of their Italian Cup semi-final on Wednesday after Lorenzo Venuti's late own goal gave the visitors a 1-0 first-leg win on Dusan Vlahovic's return to Florence.

Venuti left the field in tears after he deflected Juan Cuadrado's cross into his own net in the first minute of stoppage time to hand Juve the win and a potentially crucial away goal.

Serbia forward Vlahovic was back at the Stadio Artemio

Franchi for the first time since moving to Turin in January but had little joy for depleted Juve in a tense match which lacked quality.

"It was a difficult match because we were missing so many players, but we managed to keep order and we're improving," said Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri to Mediaset.

"We're doing well physically and psychologically, now we need to put this match to once side and look to the weekend."

The tie will be decided at the Allianz Stadium next month, with the winners taking on either AC Milan or Inter Milan — who drew 0-0 on Tuesday — in May's final in Rome.

"I don't know what more I could have asked, we had 22 shots and hardly conceded anything at the back," said Fiorentina coach Vincenzo Italiano.

"We've still got the second leg and we'll go to Turin to play our own game." —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.

## Golovkin-Murata unification fight rescheduled in Japan next month

VETERAN middleweight Gennady Golovkin announced Thursday that his title unification fight against Ryota Murata

will take place in Japan next month, after being postponed in December because of Covid travel restrictions.

"See you in Japan on 9 April," tweeted the former undisputed middleweight champion from Kazakhstan known as "GGG", who currently holds

the IBF belt, along with a poster for the bout in Saitama, near Tokyo.

Golovkin, the former three-belt champion who dominated the middleweight division for eight years before losing to Mexico's Saul "Canelo" Alvarez in 2018, was unable to travel to Japan for the original fight date on 29 December 2021, but border rules are now being eased. —AFP ■



Lorenzo Venuti's own goal gave Juve the upper hand in their Italian Cup semi-final. **PHOTO: AFP**