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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.

Religious Titles Conferring Ceremony for 2022 held in Nay Pyi Taw

A CEREMONY to confer religious titles was held yesterday afternoon at Sasana Maha Beikman in Uppatasanti Pagoda precinct, Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was attended by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Chairman Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa and State Sangha Maha Nayaka Secretary Thanlyin Min Kyaung Pahtamapyan Monastery Patron Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa together with State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, SAC members and dignitaries.

State Administration Council Chairman and wife and attendees took Five Precepts from State Sangha Maha Nayaka Chairman Bhamo Sayadaw.

Then, Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tilawka Bhivamsa of the Ywama Pariyatti Monastery in Insein Township, who will be conferred the title of Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru, delivered an oration followed by Union Minister for Religious Affairs

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State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing offers the religious title to the Sayadaw in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 March 2022.

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Objectives of 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

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

MNA, Air India to repatriate Myanmar nationals in India by relief flights in April



PHOTO: AIR INDIA

MYANMAR National Airlines (MNA) and Air India will fly relief flights in April to help Myanmar nationals who are having difficulties returning home for various reasons, according to the Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi, India.

MNA has been operating monthly relief flights to repatriate Myanmar nationals who have been stranded in India for various reasons due to COVID-19 prevention and control measures. For returnees, relief flights of MNA

will fly on 5 and 26 April and Air India will fly on 6 and 20 April respectively to Myanmar.

The embassy has announced that those who would like to fly with MNA can send an email to callcenter@flymna.com, contactus@flymna.com and reservations@flymna.com, as well as can make a call to + 951378603-04-06 and +951377840-41-42.

Passengers are required to have a negative RT PCR test result, and those whose visas are about to expire must extend their

visas at the <https://indianfro.gov.in/fro/>, the official website of the Foreigner Regional Registration Office of the Immigration Bureau of India. If the visa cannot be extended, exit permit applications must be made in advance, according to the statement of the Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi.

Regarding Myanmar citizenship issues, +91 852788 3562 and +91 26578822 can be reached, the statement said. — Pwint Thitsar/ GNLM

People invited to celebrate 77th anniversary of Armed Forces Day

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

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

Please be informed that people can contact the following address.

Security Sub-committee
Nay Pyi Taw Command
Nay Pyi Taw
Phone- 032-30009

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, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Bowdikam bridge soon to open on Taninthayi-Mawtaung Road

THE construction of the Bowdikam bridge on the Taninthayi-Mawtaung Road, Taninthayi Township in Myeik District of Taninthayi Region that has been carried out by Bridge Construction Task Force (4) of the Department of Bridge with the Ministry of Construction completed, and it will open soon for locals.

The bridge is located on the Taninthayi-Mawtaung Road across the Ngawun River. The motorway is 24 feet (7.914 metres) wide and 787 feet long, the

clearance is 66 feet (20 metres) wide and seven feet (two metres) high. Its maximum load capacity is 75 tonnes with the project cost being at K3,400 million.

As a commercial benefit, the Bowdikam Bridge is situated on the Taninthayi-Tungkha-Thephyu-Mawtaung road and there will be no requirement to pass through the Thaphyu-Tungkha-Taninthayi road when travelling from Mawtaung, the Thai-Myanmar border city, to Taninthayi. Road users can go directly from Thaphyu to Tanin-

thayi.

In addition, the local products of nine villages, five village-tracts between Taninthayi and Thaphyu and villages on the east bank of the Taninthayi River will be transported easier and the Myanmar-Thailand border trade will be more developed.

As the bridge is also located on the main trade route of the Myanmar-Thailand border it will enhance the border trade and help locals develop the socio-economy, health and education sectors.



Currently, people and vehicles are passing through the Ngawun River from Taninthayi to Bowdikam by boats and ferries in order to use the Taninthayi-Mawtaung road. Instead, the bridge can ensure faster and

safer crossings.

In addition, the location of Taninthayi is a narrow city. The city area will be more expanded to Bowdikam due to the completion of the bridge. — Khayan Soe Myint/GNLM

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)

Religious Title Conferring Ceremony for 2022 held in Nay Pyi Taw



The Senior General, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and congregation take the Five Precepts.



The Vice-Senior General offers the religious title to the Sayadaw.



General Mya Tun Oo presents the religious title to the Sayadaw.



Admiral Tin Aung San offers the religious title to the Sayadaw.

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and Culture U Ko Ko explained religious affairs.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing donated offertories to Bhamo Sayadaw.

Then, the Senior General presented the title of Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru to Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nyanain-

dasaya of Mizzimayone Parami Monastery of Yesagyo Township, Magway Region.

SAC Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win presented Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title to Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nyanavamsa of Htay Pariyatti Monastery of Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region.

Then, SAC member General Mya Tun Oo conferred the title of Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tiloka Bhivamsa of Insein Ywama Pariyatti Monastery while Admiral Tin Aung San to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Narasaba Bhivamsa of Wai-zanyanta Monastery of Monyo Township Bago Region.

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Religious Title Conferring Ceremony for 2022 held in Nay Pyi Taw



Senior General's wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla presents the religious title to Nun Daw Aeinda Theingi.

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Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika title and related accessories were conferred to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visarinda Bhivamsa of Maha Vizitayne Pariyatti Monastery in Mandalay Region by Mahn Nyein Maung; to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sudhamma Saya Bhivamsa of Mine Kaung Pariyatti Monastery of Ayeyawady Region by Daw Aye Nu Sein; to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pandita of Intha Ashe Monastery of Nay Pyi Taw by U Moungh Har; to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jinawdaya of Tine Tayar Ashe Monastery of Yangon Region by U Sai Lone Saing.

Then, SAC members Dr Banyar Aung Moe presented Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title and related accessories to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tikkha of Taung Salin Monastery of Mandalay Region while U Shwe Kyein to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jotalinkaya of Dekkhinayone Monastery of Yangon Region and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sumana of Setyone Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery of Ayeyawady Region.

Similarly, SAC Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe presented the title of Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhamma Piya of Seittha Thukha Monastery of Bago Region while Chief Justice of

the Union U Htun Htun Oo to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nayada of Dhamma Thukha Monastery of Mon State.

The Agga Maha Pandita titles were presented to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Akoneya of Mani Yadana Mya Taung Monastery of Mandalay and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pannava of Phayagyi Monastery of Kyaukpadaung Township by the Constitutional Tribunal Chairman U Thar Htay while the Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja titles to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Khanti of Pariyatti Mamaka Dhamma Rakkhita Monastery of Ye Township, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavindhaja of Zwegabin Monastery of Hpa-an Township and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nyanavamsa of Kama Kalu Monastery of Khayan Township by UEC Chairman U Thein Soe.

Then, the Union ministers and officials presented the titles of Agga Maha Pandita, Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja, Agga Maha Gantavasaka Pandita and Agga Maha Kammattthanacariya to Sayadaws.

Afterwards, the wife of Senior General presented Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Title to Nun Daw Aeinda Theingi of the Sasana Beikman Nunnery of Sagaing Township and Daw Aeinsana Vati of Daw Vizanandi Kantha Nunnery of Sagaing Township, while the wife

of Vice-Senior General presented Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita title to Dr Daw Sekavati of Chan Myae Gone Wai Pariyatti Paripatti Parahita Nunnery of Mayangon Township.

Then, the Senior General gave Agga Maha Thiri Thuddhama Mani Jotadhaya title to U Sai Mon.

The wife of Senior General presented Agga Maha Thiri Thuddhama Theingi titles to Dr

Sangha Maha Nayaka Thanlyin Min Kyaung Pahtamapyan monastery patron Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa and shared merit for the donations made.

During the ceremony, a total of 9 Sayadaws were conferred with the title of Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru and 8 Sayadaws with Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika, 18 Sayadaws with Agga Maha Pandita, 23 Sayadaws with Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita, 3 nuns with Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita, 41 Sayadaws with Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja, 6 monks with Agga Maha Kammattthanacariya while one person with Agga Maha Thiri Thuddhama Mani Zawtadhaya and two persons with Agga Maha Thiri Thuddhama Theingi for the year 2022.

The remaining recipient Sayadaw, Nuns and persons were also presented by the officials of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Regions and States.

After the ceremony, the Senior General and wife paid homage to Sayadaw Venerable Metarenba Hemaratana Nayaka Thero of Sithulpawwa Rajamaha Viharaya, Galle of Sri Lanka who won the Agga Maha Pandi-

Agga Maha Gandhavasaka Pandita title.

Then, he reported on the conferring of religious titles to Sayadaws and other efforts to ensure the sustainable development of Theravada Buddha Sasana.

The Sayadaw also talked about the religious titles, the bilateral relationship between Myanmar and Sri Lanka, more than 300 monks who are attending the University of Kelaniya and other plans to develop MoU with Sitagu Buddhist Academy of Myanmar.

The Senior General also said the government will support Myanmar monks who are studying in Sri Lanka. The foreign monks and nuns also join the Buddhist university of Myanmar including the Sitagu Buddhist Academy. The efforts of Sayadaws from other countries are effective measures for the propagation of Theravada.

He then highlighted the construction of the world's biggest stone Buddha Statue called Maravijaya Buddha Image and the work process to publish the Tri Pitaka treatises in Romanized language with the use of modern machinery.



The wife of the Vice-Senior General presents the religious title to Dr Daw Sekavati.

San San Yi and Dr Khin Mya Win.

Then, the Senior General and his wife and the audiences listened to the sermon of State

ta title and Director Venerable Medawachchiye Dhammajothi Thero Sayadaw of University of Kelaniya of Sri Lanka who won

Finally, the Senior General and wife donated to Sayadaws and received the Dhamma presents from Sayadaws. — MNA

Stake driving ceremony held for Kyauksaryon pagodas and Sasana Beikmantaw in Maravijaya Buddha Park in Nay Pyi Taw

A CEREMONY to drive stakes for the construction of Kyauksaryon Pagodas and Sasana Beikmantaw took place yesterday morning in the Maravijaya Buddha Park, Dekkhina Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

The ceremony was attended by Sayadaws who will be conferred the title of 2022 Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru led by the Chairman of the State Sangha Mahanayaka Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara Bhi Vamsa, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Members of the Council, Union Ministers, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, Senior Tatmadaw Officials from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, and invitees.

The ceremony was opened



Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing drives the stake at the event.



by Sayadaws by chanting and Sayadaws recited the Metta Sutta. Afterwards, the Senior

General and those present at the ceremony chanted the Yatanataya Puja verse and the two verses of the Metta Po Poem three times in unison.

The Senior General and party took place at respective places to drive the stakes under the ancient traditions and performed the stake driving at the blessing time. Then, led by the Sayadaws, they recited the hymns beginning with "Jayantaw Bodhiya Mule", and the ceremony was concluded after three recitations of Buddha Sasana Siran Tittatu.

The purpose of the construction of Kyauksaryon Pagodas is to pay homage to the Pyinsa Thingayana Tipitaka stone inscriptions at Maha Loka Marazin Pagoda in Mandalay, which was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2013 as the World's Biggest Book, which is the collection of

729 stone tablets.

The Kyautsasyon where the historical monument will be 21 feet long, 21 feet wide and 27 feet high, and other Kyauksasyon will be 12 feet long, 12 feet wide and 18 feet high. The stone tablets will be 45 feet long, 75 feet high and 7.2 inches thick.

As the inscriptions are dedicated to the words of Buddha, they will be erected in front of the Maravijaya Buddha Image, and arrangements will be made for the pilgrims to be able to study the inscriptions while paying homage to the Buddha image.

It is also reported that modern equipment will be used to inscribe the verses of the Pitakas on marble stones in Pali scripts and Romanize language, and the Sasana Beikmantaw will also be built with magnificent Myanmar handicrafts. — MNA



The Vice-Senior General sprinkles the scented water over the stake.

489 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 16 March, total figure rises to 607,399

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 607,399 after 489 new cases were reported on 16 March 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 560,887 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached 19,417 after 3 died.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 1-3-2022, a total of 25,195,819 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 21,501,523 people have been fully vaccinated and 3,694,296 people are yet to get the second shots.—MNA

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations attends 28th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat Meeting

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo participated in the 28th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat Meeting which was virtually held on 16 March 2022.

The Meeting was chaired by Mr Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce of the Kingdom of Cambodia and attended by ASEAN Economic Ministers, the ASEAN Secretary-General, Senior Economic Officials (SEOM) and representatives from ASEAN Countries.

At the meeting, Ministers endorsed nineteen Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs) under Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2022. With regard to 2022 Annual Priorities under the implementation of AEC Blueprint 2025, the ministers urged relevant sectoral bodies to exert their efforts for the timely completion of these Annual Priorities. In addition, the ministers noted the recommendations from the 41st High-level Taskforce on ASEAN Economic Integration.

In his statement, Union Minister welcomed and supported Cambodia's PEDs and highlighted the development of a digital startup ecosystem Framework,



the development of sustainable agriculture guidelines and the study towards the formulation of a sustainable tourism framework as the good foundations for ASEAN in addressing the challenges of a long-standing pandemic. And, Union Minister reaffirmed to work closely with all ASEAN Member States for the timely completion of PEDs.

Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Than Aung Kyaw, represented the Union minister at the afternoon session of the 28th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat.

In the session, the Ministers noted the implementation status of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) which is a whole community approach to support ASEAN's economic recovery efforts from the pandemic. Then, Ministers exchanged views on digital transformation efforts and economic recovery works of ASEAN and announced the launch of the ASEAN Trade in Good Agreement (ATIGA) upgrade negotiations. The Ministers agreed to extend the life span of the

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Implementation of the Non-Tariff Measures on Essential Goods.

The ministers also frankly shared their views on the economic consequences of the Russia-Ukraine Conflict.

Before the 28th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat meeting, the ASEAN Economic Ministers' interface with the representatives of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) was held. U Than Aung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign

Economic Relations attended the interface session with the economic ministers from the ASEAN Member States. At the session, Mr Neak Oknha Kith Meng, chairman of ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and its members presented ABAC's priorities and initiatives for 2022 and the suggestions for strengthening ASEAN economic integration.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister highlighted the importance of maintaining ASEAN centrality and strengthening ASEAN solidarity for overcoming the economic challenges, and discussed the post-pandemic economic recovery efforts.

The Ministers highlighted the importance of Public-Private cooperation in implementing the ASEAN Economic Community and welcomed the private sector's contribution in regional economic recovery efforts in responding to the pandemic.

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Director-General, Foreign Economic Relations Department and the senior officials also attended the meeting.—MNA

Chairmanship Handover Ceremony for ASEAN Education Ministers held

THE handover ceremony for the Chairman of ASEAN Education Ministers was held at 1 pm yesterday and Education Ministers and Deputy Ministers from ASEAN countries attended the virtual event.

The Education Minister of the Philippines, who chaired the ASEAN Education Ministers in 2021-2022 handed over the ASEAN Chairman duty to the Min-

ister of Education of Viet Nam who will take over the Chairman duty for 2022-2023.

ASEAN Secretary-General Lim Jock Hoi and the Philippine education minister said that they were proud of the success of online and offline education in ASEAN countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Then, the Deputy Minister for Education of the Philippines

briefed on the ASEAN education activities during the chairmanship of ASEAN Education Ministers in 2021.

Afterwards, the Vietnamese Minister of Education took over the chairman duty of the ASEAN Education Ministers and gave a congratulations message.

The ASEAN Education Ministers' Forum focused on three topics: the Loss of Learning Op-



portunities and the Acceleration of Learning, Improving Access to Education, and Education System Reform and Deputy

Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint attended the panel discussion.—MNA

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

Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye meets military leaders of ASEAN countries who join ACDFM-19

GENERAL Maung Maung Aye, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), who arrived in Cambodia to join the 19th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Meeting (ACDFM-19), separately met with the military leaders of the ASEAN countries and officials at Sokha Hotel yesterday.

During the meeting, the Tatmadaw delegation led by the Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye received the delegations led by General Vong Pisen of Cambodia, Major General Kham-

lieng Outhakaisone of Laos, Senior Lieutenant-General Nguyen Tan Cuong of Viet Nam and General Chalermphon Srisawasdi of Thailand separately.

They discussed the measures to enhance the armed forces-to-armed forces cooperations and other cooperation works.

After the meeting, the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) exchanged the presents with the military leaders and relevant officials of ASEAN countries. —MNA



General Maung Maung Aye, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) separately meets the military leaders of the ASEAN countries and officials at Sokha Hotel yesterday



The Chief of Staff (Army) meets the Chariman of the 12th AMOM yesterday.

Chief of Staff (Army) Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun meets Chief of Military Operation of ASEAN armed forces

CHIEF of Staff (Army) of Myanmar Tatmadaw Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, who attended the 12th ASEAN Military Operation Meeting (12th AMOM), held separate meetings with Chairman of the 12th AMOM Chief of Military Operation Maj-Gen Pen Sokrethvithyea from Cambodia, Lt-Gen Chitchanok Nujjaya from Thailand, Maj-Gen Alex S Rillera Pa from the Philippines, Brig-Gen Sone-

thong Koelokham from Laos, Col Saifulrizal bin Abdul Latif from Brunei respectively on 14 and 15 March.

The meetings cordially discussed the current political situation of Myanmar, efforts of the government, and matters related to the development of friendship and relations between the two armies and regional security. — MNA

42nd Pa-O National Day of Kayin State celebrated

AIMING to live and smart the history of Pa-O ethnic people, traditional cultural heritage and national spirit, the 42nd Pa-O National Day of Kayin State was held at 9 am on 16 March at the Pa-O Literature and Culture Association office in Hpa-an Township.

The celebration was opened with Namotasa recited three times and paid homage to the Buddha and then Kayin State Pa-O Sangha Benefactor Bhaddanta Kawwida delivered a speech. After that Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo said that

the Kayin State government provided the annual support for the celebration of Pa-O National Day and will carry on to do so in the future based on democracy and federalism with the spirit of the Union as ethnic brothers and sisters living side by side in Myanmar and need to involve in the development process, peace and stability.

Afterwards, the Chairman of Pa-O Literature and Culture Association addressed and State Chief Minister gave the gifts to honourable Pa-O people, a rep-

resentative received these gifts.

Then, the Patron of Pa-O Literature and Culture Association concluded remarks and State Chief Minister and Pa-O Literature and Culture Association officials donated alms and day meals to Sayadaws.

After the celebration, the Kan Khaye Village and Pa-O Cultural Groups and the Mithayoi Village performed traditional Pa-O dances, and the Chief Minister and officials presented cash prizes. — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)/GNLM



The 42nd Pa-O National Day event.

Efficiently implement land utilization management

LAND resources essential for the existence of human beings and societies are not similar to other types of natural resources but cannot be increased in areas due to their limited nature.

Myanmar is facing restrictions and challenges in land utilization management. To be able to overcome these challenges, all stakeholders need to participate in the drawing of the national land law and harmonization of the land management laws in order to address the issues of land resources policy.

The majority of sustainable development goals of the United Nations are concerned with the farmland management measures whereas No 15 SDG comprising the points of conservation of global ecosystems is primarily related to the land management issues for the protection of living beings above ground.

Various projects of land utilization for cultivable lands, groups of factories, industrial zones, satellite towns, new farmlands, and watershed areas for sufficiency of drinking water must be implemented on priority for improvement of socio-economy of the people to efficiently utilize the natural resources of the nation.

The government has adopted the plan to improve the sustainable management for natural resources-based works and the farmland management for enabling the entire people to enjoy the profits of natural resources in accord with the sub-para 5 of five points of the strategic goal of Myanmar's sustainable development plan (2018-2030). Challenges of the land utilization management in Myanmar comprise land disputes, needs for amending the existing laws and procedures, weak and in-harmonic processes of laws, a misunderstanding over the laws, needs of accuracy for land sources and restricted procedures in coordination with relevant departments.

The farmland utilization management bodies at different levels need to solve the issues of local people who utilize the farmlands with the cultivation of crops and breeding of farming cattle. Moreover, those bodies need to prevent abuse of farmlands in other ways such as the settlement of households, establishment of industries and production of goods.

Hence, region and state authorities should prioritize effective implementation of the 10 functions of the national land utilization council to emerge a good farmland administration and management system which will realize the policies, guidelines and basic principles related to national land utilization.

Indeed, correct land utilization will directly affect the emergence of systematic farmlands to operate cultivation of crops and breeding of cattle so as to develop the agriculture and livestock sectors of the nation.

China mounts stringent measures to contain COVID-19 resurgence

STRINGENT measures have been adopted in China to contain the latest COVID-19 rebound, with closed management and massive nucleic acid testing rolled out.

On Monday, the Chinese mainland reported 3,507 locally transmitted COVID-19 cases, of which 3,076 were reported in northeast China's Jilin Province, said the National Health Commission at a press conference on Tuesday.

Jilin Province unveiled strict travel restrictions after it posted a steep jump in daily COVID-19 infections.

Inter-provincial and inter-city travel

It announced a temporary suspension on inter-provincial and inter-city travel starting from Monday, especially targeting residents in the cities of Changchun and Jilin, where most of the province's local infections have been registered



Shenzhen, China's major tech hub bordering the country's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, asked its 17-million-plus residents on Monday to work from home if they can, while the city is carrying out three rounds of mass testing. PHOTO: XINHUA/LI GANG

amid the fresh outbreak.

The cities of Changchun and Jilin have been placed under closed management, and local

residents were asked not to leave home unless necessary.

As of Tuesday, five operational makeshift hospitals in Ji-

lin Province coupled with seven vacated medical institutions can guarantee 22,880 beds.

Chen Jianlong, an asymptomatic

carrier and student from Jilin Agricultural Science and Technology University, was admitted to a makeshift hospital in Changyi District of Jilin City on 11 March.

"I was very afraid at first, worrying about getting worse and also having concerns about the conditions in the hospital," Chen said.

"However, I felt relieved after coming here. The patients are all treated well, and all the meals are provided. Though the temperature is relatively low these days, the stadium-transformed hospital is still quite warm," Chen said.

Carrying out three rounds of mass testing

Shenzhen, China's major tech hub bordering the country's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, asked its 17-million-plus residents on Monday to work from home if they can, while the city is carrying out

three rounds of mass testing.

Residents are barred from leaving the city, the public transport services are suspended, and businesses, except those providing essential services, have been closed from Monday to 20 March.

"Shenzhen has been vigorously identifying imported cases while preventing domestic resurgence and adopted a dynamic zero-COVID approach, taking the most resolute, decisive, and comprehensive anti-epidemic measures," said Huang Qiang, deputy secretary-general of the Shenzhen municipal government.

China's aviation regulator said Tuesday that to alleviate Shanghai's pressure in epidemic prevention and control, 106 international flights scheduled to arrive in Shanghai will be diverted to other Chinese cities from 21 March to 1 May.

SOURCE: Xinhua

Patients with severe COVID-19 who are treated with ECMO may experience lung recovery: Research

A NEW study led by The Society of Thoracic Surgeons has found that some patients with severe COVID-19 who are treated with extracorporeal

membrane oxygenation (ECMO) might experience significant lung recovery and return to normal lives with meaningful long-term outcomes.

The research was published in the journal, 'The Annals of Thoracic Surgery'. "Our work suggests that with appropriately selected patients and aggressive management strategies, the use of ECMO support for severe COVID-19 can result in exceptional early survival, and these patients who leave the hospital without the need for oxygen therapy are very likely to remain alive and well 1 year later," said Deane E. Smith, MD, from NYU Langone Health in New York City, New York.

An advanced life support machine

Dr Smith and colleagues identified 415 patients who were admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) of NYU Langone Health from 10 March 2020, through 1 May 2020, with confirmed COVID-19 infection. Of these patients, 30 (7.2 per cent) received venovenous (VV) ECMO — an advanced life support machine that takes over the function of damaged lungs.

Most of the ICU patients — 323 (77.8 per cent) — were intubated

for mechanical ventilatory support. However, according to Dr Smith, the ventilator may damage the lungs further and "create a vicious cycle" for patients with severe lung disease or damage who are intubated. In some cases, VV-ECMO may result in decreased support from the ventilator, minimizing damage to the lungs and allowing them to begin healing.

Thus, 80 patients (19.3 per cent) were evaluated for VV-ECMO, with 30 (7.2 per cent) eventually receiving it.

"These patients received ECMO for severe COVID-19 during the height of the pandemic in New York City — at a time when very little was known about the likelihood for success," said Dr Smith.

Supported on VV-ECMO

The researchers reported that 28 patients (93.3 per cent) survived VV-ECMO. These patients were hospitalized for a median of 45 days and supported on VV-ECMO for a median of 19 days. Importantly, 27 patients (90 per

cent) were discharged home or to acute rehabilitation. No patients left the hospital dependent on a ventilator, and only one patient required supplemental oxygen.

According to Dr Smith, patient selection was a significant factor that impacted the success of VV-ECMO. The selection philosophy was that this was not a "bailout" or salvage therapy to be employed in the absence of other options. Instead, VV-ECMO was offered to patients believed to have a reasonable chance for survival with this support.

"We were struck by the number of young, otherwise healthy patients who were dying from the disease. Because of this, we felt the patient selection was very important," he said.

Severity of lung disease

Dr Smith further explained that the decision to offer ECMO support also was impacted by the severity of lung disease and potential for survival.

"If there was one theme throughout our experience, it was

how we would define success. We did not feel that using ECMO to have patients survive simply to go to long-term facilities debilitated and vent-dependent was successful, or not as successful as it could be. In other words, we began with the end in mind. If we were going to offer patients ECMO for severe COVID-19, it was because we believed that we could protect the lungs and allow patients to return to their normal lives at the end of it," he said.

While the patient selection was important, a standardized approach to patient management and protecting the lungs was equally valuable. This included not deviating from lung-protective ventilation strategies, early tracheostomy (an opening surgically created through the neck into the trachea) and frequent bronchoscopy (a procedure to look directly at the airways in the lungs using a thin, lighted tube), treatment of coinfection, and standardization of an anticoagulation regimen (to help prevent blood clots).

SOURCE: ANI

ECMO is a technology that has helped patients with severe respiratory failure, including when that's due to respiratory viruses such as swine flu (H1N1) in 2009 and again now with COVID-19. PHOTO: RCN.ORG/ANI

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 16 March 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over south Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move east-northeast wards Andaman Sea and Nicobar Islands, intensify into a Depression at (20.3.2022). It is likely to move north-northwestwards and intensify into a Cyclonic Storm at (21.3.2022). It would continue to move north-northwestwards till into (22.3.2022). Thereafter, it will recurve to north-northeastwards and reach near Bangladesh and Rakhine coast of Myanmar at (23.3.2022). Weather is cloudy over the southwest Bay and generally fair over the north Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOONM OF THE 17 March 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Taninthayi region and Kachin, (eastern and southern) Shan, Kayah, Kayin, Mon states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, northern Shan, Rakhine state 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 scattered rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi region and isolated in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 March 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 March 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 March 2022: Generally fair weather.

Trademark Caution

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General Maung Maung Aye attends welcome dinner hosted by Commander-in-Chief of Royal Cambodian Armed Forces

CHIEF of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, who will attend the 19th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Meeting (ACDFM-19) in Cambodia, attended the welcome dinner hosted by Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces General Vong Pisen at Sokha Hotel in Phnom Penh yesterday evening.

The dinner was also attended by Myanmar Tatmadaw representatives, Commanders-in-Chief of the Armed Forces from ASEAN nations and wives, and delegations.

At the dinner ceremony, the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed



The welcome dinner hosted by the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces in progress.



Forces gave a welcome address and the attendees enjoyed the dinner together. During the dinner, a music band played songs from the ASEAN nations, along with the performances of a variety of traditional dances.— MNA

Chief of Military Security Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo meets Chiefs of ASEAN Military Intelligence to attend AMIM-19 separately



THE Chief of Military Security Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, who arrived in Cambodia to join the 19th ASEAN Military Intelligence Meeting (AMIM-19), separately met with the delegations led by Lt-Gen Hun Manith of Cambodia, Lt-Gen Natee Wongissares of Thailand, Lt-Gen Le Hona Son of Viet Nam, Lt-Gen Datuk Ahmad Norihan Bin Jalal of Malaysia and Colonel Phimmachanh

Vongpanna of Laos on 14 and 15 March.

During the event, they discussed the current political situation of Myanmar and efforts of the government, measures to develop the military cooperation between two countries and regional security measures.

After the meetings, Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo exchanged gifts with the Chiefs ASEAN military intelligence.— MNA

The Chief of Military Security Affairs meets the Chief of ASEAN Military Intelligence.

Yangon Region to increase 8,000 more acres of sunflower crops

DEPUTY Minister Dr Aung Gyi for the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation remarked during a meeting with the officials of the regional department on 14 March to expand agricultural operations and add more farmlands for the commercially valued crops which are suitable for the climate and soil conditions and focus on value-added production.

At the meeting, food security, increase in production of nutrient agricultural products, promotion of the value-added production businesses based on agriculture and livestock, enhancing the contract farming system and a public-private partnership between the departments and private farmers were discussed. There are a total of 1.8 million

acres of eight crops, including beans and edible oil crop and 1.3 million acres of summer and monsoon paddy in the Yangon Region.

The department is planning to add 8,000 more sunflower crops starting this winter in order to meet the demand requirements of the edible oil.

After that, the deputy minister and officials concerned visited the training institute which offers courses related to dam maintenance and operation and mechanicals under the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department in Yangon. They observed the vehicle and machine handling course, mechanical maintenance course, industrial and electrical training course and welding



Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi inspects the activities at the Plant Biotechnology Centre.

training course.

The deputy minister met the trainers and trainees and directed them to fulfil their needs.

Moreover, the team led by the deputy minister inspected

the pesticide residue testing activities of the crop protection division under the Agriculture Department, toxicity test and monitoring measures for the agricultural inputs and outputs in line with the international

standard and criteria. Then, they observed the laboratories of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, quality vaccine and animal nutrition and veterinary medicines. They also looked around the activities of the Plant Biotechnology Centre of the Agriculture Department to maintain the crop genetic and visualize the pedigree crops and genetic modification, the banana, elephant foot yam and orchid tissue culture.

They left for the Agricultural mechanization Department's institute in Phayagyi Town, Bago Region and met the trainers and staff and inspected the teaching aid equipment. He urged them to produce skilled individuals to improve mechanized agriculture.—MNA

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

THE Ministry of Commerce is overseeing the importation of essential medical supplies plus anti-COVID devices that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, through trading posts, international airports and seaports.

A total of six tonnes of masks were imported via the Chinshwehaw trading post 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 inquiries can be reached through the Ministry's Website—www.commerce.gov.mm. — MNA

About 168 consumer complaints reported in Sagaing in four years



Consumers are buying food at one of the streetside vendors.

THERE were about 168 cases of consumers complaints in the Sagaing region in the last four years, with the highest number of telecommunications services complaints, said Daw Yee Lin Htut, the deputy head of the Consumer Affairs Department in Sagaing Region.

"Sagaing Region Consumer Affairs Department received a total of 168 complaints from 2018 to 2022. Among them, seven cases were reported about food complaints, eleven cases, products complaints, 142 cases, services and eight cases, other services. The services complaints are the highest among other complaints. But the telecommunications services complaints have been completely solved," said Daw Yee Lin Htut.

Out of 168 cases, 165 cases have been already resolved whereas the remaining three are concerned with the Katha district tractor machines cases, it is learnt.

"The customers bought the tractors with the instalment system. But the shop was delayed to provide the services over the malfunction. Besides, the customers had to buy the spare parts at an expensive price. The customers want to get back their money and want to return the

machines to the company," she clarified.

"The cases haven't been solved yet because we could not contact the shop in the current situation. We will continue to solve these three cases," said Daw Yee Lin Htut.

The Consumer Affairs Department is giving awareness-raising activities regularly for the consumers to know the rights to complain over their losses. During the pandemic period, the department is distributing the pamphlets and provides awareness talks following the COVID-19 rules and regulations.

"The World Consumer Rights Day falls on 15 March. So, we provided awareness and distributed the pamphlet. By doing so, the consumers will understand they have the right to complain over their losses and the entrepreneurs will respect the Law," she added.

The department has instructed the entrepreneurs to display the expressions of the Myanmar language or jointly with other languages on the label of the products. The Consumer Affairs Department is cooperating with other departments to ensure the safety and satisfaction of products and services in the market, it is learnt. — Lu Lay/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal teak, vehicles seized this week



Confiscated teak.

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, effective action is being taken to prevent illegal trade in accordance with the law.

A combined Inspection Team and Region Forestry Department led by Anti-Trafficking Task Force conducted inspections in Yangon Region on 14 March.

Two vehicles (estimated at K40,000,000) carrying 6.6272 tonnes of illegal teaks and door pieces (estimated at K1,988,160) were seized in Hlaing thaya Township, Yangon North District and action is being taken under the For-

est Law.

Similarly, a combined inspection team led by the Department of Forest conducted an inspection under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee in Okpho Township, Bago Region on 16 March and 6.4060 tonnes of illegal timber (estimated at K234,800) was seized and action is being taken under the Forest Law.

As a result, a total of five arrests (estimated at K42,222,960) were made on 14 and 16 March according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. —MNA

Over K770 mln worth of drugs seized in Phakant

THE police seized K770 million worth of ecstasy tablets in Phakant Township, according to the police statement.

The combined inspection team consisting of Anti-Narcotics Task Force members asked to stop a Toyota Wish driven by Kharli for inspection at 9:30

pm on 15 March. But driver Kharli flee by driving, the police shot and arrested him and seized over 500,000 ecstasy tablets worth over K770 million as finding details of the vehicle.

The police are investigating to arrest further suspects. — MNA



Arrestees are seen along with seized drugs.

CBM sells \$160 mln for fuel oil sector

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has sold US\$165.62 million for the fuel oil sector, according to the Consumer Affairs Department.

Between 15 September 2021 and 4 February 2022, \$147.90 million were sold to the oil-importing companies at the CBM's reference rate, while the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods directly sold \$7.72 million for the oil industry and \$10 million to Myanmar International Freight Forwarders Association.

The CBM sold those foreign currencies multiple times at the exchange rates of K1,753 in minimum and K1,820 in maximum.

Additionally, the Ministry of Commerce in coordination with the Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association carried out a scheme to distribute fuel oil at a fairer rate through the government-sponsored petrol station chains starting from 22 September 2021. The total volume of fuel oil that are sold at very cheap

rates is equivalent to the amount that the oil importers directly purchased the foreign currency from the CBM.

The companies imported \$147.90 million worth of 226 million litres of fuel oil. Of them, over 224 million litres have been distributed so far and over a million litres are left for sales, said an official of the Consumer Affairs Department.

Those oils have to be sold at the reference rate set by the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department.

The consumers can complain about overcharging for fuel oil which is sold at the subsidized rate under the public distribution system, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

If any overcharging is found, the consumers can complain about it through the Central Committee, Consumer Affairs Department and Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association.

Following the crude oil price rally in the global market and



One of the petrol stations in Yangon.

Kyat depreciation against US Dollar at over K2,000, the oil prices hit a peak of K1,830 per litre for diesel, K1,845 for premium diesel, K1,855 for Octane 92 Ron and K1,930 for Octane 95 Ron.

The fuel oil was pegged at around K590 per litre for Octane 92, K610 for Octane 95, K590 for

diesel and K605 for premium diesel in early February 2021 in the domestic retail market, while the exchange rate stood at K1,330 then.

Therefore, Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association is offering special prices for those fuel oil in the regions and states. The

special price of fuel in Yangon on 16 March stood at K1,613 per litre for premium diesel and K1,549 per litre for diesel.

Normally, Myanmar yearly imports 6 million tonnes of fuel oil from external markets, the Ministry of Commerce stated. — NN/GNLM

China to temporarily halt imports of seven items including rice

THE COVID-19 Preventive Task Force in Ruili city notified Muse district-level task force to prevent the spread of COVID-19 of the temporary suspension on the importation of seven items from Myanmar, including rice, according to the Muse-Namkam Border Trade Chamber of Commerce.

The importation of seven items; rice, broken rice, fresh chilli, goods shipped in the cold chain, frozen goods, fishery products, daily goods, and packaged food commodities will come to a halt through the Wanding-Mangman checkpoint.

This action is a temporary plan of the working group to prevent the cross-border spread of COVID-19, to prevent the infection with science-based tactics according to China's FDA Law and a rule on export and import food safety, and resumption of the trade flow via Wanding-Mangman point, according to the notification.

Amid the closure of cross-border posts with China and China's policy changes, the value of border trade through a major trading hub Muse border post plunged to US\$579.48 million as of 4 March 2022 of



The Muse 105th-mile Trade Zone.

the current mini-budget period (Oct 2021- Mar 2022), Myanmar Customs Department's statistics indicated.

The figure significantly dropped from \$2.49 billion recorded in the corresponding period of last Financial Year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October 2021 and 4 March 2022, Myanmar's exports to China through the

Muse land border were valued at \$555.5 million, while imports are worth \$23.96 million. The trade showed a slump in both exports and imports against the year-ago period.

China shut down all the checkpoints linking to the Muse border amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The checkpoints next to the Muse border are Nantaw, Sinphyu, Man Wein (Kyalgaung), Kyinsank-

yawt-Wanding and Panseng-Wanding. Of the checkpoints, Kyinsankyawt has resumed trading activity from 26 November on a trial run. Myanmar delivers rubber, various beans and pulses, dried plum, watermelon, muskmelon and other food commodities to China through Kyinsankyawt with the use of a Chinese short-haul trucking service.

Myanmar trucks are re-

stricted to enter China side. However, there is a shortage of Chinese truck drivers. As a result of this, the cost of Chinese short-haul trucking tremendously rose. Only when China eases the restriction can the trucking rate drop, a trader engaged in Muse trade zone elaborated.

Additionally, China's new Customs Regulation and mandatory quarantine process posed some hurdles in the border market. Traders cannot expect trade facilitation according to the changes in China's policy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Myanmar normally exports agricultural products including rice, beans and corns, and fishery products such as crab, prawn, etc. Furthermore, Myanmar's natural gas export to China is also conducted through the Muse-Ruili border. The raw CMP materials, electrical appliances and consumer goods are imported into the country.

The Muse border post witnessed \$4.057 billion worth of Sino-Myanmar border trade last financial year 2020-2021, including exports worth \$2.9 billion and imports worth \$1.15 billion. — KK/GNLM

Shenzhen: Lockdown in China's Silicon Valley rattles investors

ITS factories tool the world with mobile phones, while some of China's best tech brains go there to churn out apps and games — but Shenzhen is now in lockdown as the coronavirus inflicts economic pain on the country and rattles markets.

Residents in the city of 17.5 million — sometimes dubbed China's answer to Silicon Valley — have been ordered not to leave unless necessary and public transport has been halted as the country battles its worst virus outbreak in two years.

Most firms have been told to switch to working from home, which is im-

possible for many factories whose disruption is fuelling unease over supply chains and services. But how significant is Shenzhen to China's economy?

Hi-tech exports

Home to Chinese tech giants including Huawei and Tencent, Shenzhen ranks third among Chinese cities in economic output meaning any prolonged closure will be felt sharply.

"It is a manufacturing hub and also a tech centre for China," Hong Hao, of financial services firm Bocom International, told AFP.

Already, major Apple supplier Foxconn has suspended operations in Shenzhen while other tech manufacturers such as Netac Technology also halted some production.

Mechanical and electronic products make up 80 percent of exports from the southern powerhouse, which neighbours Hong Kong.

"This is a very significant lockdown and I think the full impact is yet to be revealed," Hong added.

Ripple effects

Zhiwei Zhang, chief economist of Pinpoint Asset Management, said consumption would be



Apple supplier Foxconn has suspended operations in Shenzhen while other tech manufacturers such as Netac Technology also halted some production. PHOTO: VCCI/XINHUA /FILE

"hurt quickly and severely" in a lockdown, followed by production and invest-

ment. "It's a ripple effect," Hong of Bocom said, noting that other parts of China which depend on Shenzhen's output could be hit.—AFP ■

Nickel trading resumes only briefly in London



Nickel, used in stainless steel and electric vehicle batteries, spiked on 8 March to a then-record high of \$101,365 per tonne on a bad bet from a Chinese billionaire following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

TRADING in nickel resumed Wednesday on the London Metal Exchange after a lengthy pause linked to the Ukraine crisis

but was quickly suspended again after a sharp fall.

Nickel stopped trading having swiftly breached a new five-per cent daily

price movement limit to stand at \$43,995 per tonne on the LME.

"Following re-open, the market moved to its limit-down pricing band," the exchange said in a statement.

"We have now halted the electronic market to investigate a potential issue with the limit-down band, and will update the market in due course."

Nickel, used in stainless steel and electric vehicle batteries, spiked on 8 March to a then-record high of \$101,365 per tonne on a bad bet from a Chinese billionaire fol-

lowing Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

However, the LME subsequently decided to cancel all trades made that day and halted trading.

That leaves nickel's record high at \$48,002 per tonne, set 7 March.

Moscow's invasion sparked market chaos last week owing to supply concerns in Russia, the world's third biggest nickel producer.

The metal's price, already soaring, was catapulted even higher by a bad pricing call from Chinese billionaire Xiang Guangda.—AFP ■

Denmark mulls cigarette sale ban for next generations

DENMARK unveiled plans on Tuesday to ensure that future generations are tobacco-free, and is considering banning the sale of cigarettes and other nicotine products to anyone born after 2010.

"Our hope is that all people born in 2010 and later will never start smoking or using nicotine-based products", Health Minister Magnus Heunicke told reporters.

"If necessary, we are ready to ban the sale (of these products) to this generation by progressively raising the age limit," he said. Currently, Danes must be 18 years old to buy cigarettes or e-cigarettes.

According to the health ministry, around 31 percent of 15-to-29-year-olds smoke.

Smoking is the main cause of cancer in the Nordic country of 5.8 million people, and responsible for 13,600 deaths per year.—AFP ■

California home sales edge higher in February

DESPITE higher interest rates alongside geopolitical uncertainty, California's housing market continued to maintain a solid sales pace with rising prices, the California Association of Realtors reported Tuesday. California home prices continued to increase from the previous year. The statewide median price inched up to 771,270 US dollars in February, up 0.7 per cent from January's 765,610 dollars and 10.3 per cent from the

699,000 dollars recorded in February 2021.

The leader in home prices continues to be the San Francisco Bay Area, where the median price was 1.335 million dollars, with a high of 2.1 million dollars in San Mateo County, 1.9 million dollars in San Francisco and 1.82 million dollars in Santa Clara County. In the Los Angeles metro area, consisting of Los Angeles and Orange counties, the house price rose disproportionately.

The median price of an existing, single-family home was 725,000 dollars in February, up from 700,000 dollars in January and 649,000 dollars one year ago.

More significantly, the median price in Orange County stood at 1.26 million dollars, a jump of 265,000 dollars from February 2021. The cheapest houses in California can be found in Lassen County in the far north with a median price of 239,000 dollars.—Xinhua ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

SHANGHAI FLYINGMAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CO., LTD., a company incorporated and existing under the laws of Government of China, and having its registered office at Unit 601A, 6/F, Talent Mansion, No.500, Xietu Rd., Shanghai 200023, People's Republic of China, hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trademarks and has appointed to the ECO SHINE TRADING CO., LTD. as Exclusive Distributor in Myanmar.

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N. Korea appears to have failed in ballistic missile test

NORTH Korea appears to have conducted an unsuccessful test of what is presumed to be a ballistic missile from an area in Pyongyang, South Korea's military said Wednesday.

"North Korea fired an unidentified projectile from the Sunan area around 9:30 am, but it seems to have failed immediately," South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

South Korea believes the projectile, which is presumed to be a ballistic missile, was unable to reach its targeted altitude in its early boost phase, but further investigation is needed to confirm the main reason for the failure, a



Photo taken on 10 October 2020, shows what appears to be a new type of intercontinental ballistic missile seen at a military parade in Pyongyang. **PHOTO: KOREA MEDIA/KYODO/FILE**

military official said in a briefing. The missile exploded at an

altitude of about 20 kilometres soon after the launch, the military

said. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters in Tokyo his government is still gathering information on the launch, while Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told a regular news conference that Japan "has not confirmed the flight of a ballistic missile."

"We are working closely with the United States and South Korea and doing our utmost to gather information, conduct an analysis and monitor, and we will continue to follow what actions North Korea takes," the top Japanese government spokesman said.

The US military's Indo-Pac-

ific Command said it is aware of a "ballistic missile launch" by the North and condemned the action, calling on Pyongyang to "refrain from further destabilizing acts".

The command said in a statement it will continue to monitor the situation and that the US commitment to the defense of allies Japan and South Korea "remains ironclad." The latest launch came amid growing speculation that North Korea would test an intercontinental ballistic missile this week after hinting in January that it could resume nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests for the first time since 2017.—Kyodo ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mexico hands alleged drug lord to US after cartel backlash

Mexico on Tuesday deported an alleged drug cartel leader to the United States, the government said, after his arrest triggered gunfire and chaos in a northern border city.

Juan Gerardo Trevino was wanted by the United States for drug trafficking and money laundering and by Mexico for murder and terrorism, according to the Mexican defense ministry.

The alleged Northeast Cartel boss was handed over to US authorities early Tuesday, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador told reporters.

Since Trevino has dual Mexican-US nationality, there was no need to wait for a US extradition request to be processed, he added.—AFP ■

Guantanamo 9/11 attacks defendants in plea negotiations: attorneys

FIVE men charged in the 11 September, 2001 attacks, including alleged "mastermind" Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, are in plea negotiations to resolve the longstanding capital case, defence attorneys confirmed Tuesday.

Lawyers for the five, each held for more than 15 years at the US naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have entered into talks with prosecutors in the high-security military court "over proposed dispositions of the case," said attorneys for one defendant, Ammar al Baluchi.—AFP ■

At least 1 dead, dozens injured as M7.4 quake hits northeastern Japan

A powerful magnitude 7.4 earthquake hit off northeastern Japan late Wednesday, leaving at least one person dead and dozens injured and causing a high-speed shinkansen train to derail.

The 11:36 pm quake also prompted the Japan Meteorological Agency to issue a 1-metre tsunami warning to the Pacific coast of Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures, but the warning was lifted Thursday morning after only relatively small tsunami waves were observed.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters early Thursday that there have so far been no abnormalities found at nuclear plants in affected areas after the big quake.

The temblor, which was preceded by a magnitude 6.1 quake by two minutes, registered an upper 6 on Japan's seismic intensity scale of 7 in parts of Miyagi and Fukushima, the agency said.

At an intensity of upper 6,



Products are knocked from shelves at a convenience store in the city of Fukushima during a powerful earthquake on 16 March 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

many people find it impossible to remain standing or move without crawling. The jolts are strong enough to toss people through the air, according to the agency.

The M7.4 quake, which occurred in waters off Fukushima at a depth of about 57 kilometres, was also felt across a wide swath of the country, including eastern, central and western Japan. The

agency is warning of quakes of a similar scale in hard-hit areas for the next week or so.

A Tohoku Shinkansen bullet train with about 100 passengers on board derailed between Fukushima Station in Fukushima and Shiroishizao Station in Miyagi, but no injuries were reported, according to East Japan Railway Co. — Kyodo ■

Grounded cruise ship freed off Dominican Republic

A large cruise ship carrying 3,000 tourists that ran aground off the coast of the Dominican Republic was refloated on Tuesday following eight hours of work to free it, authorities said.

The Norwegian Escape, which ran aground Monday after leaving Puerto Plata, was "rescued without major incidents and all the tourists and crew on board were unharmed," the Dominican navy said on social

media.

The cruise ship — which has 1,600 crew members on board — returned to Puerto Plata for inspections before being allowed to set sail.

The navy said it had created an investigatory commission to look into the "factors that resulted in the cruise ship running aground."

Vice Admiral Ramon Gustavo Betances Hernandez said

Monday that the ship had run aground due to "strong 30 knot winds."

But he added that the tide would rise by around one metre at 4:00 am, thus facilitating rescue efforts. According to Norwegian Cruise Line's website, the Norwegian Escape is over 300 m long and weighs 165,000 tonnes.

It can accommodate up to 4,200 passengers and 1,700 crew members.— AFP ■



The Norwegian Escape ran aground off the coast of the Dominican Republic. **PHOTO: AFP**

Russia to table its own draft Security Council resolution on humanitarian situation in Ukraine



Ukrainian people move towards a border crossing at the border area between Ukraine and Poland. PHOTO: XINHUA/REN KE

RUSSIA will table its own draft Security Council resolution on the humanitarian situation in Ukraine after France and Mexico announced their intention to move their draft to the General Assembly, said the Russian UN ambassador on Tuesday.

France and Mexico, which were working on a draft resolution on the humanitarian situa-

tion in Ukraine for adoption at the Security Council, announced on Monday that they would move to the General Assembly for action.

Russia's permanent representative to the United Nations, Vassily Nebenzia, said Tuesday that his country was prepared to adopt a resolution on the humanitarian situation in Ukraine pro-

vided that it was not a disguise to blame and shame Russia.

"We had a few rounds of expert consultations. I know that the co-sponsors were holding separate consultations with the members of the Security Council. They knew clearly, they knew from the very start. We said that there are paragraphs in the (draft) resolution, which are not humanitarian," Nebenzia told reporters on Tuesday.

"We'll see whether the Security Council can or cannot fulfil its mission to adopt a resolution, which will be on the humanitarian situation in Ukraine with the clear humanitarian provisions, like call for a negotiated ceasefire, evacuation of civilians, the respect for international humanitarian and human rights law, condemnation of attacks against civilians and civilian objects, safe and unhindered access to humanitarian assistance, et cetera."—Xinhua ■

Russia launches procedure to quit Council of Europe

RUSSIA on Tuesday sent a notice of withdrawal from the Council of Europe to the organization's Secretary General Marija Pejcinovic Buric, Russian Foreign Ministry said.

"The states of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and the European Union, abusing their majority in the Council of Europe, are consistently turning this organization into an instrument of anti-Russian policy, refusing equal dialogue and all the principles on which this pan-European structure was created," the ministry said in a statement.

Nevertheless, Russia remains open to pragmatic and equal interaction with the mem-



The body's parliamentary assembly was Tuesday also expected to pass a resolution urging the committee of ministers — the COE's main decision making body — to start a procedure to expel Russia. PHOTO: FREDERICK FLORIN /AFP

bers of the Council of Europe on issues of mutual interest, it added. Russia announced on Thursday that it would no longer

participate in the Council of Europe. Russia joined the council in February 1996 as its 39th member. —AFP ■

Ukrainian parliament extends martial law till 25 April

THE Ukrainian parliament on Tuesday has extended the current martial law for another 30 days from 26 March, Yaroslav Zheleznyak, a lawmaker, said on Telegram.

The legislation to extend the martial law, which was submitted by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, was supported by 343 lawmakers out of 345 present in the parliament,

Zheleznyak said.

Kiev imposed the martial law after Russia launched a special military operation against Ukraine on 24 February. —Xinhua ■

NEWS DIGEST

Russia-Ukraine News

The following is the latest list of selected news summaries.

Ukrainian negotiator says to continue peace talks

THE Russia-Ukraine conflict continues on Wednesday as relevant parties are working to broker a peaceful solution. Following are the latest developments of the situation:

Ukraine and Russia will continue their peace talks on Wednesday, Ukrainian Presidential Advisor Mykhailo Podolyak, also a member of the delegation, said Tuesday.

"We'll continue tomorrow. A very difficult and viscous negotiation process. There are fundamental contradictions. But there is certainly room for compromise," Podolyak tweeted.

Putin, EU leader discuss Ukraine over phone: Kremlin

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and European Council President Charles Michel discussed the Ukrainian situation during a phone conversation on Tuesday, the Kremlin said in a statement.

The leaders exchanged views on Russia's special military operation in Ukraine and measures to evacuate civilians, said the statement.

Putin outlined his assessments of the ongoing negotiations between Russian and Ukrainian delegations on a possible settlement of the crisis, it said.

Zelensky asks Canadian lawmakers to 'imagine' bombs at home

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky in an impassioned address to Canada's parliament on Tuesday doubled down on his plea for a no-fly zone, asking lawmakers to imagine their own cities being bombed at an appalling human cost.

In the video address, the Ukrainian leader accused Russia's military of "destroying everything: memorial complexes, schools, hospitals, housing complexes."

Russian TV protester says she was interrogated for over 14 hours

AN employee of Russian state television who interrupted a live news programme to protest the war in Ukraine was released from custody Tuesday and fined about \$270, but still could face a prison sentence.

Marina Ovsyannikova staged an extraordinary show of dissent on Monday night when she held up an anti-war sign behind a studio presenter reading the news on Channel One and shouted slogans condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Turkish FM leaves for Russia, Ukraine amid efforts for ceasefire: president

TURKISH Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu will hold talks in Russia on Wednesday and visit Ukraine the next day amid efforts to establish a ceasefire between warring sides.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told reporters after a cabinet meeting on Tuesday that "I am sending our foreign minister to Russia today. He will hold talks in Moscow tomorrow and will travel to Ukraine on Thursday."

Source: XINHUA/AFP

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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

3. Social affairs

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



Myanmar snooker player Aung Phyo (left on the third-place stage) hold the trophy together with other winners of the 2022 Asian Snooker Championships. **PHOTO: ASIAN CONFEDERATION OF BILLIARD SPORTS**

Aung Phyo wins third prize at 2022 Asian Snooker Championship

MYANMAR snooker player Aung Phyo won the third prize at the 2022 Asian Snooker Championships held from 12 to 16 March in Doha, Qatar.

Aung Phyo became the first Myanmar player to win the third prize in an individual event at the Asian Snooker Championships.

Aung Phyo won two matches and lost one match in the group stage.

He advanced to the next

round by defeating the 2019 Philippine SEA Games gold medalist from Thailand.

Aung Phyo defeated Ali Hussein (Iraq) by 4-1 in the Round of 32 Stage and Ali (Iran) by 4-0 in the Round of 16 Stage.

In the quarter-finals, he beat Alobaidali (Qatar) 4-3 and in the semi-finals, but lost 5-1 to Chadar (India) in the semi-final and missed out on the final.

Win Ko Ko, who competed

with Myanmar snooker player Aung Phyo, was eliminated from the round of 16.

The duo also competed in the 2022 World Snooker Championships in Qatar before the tournament.

Following the Asian Snooker Championship, the Asian Billiards Championship continues with three Myanmar billiards players competing. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Motorcycle-mad Indonesia revs up for first GP in 25 years

INDONESIA hosts its first motorcycle grand prix in 25 years on Sunday, confident that concerns surrounding the new track will be forgotten once racing begins in front of a sell-out crowd.

The archipelago nation of 270 million people is motorbike mad — many get around on two wheels — and there is a palpable sense of excitement at the prospect of world-class racing returning.

Even President Joko Widodo is a fan and tried out the Mandalika International Street Circuit when

he officially opened it in November, having a go on a custom-made green Kawasaki bike. Sunday's race is the second stop on the 2022 MotoGP calendar after the opening race in Qatar two weeks ago, won by Enea Bastianini of Italy.

The new 4.3-kilometre (2.7-mile) circuit hugs white-sanded coastline on the island of Lombok, which wants to rival its better-known neighbour, Bali, as a tropical holiday destination. The track complex is part of those ambitions.—AFP ■



This picture taken in November shows the Mandalika circuit, which will host MotoGP this weekend. **PHOTO: AFP**

Skipper Yoshida back, no Tomiyasu as Japan look to seal World Cup spot

JAPAN manager Hajime Moriyasu told his players to finish the job and clinch qualification for the World Cup after naming his squad Wednesday for next week's clash against Australia.

Japan can book their place at a seventh straight World Cup

by beating the Socceroos in Sydney on 24 March, having recovered from a dreadful start to the qualifying campaign for Qatar 2022.

The four-time Asian champions lost two of their opening three fixtures but have won

all five games since, and Moriyasu believes his team has been forged into a battle-hardened unit.

Moriyasu, who welcomes captain Maya Yoshida back but must do without injured Arsenal defender Takehiro Tomi-

yasu, said: "We've come this far looking at every game as a must-win game.

"We've been trying to win each one as it comes and we're not about to forget that now. We've been aggressive in trying to win games and even

though this one will be tough, we've overcome pressure to get here."

Veteran Yoshida, the Sampdoria centre-back, returns after missing qualifiers against China and Saudi Arabia earlier this year through injury.—AFP ■