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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.

Unity is a basic need for enabling an independent and sovereign country to stand tall: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the meeting with trainees of the Computer Diploma Sergeant/Clerk Course at the Tatmadaw (Army) Warrant Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer Training School in the Bahtoo Station yesterday.

TATMADAW members are constantly striving to become themselves reliable for and loyal to the State and the Tatmadaw, said Vice-Chairman of

the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win in meeting with

trainees of the Computer Diploma Sergeant/Clerk Course at Myawady Lecture Hall of the Tatmadaw (Army) Warrant Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer

Training School in the Bahtoo Station yesterday morning. In his speech, the Vice-Senior General stressed the need to systematically study the advancement of

computer science to build the standard army. They have to continuously study the development of technologies

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Press Release

Myanmar categorically rejects and dissociates itself from adoption of EU-sponsored resolution against the country at Human Rights Council

MYANMAR observed that the adoption of the resolution sponsored by the European Union on 1 April 2022 during the 49th Session of the Human Rights Council

in Geneva was unacceptable due to its non-adherence to the standard procedures of the Council as well as unfounded elements contained in the resolution.

Myanmar observed that the Human Rights Council had spent numerous hours on dialogues based on a politically motivated agenda against Myanmar, amidst

the serious debates on efficiency measures of the Council due to the proliferation of Interactive Dialogues on human rights

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Press Release

Myanmar categorically rejects and dissociates itself from adoption of EU-sponsored resolution against the country at Human Rights Council

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matters, including Myanmar. It is merely the duplication of work at the will of certain sponsors to politically exert pressure on Myanmar rather than the genuine will to pragmatically protect and promote human rights. The essence of genuine dialogue, which is the fundamental principle of the Human Rights Council, has already been destroyed since the representation of Myanmar has been intentionally and politically left out in the Council meetings.

Myanmar also observed that the consideration of the UPR report submitted by Myanmar was postponed to the 50th session of the Human Rights Council to be held in June 2022. It is contrary to the objectives of the UPR which encourage the full involvement of the country under review in a constructive and non-politicized manner and the principles to ensure universal coverage and equal treatment of all States and to avoid confrontation in consideration of human rights issues.

The Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the report of the Secretary-General on Myanmar was taken place on 18 March 2022, which puts undue pressure on UN Country Teams across the world, including Myanmar, to politicize the profession of different UN agencies under the pretext of mainstreaming human rights with

the approach "Call to Action". Myanmar does not see any necessary guarantee to ensure that "Call to Action" is operationalized in an independent manner while there is no indication of how the approach is being funded and whether necessary human resources are properly allocated. Myanmar therefore does not accept but rejects the unilateral mechanisms which were adopted without the consent of the country.

The Interactive Dialogue with the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights on Myanmar was convened on 21 March 2022. Though the High Commissioner acknowledges the violence committed by the terrorist groups such as CRPH, NUG and PDF, she understated the actual figures and even incited them to further unrest, implying that the terrorist acts by them were at the acceptable level of degree under the banner of "armed resistance groups". She further ignored the fact that the terrorist groups killed over 2,000 innocent civilians, including several dozens of children, women, Buddhist monks and nuns, as well as educational and healthcare staff. It is found out that the High Commissioner made sweeping allegations against Myanmar's security forces in connection with the incidents in Pale, Loikaw and Dimawhso townships. Myanmar has publicly informed about

these incidents. While it is essential to fairly reflect the views of the country concerned, the failure of the High Commissioner to present such publicly available information questions her professionalism and integrity.

Again on the same day, another Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar was organized. The Special Rapporteur seems to attach considerable importance to the quantitative aspect because the figures he described on each occasion are significantly multiplied, doubling the figures of alleged deaths and displacement overnight. The figures he invented were not totally consistent even within the two reports to the same HRC Session. The Special Rapporteur further violates the Code of Conduct which requires him to give the concerned State the opportunity to respond to the allegations made against it and annex the State's written summary responses to their reports. The Special Rapporteur also misused the mandate and invented the so-called conference room paper entitled "Enabling Atrocities: UN Member States' Arms Transfers to the Myanmar Military". With the absence of different views which do not follow his narratives, assessments of the Special Rapporteur are obviously imbalanced and biased.

It is also disappointing to see the

adoption of the resolution entitled "Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar" tabled by the European Union on 1 April 2022. The contents of the resolution clearly show the level of interference in the domestic affairs of a sovereign country with unfounded accusations without any verification. It, therefore, contradicts the basic principles of the Human Rights Council to ensure impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity in consideration of human rights issues. While Myanmar maintains friendly relations with all countries in the world, it deplores the intrusive behaviours of certain countries against the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Due to the unhelpful approach taken by the sponsors of the resolution and intruding mechanisms and elements contained therein, Myanmar categorically rejects the resolution and dissociates itself from its adoption.

Myanmar takes note with appreciation of the constructive statements made by friendly countries and expresses its gratitude to the countries which dissociated themselves from the adoption of the resolution against Myanmar.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
4 April 2022

Myanmar strongly objects to sweeping and unfounded accusations mentioned in the Report of the ILO Director-General and unilateral decision of the ILO Governing Body

THE Ministry of Labour observed that the 344th Session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO), which was held from 14 to 26 March 2022 in Geneva, adopted a decision to establish a Commission of Inquiry (COI), accusing Myanmar of non-observance of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No. 87) and the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29). The decision was reached upon the report of the ILO Director-General on Developments in Myanmar, which includes highly politicized elements, unfounded allegations and matters which fall within the domestic jurisdiction of Myanmar.

In the draft report, it was mentioned that an individual was tortured to death. In fact, the afore-said person was detained for supporting and funding illegal activities. Some individuals were also mentioned as migration advocates though they were arrested for occupying arms

and ammunition. Although some points in the draft report were amended later, the decision to establish a Commission of Inquiry based on such incorrect information remains unchanged.

Being a state party to the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention (No 87), no one has been arrested or mistreated for exercising their rights peacefully or representing trade unions. There are 2,886 Basic Labour Organizations, 162 Township Labour Organizations, 26 Region or State Labour Organizations, 9 Labour Federations, 1 Labour Confederation, 1 Basic Employer Organization, 1 Township Employer Organization and 1 Employer Confederation, totalling over 3,000 Workers and Employers Organizations, which are registered under the Labour Organization Law 2011. These organizations are composed of more than 190,000 members of workers who have been enjoying fundamental labour rights not only by law but in practice

as well. Therefore, it is irrelevant to generalize that Myanmar is not upholding its obligations under Convention 87 only because of taking legal actions against a handful number of individuals for their unlawful acts.

Moreover, in order to eradicate forced labour, the Government of Myanmar has been coordinating with the ILO Liaison Officer following the MoU between Myanmar and ILO in 2002. The Supplementary Understanding with ILO was signed for the establishment of the Complaint Mechanism in 2007 and was extended annually until 31 December 2018. The National Complaint Mechanism (NCM) on Eliminating Forced Labour of Myanmar was established on 3 February 2020 in accordance with the MoU on Decent Work Country Programme (2018-2021), which was signed between Myanmar and ILO on 21 September 2018. Accordingly, the complaints regarding the use of forced labour are being received and addressed

by the National Complaint Mechanism. No complaint in connection with non-compliance with Convention No. 29 was filed as per the ILO Constitution.

While the Governing Body of the ILO has reached the decision to establish a Commission of Inquiry, Myanmar's participation at the Governing Body Sessions and the International Labour Conference has been denied since June 2021. Such a unilateral decision against Myanmar in the absence of the country concerned goes contrary to the ILO Constitution and due process.

In light of the above-mentioned reasons, Myanmar strongly objects to the sweeping and unfounded accusations mentioned in the report of the ILO Director-General on Myanmar and the decision of the ILO Governing Body to establish a Commission of Inquiry against Myanmar.

Ministry of Labour
4 April 2022

Our Tatmadaw is the only institution hailed from the ethnic people

AS our Tatmadaw is the only institution hailed from the ethnic people, it has to safeguard the lives and poverty of the people and to assist in the daily social life security of the people in all directions.

(Excerpt from Speech Delivered by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing at the Parade of the 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day on 27th March 2022.)

Unity is a basic need for enabling an independent ...

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based on changes in time. The country has overcome the various challenges within one year through the cooperation of loyal personnel, security personnel and people. Although some big countries accuse the Tatmadaw of genocides by putting pressure, threat, interference and disturbance, the Tatmadaw will successfully overcome all challenges with united strength. Unity is a basic need for enabling an independent and sovereign country to stand tall. All Tatmadaw members must be healthy and fit to be able to face all difficulties. They have to follow the 60-military code of conduct for the proper lifestyle of disciplined living. Tatmadaw members are



Vice-Senior General Soe Win views around the farm in the training school.



The Vice-Senior General is pictured in having lunch together with trainees.

to be loyal to the State in serving their duties to respond to some big countries and terrorist organizations that attempt to

pose political, economic, social, and media pressure against the Tatmadaw. The Tatmadaw members are constantly striving to become themselves reliable for and loyal to the State and the Tatmadaw.

Before delivering a speech of the Vice-Senior General, the commandant of the training school reported on the implementation of four-point military building and training session measures. The Vice-Senior General attended to the needs.

The Vice-Senior General presented foodstuffs for trainees and instructor officers to the commandant. The Vice-Senior General inspected the breeding of dairy cows and the pig breed-

ing farm of the training school.

The Vice-Senior General and party had lunch together

with the trainees at the combined mess hall of the training school. — MNA

Unity is a basic need for enabling an independent and sovereign country to stand tall. All Tatmadaw members must be healthy and fit to be able to face all difficulties. They have to follow the 60-military code of conduct for the proper lifestyle of disciplined living.

2022-2023FY Union Budget Law, Tax Law of 2022, National Planning Law of 2022-2023FY approved

THE State Administration Council approved and promulgated the 2022-2023 Financial Year

Union Budget Law by the State Administration Council Law No 5 on 29 March, the Tax Law of

2022 by the State Administration Council Law No 6 on 30 March, and the National Planning Law

of the Financial Year 2022-2023 by the State Administration Council Law No 21 on 31 March.

It is reported that these laws will take effect on 1 April 2022. — MNA

The battalion must strive for securing success with the aim to become a model agricultural and livestock zone: Vice-Senior General

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspected the animal breeding and training battalion in Bahtoo yesterday afternoon.

The commanding officer of the battalion reported to the Vice-Senior General on implementing the assigned duties and operation of the model agriculture and livestock zone. The Vice-Senior General attended to the needs.

The Vice-Senior General viewed a round the establishment of 55-acre model agriculture and livestock zone of the battalion, cultivation of seasonal crops, thriving crops in the greenhouse, growing of Kyaukse-in tissue banana, breeding of DYL pedigree piglets, raising of layers in the air-conditioned



Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win hears the reports on implementing the assigned duties and operation of the model agriculture and livestock zone yesterday.

chamber, and breeding of dairy cows and beef cows, donkeys and asses.

In giving instructions to officers, the Vice-Senior General

stressed the need to achieve success in agriculture and livestock tasks. He urged them to sell products from agriculture and livestock farm to Tatmadaw

members and families at fairer prices in accord with the guidance of the Prime Minister and surplus products to the State service personnel and local peo-

ple at reasonable prices. The battalion must strive to secure success to become a model agricultural and livestock zone. — MNA

Judgements passed on 7 special civil appeal cases; 5 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal, consisting of Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Kyi Thein, U Khin Maung Gyi, U Tin Hone and Daw Khin May Yi, was convened yesterday morning at Office No (1) of Supreme

Court of the Union and passed judgements on seven special civil appeal cases, special civil appeal case No 19/2020 (Shan), 38/2020 (Taninthayi), 45/2020 (Kayin), 46/2020 (Taninthayi), 6/2021 (Yangon), 14/2021 (Mandalay) and 29/2021 (Yangon).

In addition, a total of five special civil appeal cases, special civil appeal case No 7/2021 (Yangon), 50/2020 (Bago), 1/2021 (Yangon), 2/2021 (Sagaing) and 8/2021 (Yangon), were heard following COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines. — MNA

51 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 4 April, total figure rises to 611,926

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **611,926** after **51** new cases were reported on 4 April 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **590,192** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **19,433** without casualties.—MNA

Nancho protected public forest part-3 set in Pyinmana



THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has designated the area of 1,689 acres in Pyinmana Township, Dekkhina District in Nay Pyi Taw, as "Protected Public Forest Part-3" as of 1 April 2022, under Notification No 64/2022 by exercising the authority conferred under Sub-section (e) of Section (6) of the Forest Law promulgated in September 2018.

The Protected Public Forest Part-3 is intended to conserve the watershed area of the Nancho Hydropower Project and that of the Paunglaung Hydropower Project, mitigate climate change, conserve biodiversity and ensure soil conservation.

The Nancho Protected Public Forest Part-3 is not only a place where many kinds of wood and valuable trees such as teak,

ironwood, and gum-kino grow but also a habitat for wild animals such as wild boar, barking deer, sambar deer, monkey, goat antelope, rabbit, owl, eagle, pangolin, and cobra. It is necessary to manage forest resources systematically, and it is also a watershed area of the Paunglaung Dam. Thus, the area is declared a protected public forest.— Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

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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.

Myanmar to resume Business e-Visa service from 1 April

MYANMAR will resume its electronic visa service for business purposes starting from 1 April 2022 following the health guidelines of the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Immigration and Population held a meeting at 10 am on 4 April regarding the resumption of online e-Visa service.

First and foremost, Union Minister U Khin Yi of the Ministry of Immigration and Population stated that Myanmar is granting ordinary passport holders from 100 countries and China (Taipei) e-Visas for tourist purposes, and from 54 countries and China (Taipei) e-Visas for business. The COVID-19 outbreak stopped the service on 20 March 2020. As the COVID-19 situation is under control and the detection of the cases is dropping, international passenger flights are reportedly allowed to en-



The MoIP Union Minister makes the speech at the meeting on the resumption of online e-Visa service.

ter the country from 17 April. The ministry will also resume its e-Visa service for business from 1 April 2022. That notice has been posted on the official e-Visa website, and there are 54 e-Visa applicants so far.

The notice has also mentioned that the visa processing is in line with the COVID-19

rules and regulations issued by the Ministry of Health. The objectives of this meeting were to discuss the matters related to health insurance, health protocol for travellers and other necessary measures of the departments concerned.

Next, he gave the remark to announce the information of

the COVID-19 business travel requirements for the travellers who will arrive on 17 April and notify the e-Visa applicants of the necessary documents.

Then, the MoH deputy minister discussed the documents submitted to the central committee for the COVID-19 rules and regulations and travel re-

quirements for those travellers who will come to Myanmar with relief flights and regular passenger flights. After that, Director-General U Zaw Naing of the Financial Regulatory Department, Managing Director Daw Sanda Oo of the Myanmar Insurance, Director-General U Kyaw Tin Shein of the Consular and Legal Affairs Department and officials concerned discussed health insurance and travel requirements, insurance policies, entry visa at the Myanmar embassies abroad, accommodation and quarantine rules and the suggestions for e-Visa service respectively.

Finally, the Union minister instructed the officials to fulfil the requirements. He delivered the closing remark concerning the notice for the travellers and e-Visa service for business. — MNA

Union Minister for Labour inspects labour affairs issues



The MoL Union Minister and party inspect the training course for migrant workers who will work in foreign countries.

THE opening ceremony of the on-the-job refresher course to build the capacity of district/township officials of the Ministry of Labour was held yesterday morning in Yangon. The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Labour U Myint Kyaing, Ethnic Affairs Minister of the Yangon Region Government U Saw Jacob Htoo, directors-general, trainers and trainees.

At the ceremony, the Union Minister said the refresher course aims to increase the efficiency of the department officials, make it easier for them to work in the field, and work in line with the rules and regulations. He called on them to use

the knowledge gained from the course effectively in the area and effectively implement it so that workers can enjoy their full legal rights regularly.

Afterwards, the Union minister and party inspected the vocational training course for migrant workers conducted at the Skills Training School in Dagon Myothit (North) Township. He also checked the issuance of the Overseas Worker Identification Card-OWIC to migrant workers who will work in foreign countries and instructed to issue the OWIC cards correctly and promptly to those who meet the requirements.

Afterwards, the Union

minister also observed the opening of IT business training at Pearl Yadana Vocational Training School under the COVID-19 preventive guidelines.

In the afternoon, the Union minister and party observed the electrical training and other courses conducted at the Thukhasusan services company. He then went to the Worker's Hospital in Htantabin and inspected the expansion of wards for COVID-19 patients, quarantine centres, and adequate oxygen for the treatment of COVID-19 patients with the Oxygen Generating Plant (20 Nm³/h), and instructed on requirements. — MNA

12 townships in Mandalay Region to receive K500 mln for rural road development

A total of K500 million will be spent on construction of 12 rural roads in 12 townships in Mandalay Region in the 2022-2023 Financial Year, according to Rural Development Department in Mandalay Region.

That rural road development project is implemented spending K500 million allocated by regional government, with a view to minimizing agricultural waste, facilitate the transportation throughout the year and support the supply chain to meet the deadline. The project includes 12-foot 10 rural roads, said U Kyi Saw, director of the Rural Development Department.

“The regional budget will cover that project. The department will call for bidding soon. The project is to enhance the economic benefits of the farmers. The lack of rural road infrastructure maximizes the agricultural waste in adverse weather. That rural road department project will help the rural community get access to the market in all weathers,” he elaborated.

The project will cover Patheingyi, Kyaukse, Myittha, TadaU, Ngazun, Taungtha, Mahlaing, Meiktila, Wundwin, Pyawbwe, Yamethin, and Kyaukpadaung townships in the 2022-2023 Financial Year.—Maung Aye Chan/GNLM



One of the rural road development projects in Mandalay Region.

227,746 students take chemistry exam on fourth day of 2022 matriculation

THE fourth day of the 2022 matriculation exam was held yesterday morning, with 227,746 students taking the examination for the chemistry subject nationwide.

This year, 20 foreign examination centres and 1,232 local examination centres were

opened in the country, totalling 1,252 examination centres, with 252,441 students registered to sit the exam.

On the fourth day of the exam, 227,746 students took the chemistry exam, accounting for 90.22 per cent, according to the Ministry of Education. —MNA



Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State (South).



Kyaukme Township, Shan State (North).



Pindaya Township, Shan State (South).



Thandwe Township, Rakhine State.



Htantabin Township, Yangon Region.



Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Region.

MoE Union Minister inspects Mandalay exam centres where students sit Chemistry, Yadanabon University, Mandalay University



The MoE Union Minister and party views around one of the Mandalay exam centres.

UNION Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe inspected the matriculation examination centres, Yadanabon University and Mandalay University, together with Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Maung Ko, MoE Deputy Minister U Zaw Win, the Mandalay Region Economic Affairs Minister, the director-general of the Monitoring and Evaluation Team and the region educational officer yesterday.

First, the Union Minister and party visited the basic education high schools and checked the exam period when the students took the Chemistry subject.

They then met with the

relevant education officers and stressed the necessary things regarding holding the 2022 matriculation exam successfully.

Afterwards, the Union minister arrived at the Yadanabon University and Mandalay University and met reactors, pro-rector and department deans.

During the meeting, the Union minister talked about the reopening of universities on 12 May, systematic teaching methods in respective subjects, research books, Wi-Fi, Internet, Lab materials, research grants and equal learning opportunities for students and works to develop the education sector. —MNA

Value-added tea leaf products from northern, eastern Shan State conveyed to external market

FRESH and dried tea leaves from the eastern and northern Shan State are being delivered to both domestic and foreign trade partners. The value-added dried tea bricks will be manufactured for exports.

Shwepheeo tea leaves are harvested before the pre-monsoon season (from the end of February to April). The remaining tea leaf varieties are also plucked every year. Shan State is the premier tea town in Myanmar. Kokang dried tea leaves from northern Shan State, and instant tea bricks are also popular among consumers. Green tea and black tea produced in Shan State have influenced the domestic market, and efforts are being undertaken for them to penetrate the European market.

Northern Shan State produces fresh and dried tea leaf, while the southern state primarily focuses on dried tea leaf production. The perennial tea plants from the eastern and northern Shan State have earned a reputation for dried tea leaf quality. The dried tea leaf from east Shan



Northern Shan State produces fresh and dried tea leaf, while the southern state primarily focuses on dried tea leaf production. The perennial tea plants from the eastern and northern Shan State have earned a reputation for dried tea leaf quality. PHOTO: KANU

State is yearly shipped to Thailand. There are over a hundred thousand tea leaf acres in Shan State, and the northern area is the leading producer.

“Myanmar’s tea leaves are commonly sent to China. Efforts to penetrate the European market are underway. The Ministry of Commerce conducts an aware-

ness project to provide technical assistance for growing methods and harvest technology. The tea leaf bricks are produced with the fragrance of flowers. The more growers reach advanced technology, the more easily they can penetrate the external market. The tea leaf is exported to foreign markets through Pyay and

Mandalay cities. The dried tea leaf is worth only US\$1,000 per tonne, whereas the value-added products can fetch up to \$5,000 per tonne. This being so, it can generate more revenues and increase export income”, said Saw Win Kyaw, director of Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization (Taunggyi, Shan State) under the

Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar exported \$480,000 worth of over 226 tonnes of dried tea leaf via maritime trade and \$1.49 million valued over 4,710 tonnes via cross-border posts between 1 October 2020 and 30 September 2021, totalling 1.908 million worth of 4,936.746 tonnes. Myanmar shipped approximately 4,500 tonnes of dried tea leaf in the 2018-2019 financial year, 2,800 tonnes in the 2019-2020 FY and over 4,900 in the 2020-2021 FY, respectively. The export growth was remarkably seen in the last FY.

Myanmar will boost its production technology to place its dried tea leaf products in the European market. The country exports them yearly to Australia, Denmark, Canada, China, India, the Netherlands, Norway, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore. At present, Germany is eyeing Shan State’s dried tea leaf. The value-added tea bricks produced from perennial tea plants in the eastern and northern Shan State are yearly shipped to the external market.— Nyein Thu(MNA)/GNLM

Imports slide to \$7.6 bln as of 25 March, MoC reports



Female workers are seen at one of the CMP workplaces.

THE value of Myanmar’s imports between 1 October and 25 March of the past mini-budget period 2021-2022 (Oct-Mar) slightly narrowed to US\$7.6 billion, which reflects a drop of \$24 million compared to the year-ago period, the Ministry of Commerce’s data indicated.

The import value stood at US\$7.64 billion last FY 2020-2021.

The imports of capital goods declined last month, while the other import groups

(consumer, intermediate goods, and CMP businesses) increased.

Last month, capital goods, such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel, and aeroplane parts, were brought into the country. Their import value was estimated at \$1.43 billion. The figure was over \$1.3 billion lower than those values registered in the same period of the previous FY.

Meanwhile, Myanmar imported consumer products

worth \$1.65 billion, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and palm oil. The imports of consumer products showed an increase of \$73.8 million compared with the same period in the previous FY.

Intermediate goods make up the largest share of Myanmar’s imports, with the main imports of petroleum products and plastic raw materials. This year, imports of raw materials climbed up to \$3.4 billion from \$2.5 billion registered during the year-ago period.

During the same period, raw materials worth over \$318.3 million were also imported for the Cut-Make-Pack (CMP) garment sector, increasing by \$1.12 billion compared with last FY.

The top 10 import countries to Myanmar are China, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Viet Nam, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the US, as per data from the Ministry of Commerce.— KK/GNLM

Number of companies registered on MyCO exceeds 3,100 in Q1: DICA

THE number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, totalled 3,152 in the Q1 (January-March) this year; 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 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 simultaneously submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5).

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 have been 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 the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents. According to the DICA notice, if a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register.— NN/GNLM

Efficiently use summer holidays for children

NOW is a summer holiday period for both the students and young children in Myanmar. Families and schools allow children to take the summer vacation as the season is hot and dry for hardship to do something for the children.

Schools in various forms, such as government schools at different levels and private schools as well as monastic schools, allow the summer vacation for students and children. So, some children spend their time with happy moves such as playing events, games, and other habitual activities.

Indeed, although the summer is not adequate to hardly do something, everybody should spend their spare time valuably. They should manage their children to do light learning and practice without pressure. The moves of children should not be useless.

These summer courses will not cost too much for the children. But, these courses would have brought invaluable results to society. These courses will be a drive to nurture the children in their childhood when the children do not have a rooted attachment to the isms. Their souls are whitish. Their hearts should be shaped for the children to have a concept of benevolence for society throughout their life.

the children to have a concept of benevolence for society throughout their life.

So, society authorities and householders should not miss the valuable chance to shape the basic life of children during the summer holidays. But, they all need to take care of their arrangements so as not to burden the children with difficult exercises. Discarding the ways for tension and pressures of children, these training courses should be attractive to them for seeking new experiences.

Their efforts and keenness should be transformed into the proper practices of initiatives to be able to contribute to their life.

Generally, local authorities and leaders of households need to arrange training courses for children during the summer holidays. Such a kind of training course must give at least one thing of knowledge or technique to the children. These courses must uplift the characteristics of children.

As such, the summer courses must enhance the moral ethic of children for their life, and some vocational courses should help improve their morality as part of efforts to bring the white soul into society. Actually, these investments cannot harvest the fruits immediately. When the children grow up, they themselves will enjoy the fruits of their correct activities in the summer holidays.

These summer courses will not cost too much for the children. But, these courses would have brought invaluable results to society. These courses will be a drive to nurture the children in their childhood when the children do not have a rooted attachment to the isms. Their souls are whitish. Their hearts should be shaped for the children to have a concept of benevolence for society throughout their life.

Their souls are whitish. Their hearts should be shaped for the children to have a concept of benevolence for society throughout their life.

Study finds new type of UV light makes indoor air as safe as outdoors

Many infectious diseases, including COVID-19, are transmitted by airborne pathogens. There is a need for effective environmental control measures which, ideally, are not reliant on human behaviour.

ACCORDING to a new study led by Columbia University, a new type of ultraviolet light is safe for people. It took less than five minutes to reduce the level of indoor airborne microbes by more than 98 per cent.

The study was published in the journal, 'Scientific Reports'. Disinfecting indoor air with far-UVC light is a new approach to safely and efficiently destroy airborne viruses in occupied spaces.

The study has suggested that far-UVC light from lamps installed in the ceiling could be a highly effective passive technology for reducing communicable transmission of airborne-mediated diseases and lowering the risk of the next pandemic.

Far-UVC rapidly reduces the number of active microbes

"Far-UVC rapidly reduces the number of active microbes in the indoor air to almost zero,

making indoor air essentially as safe as outdoor air," said David Brenner, PhD, director of the Center for Radiological Research at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons and co-author of the study.

"Using this technology in locations where people gather together indoors could prevent the next potential pandemic," he added.

"Far-UVC light is simple to install, it's inexpensive, it doesn't need people to change their behaviour, and above all, it's a safe way to prevent the transmission of any virus, including the COVID virus and its variants, as well as influenza and also any potential future pandemic viruses," he concluded.

Scientists have known for decades that a type of ultraviolet light known as UVC light rapidly kills microbes, including bacteria and viruses. But conventional germicidal UVC light cannot be used directly to destroy airborne

viruses in occupied indoor spaces because it is a potential health hazard to the skin and eyes.

About a decade ago, Columbia University scientists proposed that a different type of UVC light, known as far-UVC light, would be just as efficient at destroying bacteria and viruses but without the safety concerns of conventional germicidal UVC.

Far-UVC light is safe for people because it has a shorter wavelength than conventional germicidal UVC, so it can't penetrate into living human skin cells or eye cells. But it is equally efficient at killing bacteria and viruses, which are much smaller than human cells.

Far-UVC is both efficient at destroying airborne bacteria and viruses

In the past decade, many studies around the world have shown that far-UVC is both efficient at destroying airborne bacteria and viruses and safe for use around people. But until



Far-UVC, which can efficiently inactivate pathogens, such as coronaviruses and influenza, in air. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI

now these studies had only been conducted in small experimental chambers, not in full-sized rooms mimicking real-world conditions.

In the current study, scientists at the University of St. Andrews, University of Dundee, University of Leeds, and Columbia University tested the efficacy of far-UVC light in a large room-sized chamber with the same ventilation rate as a typical home or office (about three air changes per hour).

During the experiment, a sprayer continuously emitted an aerosol mist of *S. aureus* bacteria into the room. (This microbe was chosen because it is slightly less sensitive to far-UVC light than coronaviruses, providing the researchers with an appropriately conservative

model.) When the concentration of microbes in the room stabilized, the researchers turned on commercially available overhead far-UVC lamps.

At an intensity based on the current regulatory limit on far-UVC light exposure, set by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, the far-UVC lamps inactivated more than 98 per cent of the airborne microbes in just five minutes. The low level of viable microbes was maintained over time, even though microbes continued to be sprayed into the room.

To reducing indoor virus levels

The efficacy of different approaches to reducing indoor virus levels is usually measured in terms of equivalent air changes

per hour. In this study, far-UVC lamps produced the equivalent of 184 equivalent air exchanges per hour. This surpasses any other approach to disinfecting occupied indoor spaces, where five to 20 equivalent air changes per hour is the best that can be achieved practically.

"Our trials produced spectacular results, far exceeding what is possible with ventilation alone," said Kenneth Wood, PhD, lecturer in the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of St. Andrews and senior author of the study.

"In terms of preventing airborne disease transmission, far-UVC lights could make indoor places as safe as being outside on the golf course on a breezy day at St. Andrews," he added.

Source : ANI

Shanghai parents fear separation from kids after positive Covid test



A health worker (C) wearing personal protective gear gestures to residents on a street during the second stage of a Covid-19 lockdown in Jing'an district in Shanghai on 1 April, 2022. PHOTO: AFP

NEARLY all of Shanghai's 25 million residents were under stay-at-home orders on Saturday, as

parents raised fears of being separated from their children in the event of a positive Covid-19 test.

The city, which is the epicentre of China's most severe Covid outbreak since the first months of the pandemic, has faced weeks of phased lockdowns.

Authorities had vowed not to shut down the whole city, China's finance hub, but have conceded to rare failures in their attempts to control the outbreak.

On Saturday, Shanghai had over 6,300 local cases — more than two-thirds of the nationwide caseload, which is relatively low by global standards but troubling to a country that recorded double-digit daily cases for much of the last two years.

Over 14 million residents were tested on Friday, state media reported.

But the testing regime has

seeded anxiety among parents about being separated from their children.

"My daughter is not yet four-months-old but if she tests positive then she'll be quarantined by herself," a resident in the populous, Puxi area, west of the Huangpu river, told AFP.

"This is totally impossible to understand. No matter the circumstances, a newborn should never be separated from their parents," the 33-year-old, who gave his surname as Law, said.

"timely support to juveniles"

Shanghai will offer "timely support to juveniles" left unattended due to reasons such as their parents being infected with Covid, Zeng Qun, deputy head of

the Shanghai Civil Affairs Bureau, said according to state media outlet Xinhua.

Those left at home will be allotted a "temporary guardian" or transferred to institutions "for juvenile protection for special care", the report said. Anger is rising among Shanghai residents over lockdowns that were initially billed for four days to mass-test the city, but now appear likely to drag into late next week or longer.

An initial four-day shutdown of Pudong, the eastern half of the financial hub, was meant to lapse on Friday.

But most of its residents are still confined, as complex quarantine rules mean any block with a virus case will have to be locked down for up to two weeks.

Residents in the city's western half — Puxi — were ordered to stay home from Friday, meaning almost all of Shanghai's population is currently quarantined.

"I'm worried both parts of the city will end up remaining closed for a while," a Puxi resident surnamed Wang told AFP. Fear is rising in Shanghai, with residents complaining of a lack of fresh food while the city's health resources are stretched.

There are over 1,500 people in a city exhibition hall that has been converted into a quarantine centre. An unverified audio clip circulating on social media Saturday purportedly showed a health official telling a resident that state quarantines were full.

Source : AFP

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as the Heads of the Service Organizations shown against each of their names after the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Hla Tun Oo	Director-General Department of Highways Ministry of Construction
(2) Daw Khaing Shwe War	Director-General Accounts Department Central Bank of Myanmar

Daily newspapers in circulation on New Year holidays alternatively

DAILY newspapers of the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information will be in circulation in rotation during the official holidays of the Myanmar New Year.

The Myanmar Alinn Daily will be published from 9 to 12 April whereas the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar dailies will take holidays.

The Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar dailies will be in circulation from 13 to 17 April, while the Myanmar Alinn daily will take a break.

Likewise, the Shwipyi Rakhine Image supplement published every Wednesday by the Sub-Printing House (Sittway) will take a holiday on 13 April, the Ethnic Sector supplement in the Shan Language published every Thursday by the Sub-Printing House (Taunggyi) on 14 April, the Ethnic Sector supplement in Mon, Sakaw Kayin, Poe Kayin and Pa-O Languages published every Sunday by the Sub-Printing House (Mawlamyine) on 10 and 17 April. After the Thingyan holidays, all dailies will be published regularly.

Advertisements will be accepted without any holiday during alternative holidays of daily newspapers. As of 18 April, all newspapers will be in circulation as usual.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 4 April 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 5 April 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin State, fairly widespread in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, scattered in lower Sagaing, Regions and Northern Shan State and isolated in Mandalay, Yangon. (southern and northern) Shan, Chin, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong easterly winds may reach (30-35) m.p.h. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and (4-7) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast.

MoHT Union Minister discusses Barrier-Free Tourism

UNION Minister Dr Htay Aung for Hotels and Tourism met the Nay Pyi Taw Council, Region/State branch office officials for implementing the Barrier-Free Tourism via videoconferencing yesterday.

The Union minister said the tourism industry is a kind of service providing various tours based on the activities of human beings.

Similarly, persons with disabilities are also travellers. According to 2021 data, there are over one billion people with disabilities while 2.4 million in Myanmar as per the 2014 Census. Therefore, the ministry should make efforts to create

a comfortable and convenient tourism environment for tourists with disabilities to visit tourist destinations.

The Union minister also stressed drafting barrier-free tourism projects across the nation for people with disabilities to overcome classified barriers such as transport barriers, agricultural barriers and building barriers. He said that it is necessary to add supportive ways in the Myanmar tourism project to provide the disabled in line with the facts stated in Assessable Tourism of the World Tourism Organization.

Then, participants via online presented tourist desti-



nations, airports, hotels/motels and prioritized sectors in

implementing Barrier-Free Tourism, and the Union min-

ister concluded the meeting. — MNA



CBM holds meeting on following Notification No 12/2022

THE Central Bank of Myanmar organized a coordination meeting yesterday on strict adherence to Notification No 12/2022 by the AD licensed banks issued by the CBM on Sunday.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Governor U Win Thaw of the CBM, the director-general of the Foreign Exchange Management Department

and officials of 44 AD licensed banks.

During the meeting, the CBM deputy governor explained the facts to follow by the AD licensed banks and discussed further statements regarding policies. He also stressed the need to strictly follow the Notification and not to occur any failure or violations. — MNA

CRIME NEWS

Stimulant tablets worth over K2.39 bln seized in Thazi, Mayangon townships

MORE than 210,000 stimulant tablets worth over K2.39 billion were seized in Thazi and Mayangon townships, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force made inspections near the Kywetason checkpoint on the Meikti-

la-Taunggyi Road, Thazi Township, Mandalay Region, at 6:30 pm on 31 March and officials stopped and searched a Toyota Alphard vehicle driven by Wai Paing Oo accompanied by his wife Ma Nann Mue Kaytha, Saw Aung Lwin Oo (alias) Aung Lwin Oo and Bo Bo Naing.

According to the report,

585,000 tablets of ecstasy were confiscated from the vehicle.

According to the revelation, a Toyota Kluger vehicle with 1.52 million tablets of ecstasy was seized from a house owned by Yar Par (alias) Ko Ko Maung on Myintzu Road, Mayangon Township, at 11 am on 1 April.

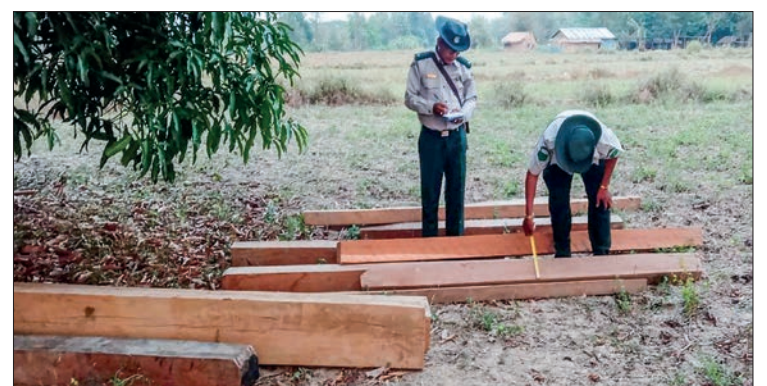
Another Toyota Landcruiser vehicle was confiscated together with 2.105 million stimulant tablets worth over K2.39 billion in a house owned by Wai Paing Oo and Ma Nann Mue Kaytha in No (89) Ward on Kanaung Minthagyi Road, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township.

They are prosecuted, and perpetrators are being investigated. — MNA



Four arrestees are seen along with seized drugs and a car.

Illegal timbers, motorbikes without licences seized in some townships



Officials confiscate illegal timbers.

MANAGED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, action is being taken against illegal trades under the law.

The inspection teams led by Forest Department officials under the management of the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force carried out inspections and seized 5.5154 tonnes of illegal timbers (estimated at K987,620). Action is taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, a combined inspection team led by the Police Force

under the management of the Sagaing Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force carried out inspections. It seized an unregistered Yamaha Mono Cross motorbike (estimated value of K1,500,000) and a Kenbo 125 without a licence (estimated at K100,000), totalling K1,600,000, and action is taken under the Export and Import law.

Thus, four arrests were made on 4 April (estimated at K2,587,620), according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

MNHRC awareness training (2/2022) opened

THE opening ceremony of the Inter-departmental Human Rights Awareness Training (2/2022) of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) was held at the MNHRC conference room at 1 pm yesterday, keeping in line with COVID-19 rules and regulations.

At the ceremony, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman U Hla Myint said that it is a strategic goal for the commission to open various training courses such as human rights awareness training, technical training, and English language proficiency course in order to strengthen the capacity of the commission staff.

As increasing the capacity



The MNHRC Inter-departmental Human Rights Awareness Training 2/2022 in progress.

of the commission office staff, the training aims to be professional staff who can support

the commission's vision and objectives to reach goals.

Afterwards, trainees gave

introductions and closed the opening ceremony.

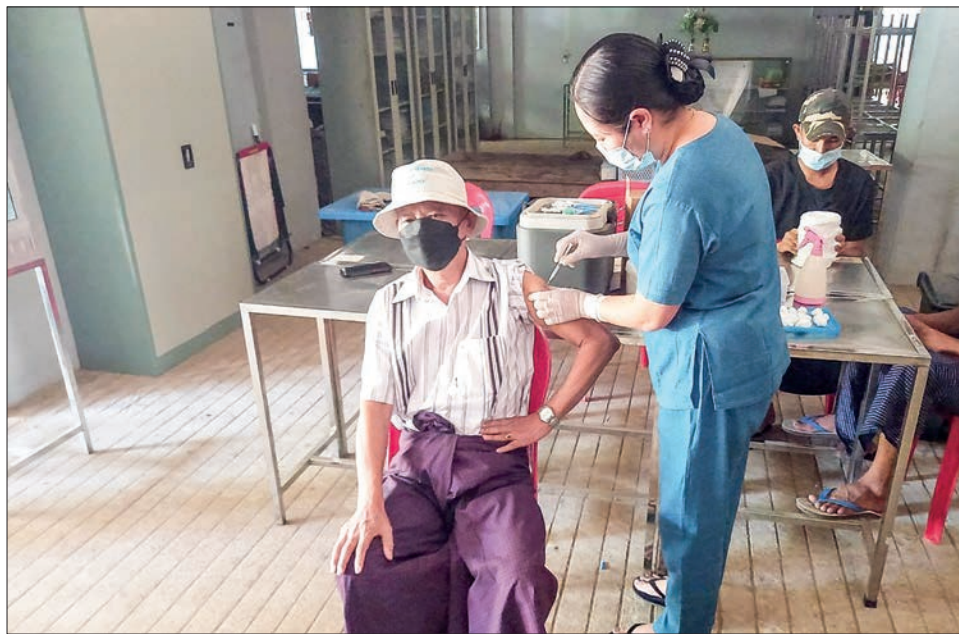
The Inter-departmental

Human Rights Awareness Training (2/2022) will be attended by 18, including staff of the commission's branches. The training period will last for five days. It will cover 13 human rights subjects through a hybrid format, both online and face-to-face.

Similarly, the commission will provide more human rights awareness training courses to the ministries through the online system.

The Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, Vice-Chair Dr Nanda Hmun, members of the commission, the directors-general, deputy directors-general, directors, and trainees attended the opening ceremony. — MNA

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions



A nurse administers a Covid-19 vaccine to a local in Yankin Township, Yangon Region (North).

DOCTORS and nurses from public hospitals, Tatmadaw medical teams, healthcare workers and volunteers are working hard to give COVID-19 vaccines in different states and regions as the vaccination programme is one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease.

COVID-19 vaccine is administered daily to target groups regardless of race or religion, including Buddhist monks and nuns, local people over the age of 40, students, religious leaders, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from People's hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 1,168 people from Yankin and Tamway Townships in Yangon Region, 18,758 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 10,505 people from nine townships in Rakhine State, 6,836 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region and 199 people from Bagon and Htantabin Townships in Bago Region, respectively.

It is reported that officials from the respective regions and states visited the site and coordinated the necessary work. — MNA



Ravages are seen in the aftermath of setting the car ablaze.

Terrorists set fire to vehicles near Tawnaw waterfall in Kawkareik Township

ACTING on a tip-off that cargo trucks were burnt, and they blocked the road, 1,000 metres northeast of the Tawnaw waterfall in Kawkareik Township of Kayin State, security forces performed security measures yesterday morning. They regularized the communication route. Meanwhile, some 20 members of the KKO split group and PDF terrorists, including snipers ambushed the security forces who conducted the counterattacks. The

terrorist group retreated to the south.

In combing the area, a six-wheel truck, a 12-wheel truck, a 22-wheel truck, an express bus, and a Nissan caravan, totalling five, were damaged by fire.

The security forces helped some 30 vehicles facing traffic congestion of damaged vehicles resume driving. At about 3 pm, all cars restarted moving for Myawady, and the incident area was under security measures. — MNA



G-20 finance chiefs will not issue statement after 20 April meeting



File photo shows finance chiefs and central bank governors from the Group of 20 posing for a photo in Washington in October 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO**

FINANCE chiefs from the Group of 20 economies have decided not to issue a joint statement after their 20 April meeting amid conflicts over Russia's participation

in the event following its invasion of Ukraine, sources familiar with the matter said Monday.

The G-20 finance ministers and central bank governors are

instead considering having Indonesia, this year's rotating chair of the group, release the results of discussions at the meeting in Washington, the sources said.

In response to Moscow's aggression, US President Joe Biden has said he believes Russia should be removed from the G-20. Some other members also aired concerns over the country's participation in the framework.

It is expected that Indonesia will not bar Russia from the meeting, and the country may attend virtually. But members opposed to Russia's participation might decide to forego the gathering. Japan's Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki and Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda are expected to attend the meeting. As for the globally surging energy prices and food costs exacerbated by the ongoing invasion of Ukraine, a statement is expected to be issued at a meeting related to the International Monetary Fund to be held after the G-20 gathering.

The G-20 groups Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Britain, Can-

ada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United States and the European Union.

The G-20 was formed in 1999 to discuss policies to achieve international financial stability after the Asian currency crisis that started with the collapse of the Thai baht. After a global financial crisis sparked by the failure of US securities firm Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc in 2008, leaders of the G-20 member nations began to hold summits. On 18 February, about a week before Russia started its attack on Ukraine, the G-20 financial leaders said they will "continue to monitor major global risks, including from geopolitical tensions that are arising, and macroeconomic and financial vulnerabilities", without directly mentioning the Ukraine crisis. — Kyodo ■

India's HDFC Bank to absorb parent, making financial behemoth

INDIA'S largest private bank will merge with its largest mortgage lender to form a \$237 billion financial giant, both companies said Monday, as low interest rates send demand for home loans soaring.

HDFC Bank will absorb its parent company, the Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), in what will be one of the country's biggest-ever merger deals.

The twin firms together manage assets worth 25.61 trillion rupees (\$339 billion) and had a combined balance sheet of 17.87 trillion rupees at the end of last year.

"As the son grows older, he acquires his father's business. That's all (that is) happening here," HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh told a media briefing.

He said the merger would help low- and middle-income homebuyers outside India's cities access "affordable" housing loans. India is enjoying a post-pandemic economic rebound and is growing faster than any other major economy.

Sustained low interest rates have led to a boom in home-loan demand among the country's 1.4 billion people.

Shareholders will receive 42 shares of HDFC Bank for every 25 shares held in HDFC following the merger, which is pending shareholder and regulatory approval.

HDFC Bank is currently India's largest private bank, with 68 million customers and 6,342 branches.

Shares in HDFC and its namesake banking subsidiary jumped 16.5 and 12.5 per cent respectively on the Bombay exchange after the merger announcement.—

AFP ■

Tokyo stock market revamped in hope of attracting foreign investors



A ceremony is held at the Tokyo Stock Exchange to mark the reorganization of the market into three trading segments on 4 April 2022, a major reform aimed at imposing stricter listing standards and attracting more foreign investment. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE Tokyo stock market was reorganized Monday into three trading segments in a major reform aimed at imposing stricter listing standards and attracting more foreign investment.

The Prime, Standard and Growth markets replace the four sections formerly on the Tokyo bourse, as the operator has tried to create a clearer concept for each segment and revitalize a market that has fallen far behind its US peers in terms of capitalization.

By tightening standards on trading liquidity and corporate governance, Tokyo Stock Exchange Inc. hopes the top-tier

Prime Market will lure more foreign investors, who made up about 70 per cent of the trading value on the former First Section.

The reorganization is the largest change to the core structure of the Tokyo bourse since 1961 when the First Section was founded upon the creation of the Second Section amid a growing number of companies during Japan's period of rapid economic growth.

The new top-tier section consists of 1,839 of 3,771 listed on the bourse, including global names such as Toyota Motor Corp. and Sony Group Corp. The Standard Market for midsize firms and the

Growth Market for up-and-comers consist of 1,466 and 466 firms, respectively.

The bourse operator requires companies on the Prime segment to have floating shares worth at least 10 billion yen (\$81.6 million) that account for 35 per cent or more of its outstanding shares.

The operator also calls on companies to improve corporate governance, including having outside directors make up one-third of board members and enhancing transparency by offering information to investors in English.

But investors and market observers see that the overhaul may create little change as over 80 per cent of the roughly 2,100 issues on the First Section will slide over to the Prime segment.

About 300 firms did not meet the requirements to list on the top category but still earned a spot after submitting beforehand business plans on how to meet the criteria.

The operator launched discussions in 2018 about possibly reorganizing its market structure as it was difficult to differentiate the JASDAQ and Mothers sections, which both included up-and-coming companies. — Kyodo ■

Turkey's annual inflation hits record high

TURKEY'S annual inflation hit a new record high at 61.14 per cent in March, featuring rising energy and food prices, the Turkish Statistical Institute announced on Monday.

The country's consumer prices rose by 5.46 per cent month on month

in March, according to the data released by the institute.

The highest annual price increase was in transport with 99.12 per cent, followed by foods and non-alcoholic beverages with 70.33 per cent, and furnishings and household

equipment with 69.26 per cent, respectively.

Meanwhile, the domestic producer price index increased by 9.19 per cent on a monthly basis, with an annual rise of 114.97 per cent in March.

Turkey has been struggling with elevated infla-

tion, which has put pressure on its population with rising living costs.

Economists predict that the country is likely to live with high inflation throughout 2022. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has also prompted inflation over increasing

energy prices.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced in December last year a record 50-per cent rise in the minimum wage to help offset surging living costs amid high inflation and a currency slump. The government also re-

duced the value-added tax on basic food products and basic necessities. Turkey's central bank has kept the benchmark interest rate unchanged since January, halting an easing cycle that sparked a currency slump in the second half of 2021. — Xinhua ■

Markets mostly up on US jobs data but rate worries linger

ASIAN markets mostly rose Monday as another strong jobs report provided some reassurance that the recovery in the US economy remained on track, though it also solidified expectations for more aggressive Federal Reserve interest rate hikes.

The gains were helped by another recent drop in oil prices after the 31-nation International Energy Agency agreed to tap its vast reserves to offset the removal of Russian exports, while the start of a

ceasefire in Yemen eased concerns over supplies from the region.

Officials said Friday that the world's top economy added 431,000 positions in March while the unemployment rate fell to just slightly above pre-pandemic levels. The figures showed that while inflation has surged to a 40-year high and the Ukraine war has fanned uncertainty, the recovery continues.

The economy's resilience will be taken as further evidence that it could

withstand a sharper rise in interest rates to bring prices under control, with many observers now predicting a half-point hike in May.

However, expectations that rates will continue to go up have seen Treasury yields surge, with commentators saying there were warning signs that growth will slow as the year progresses. "It would not be surprising to see yields rise further from here and it is very hard to know where they will land," An-



Trading begins under the new three-section format at the Tokyo Stock Exchange on 4 April 2022, a major reform aimed at imposing stricter listing standards and attracting more foreign investment. PHOTO: KYODO

gela Ashton, of Evergreen Consultants, noted. "Markets are volatile and there

is every chance they will overshoot." A positive close on Wall

Street was followed by a broadly upbeat start to the week in Asia. — AFP ■

German exports rise but Ukraine clouds gather

GERMAN exports bounded higher in February, the official statistics agency said Monday, cautioning that the Ukraine conflict and sanctions against Russia were likely to cloud the picture in the months ahead.

Exports rose by a higher-than-expected 6.4 per cent on the previous month to reach a value of 124.7 billion euros (\$137.5 billion), Destatis said, powered by strong demand from European Union countries.

Analysts surveyed by FactSet had predicted a two-per cent increase.

Imports jumped 4.5 per cent month-on-month, totalling 113.1 billion euros.

But trade with Russia was "markedly down", Destatis said, with exports falling by 6.3 per cent and imports by 7.3 per cent, revealing the first impact of sweeping Western sanc-

tions imposed on Russia after its February 24 invasion of Ukraine.

"It is expected that, as of reference month March, foreign trade figures will show in detail in how far the sanctions, further measures to restrict exports and unsanctioned behaviour of market participants will further impact German trade with the Russian Federation," said Destatis.

The German economy, Europe's biggest, is bracing for a downturn as a result of the Ukraine war, which has added further strain to global supply chains and sent energy prices surging higher.

German auto giants Volkswagen, BMW and Mercedes-Benz have already been forced to curtail production at some plants in the wait for key car parts from Ukrainian factories. — AFP ■

Chinese battery giant continues dominating global EV battery market

CHINESE battery maker Contemporary Amperex Technology Co, Ltd (CATL) continued to dominate the global electric vehicle (EV) battery market with its market share expanding in early 2022, data from market

research firm SNE Research showed.

In the first two months of the year, CATL provided 18.4 GWh of total EV battery installation worldwide, representing a 34.4 per cent market share, said SNE

Research.

BYD, a leading Chinese new energy vehicle manufacturer and also an EV battery maker, beat out Japan's Panasonic for third place with a market share of 11.9 per cent during the period,

the data showed.

The total amount of battery energy for EVs reached 53.5 GWh globally in the first two months of 2022, more than double the figure from the same period last year, SNE Research said. — Xinhua ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALVAN VOY.NO. (SCY1123)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALVAN VOY. NO. (SCY1123)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-4-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS
SDN BHD LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TJ HARVEST

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TJ HARVEST VOY.NO. (TJ2204)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-4-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-2** 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

Japanese classical musicians win Grammy awards

TWO Japanese classical musicians, Mihoko Fujimura and Eru Matsumoto, were among those who received Grammy awards, announced Sunday in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Fujimura, a mezzo-soprano, was part of the chorale group that won “Best Choral Performance” at the 64th Grammy Awards for its rendition of Gustav Mahler’s Symphony No 8, conducted by Gustavo Dudamel.

Calling the award “prestigious”, Fujimura said that she was “extremely happy” to have received it as a soloist who was part of the chorale group.

Matsumoto, a cellist, was among the group that won “Best Classical Solo Vocal Album” for “Mythologies.”

Meanwhile, worldwide fans of South Korean boyband BTS were disappointed for the second consecutive year after it

lost the “Best Pop Duo/Group Performance” despite the popularity of its catchy tune “Butter.”

The star-studded event, which also bills itself as “music’s biggest night,” was also marked by Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s appearance in a video message to plead for more support as Russia continues its invasion of his country.

“What is more opposite to music? The silence of ruined cities and killed people,” Zelenskyy said. “Our musicians wear body armor instead of tuxedos.”

“Tell the truth about the war on your social networks, on TV, support us in any way you can. Any, but not silence. And then peace will come,” Zelenskyy added.

The Grammy awards ceremony was postponed from January due to the coronavirus and moved from Los Angeles to Las Vegas.— Kyodo ■

Iran says will only return to Vienna to finalize nuclear deal

IRAN will only return to Vienna to finalize an agreement to revive its landmark 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said Monday.

“We will not be going to Vienna for new negotiations but to finalize the nuclear agreement,” Khatibzadeh told reporters in Tehran.

However, Iran said there were still outstanding issues that it was waiting on Washington to settle.

“At the moment, we do not yet have a definitive answer from Washington,” Khatibzadeh said.

“If Washington answers the outstanding questions, we can go to Vienna as soon as possible.”

Tehran has been engaged in negotiations to revive the deal, known formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with Britain, China, France, Germany and

Russia directly, and the United States indirectly.

Iranian and US delegations in Vienna do not communicate directly, but messages are passed through other participants and the European Union, the talks’ coordinator.

Nearly a year of negotiations have brought the parties close to renewing the 2015 accord.

But the talks were halted last month, after Russia demanded guarantees that Western sanctions imposed following its invasion of Ukraine would not damage its trade with Iran.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov later said Moscow had received the necessary guarantees from Washington on trade with Iran.

Among the key sticking points is Tehran’s demand to remove from the US terror list the Revolutionary Guards, the ideological arm of Iran’s military.

Washington recently confirmed that sanctions on the Guards would stay.

“Today, in the final phase, the United States seeks to deprive Iran of the economic benefits of the agreement,” Khatibzadeh said.

The JCPOA gave Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear programme to guarantee that Tehran could not develop or acquire a nuclear weapon — something it has always denied wanting to do.

But the US unilateral withdrawal from the accord in 2018 under then-president Donald Trump and the reimposition of biting economic sanctions prompted Iran to begin rolling back its own commitments.

The Vienna talks aim to return the US to the nuclear deal, including through the lifting of sanctions on Iran, and to ensure Tehran’s full compliance with its commitments.— AFP ■

Sri Lanka leader offers to share power as protests escalate



Protesters hold banners and placards during a demonstration against the surge in prices and shortage of fuel and other essential commodities in Colombo on 3 April 2022. PHOTO: AFP

SRI Lanka’s embattled president offered to share power with the opposition on Monday as protests demanding his resignation grew over the worsening shortages of food, fuel and medicines.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa’s invitation to legislators came as heavily armed security forces looked to quell more demonstrations over what the government itself has acknowledged as the worst shortages of essentials since independence

from Britain in 1948. “The president invites all political parties in parliament to accept cabinet posts and join the effort to seek solutions to the national crisis,” Rajapaksa’s office said in a statement. It stressed that solutions to the deepening crisis should be found “within a democratic framework”, as thousands joined spontaneous demonstrations in cities, towns and villages.

The invitation came after 26 cabinet members — every min-

ister except Rajapaksa and his elder brother Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa — submitted letters of resignation at a late-night meeting on Sunday.

The country’s central bank governor Ajith Cabraal — who has long opposed an International Monetary Fund bailout for the country — also stepped down on Monday. The departures cleared the way for the country’s ruling political clan to seek to shore up its weakening position.— AFP ■

Jon Batiste crowned Grammys king with five wins including best album

INDUSTRY watchers had tipped pop superstars as the likely big winners at Sunday’s Grammys — but jazzman Jon Batiste instead was crowned king, taking home five awards including the prestigious Album of the Year prize.

At the star-studded gala, held for the first time in Las Vegas, Silk Sonic — the 70s revival project of Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak — won all four of their potential prizes, including both Record and Song of the Year for their single “Leave The Door Open”.

Olivia Rodrigo didn’t win as many awards as predicted — but the Filipino-American pop phenom did scoop the coveted prize for Best New Artist, and two trophies in the pop category. That meant the winners of all four top Grammys were people of colour — a milestone for the Recording Academy, which for years has faced criticism that it disproportionately honoured white men.

“I just put my head down and work on the craft every



US singer Jon Batiste poses in the press room with his Grammys during the 64th Annual Grammy Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on 3 April 2022. PHOTO: AFP

day,” Batiste, born into a prominent New Orleans musical dynasty, told the audience as he accepted the night’s final prize. “It’s more than entertainment for me — it’s a spiritual practice.” The night was heavy on performances but also held a number of somber moments — most notably when Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky delivered a pre-taped plea for support. Zelensky’s message led into a performance by John Legend of the song “Free”, with the help of Ukrainian singer Mika Newton, musician Siuzanna Iglidan and poet Lyuba Yakimchuk.— AFP ■

More Ukrainians move west as Russia turns focus to Donbas



Families walk on a platform to board a train at Kramatorsk central station as they flee the eastern city of Kramatorsk, in the Donbas region on 4 April 2022, amid Russian invasion of Ukraine. PHOTO: AFP

HUNDREDS wait for a train to take them west out of the path of the Russian advance at the station in Kramatorsk, the de facto capital of Ukrainian-controlled territory in Donbas.

“It’s been like this since the end of last week. Almost 2,000 people a day are boarding trains west for Lviv or elsewhere,” says Nasir, a humanitarian volunteer helping with the operation.

“It used to be two trains a day. Now it’s four,” he adds.

“The situation is bad. Lots of people have already left. The

men are staying, our families are leaving,” says Andriy, whose wife and two children are taking shelter from the rain under the awning of a fast-food hut with their bags at their feet.

Sofia, his teenage daughter standing around with three friends also making their way west, admits she is “a bit sad” to be leaving.

“I’m sending my children to the west like everyone else, to my brother-in-law’s village” away from the frontline, says Andriy, holding on to his youngest child’s hand.

Since Russia announced its intention to concentrate its efforts on the “liberation” of Donbas, the traditional mining region in the east of Ukraine, residents have lived in fear of a major military offensive.

Authorities in Kyiv say they expect the situation to get worse as Russian troops seek to encircle Ukrainian forces arranged since 2014 along the frontline between Donetsk to the south and Lugansk in the east, the capitals of the two pro-Russian, breakaway “republics” of the same name. — AFP ■

Besieged Ukrainian city Mariupol ‘90 per cent’ destroyed: mayor

THE Ukrainian port city of Mariupol in the south-east of the country has been “90 per cent” destroyed after being besieged by Russian forces, its mayor Vadym Boichenko said Monday.

“The sad news is that 90 per cent of the infrastructure in the city is destroyed and 40 per cent is unrecoverable,” Boichenko told a press conference.

Around 130,000 people remained trapped in the city, which continues to be pounded by Russian bombardments, he said.

Approximately half a million people lived in the city on the coast of the Sea of Azov before the outbreak of the war.

“The Russian army is brutally destroying Mariupol,” Boichenko said.

“The bombings are incen-

sant,” the mayor said, with the notable use of “multiple rocket launchers”.

According to Boichenko, the majority of the attacks on the city were coming “from the sea”, where “Russian ships” were stationed.

“We are planning to evacuate the remaining residents, but we cannot do it today,” he said.

Russia and Ukraine have blamed each other for the difficulties encountered by recent evacuation attempts. — AFP ■



Children are seen through a bus window as a convoy of 30 buses carrying evacuees from Mariupol and Melitopol arrive at the registration centre in Zaporizhzhia, on 1 April 2022. PHOTO: AFP

QUICK SUMMARY

HERE are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

Calls for war crimes trial

The discovery of bodies scattered on the streets of the Ukrainian town of Bucha after the withdrawal of Russian forces sparks global outrage.

US President Joe Biden calls for a war crimes trial and more sanctions on Russia.

The UN’s human rights chief Michelle Bachelet also says the images of people in civilian clothing, some of whom appear to have been bound by their hands and feet before being shot, suggests “possible war crimes”, as does German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and French President Emmanuel Macron.

On a visit to the town, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky labels the killings “genocide”, a term echoed by the prime minister of Poland.

Hundreds of bodies

AFP saw at least 20 bodies strewn along a single street in Bucha.

Ukrainian prosecutor general Iryna Venediktova says 410 civilian bodies were recovered from areas around Kyiv recently retaken from Russian forces.

Bucha’s mayor Anatoly Fedoruk says 280 bodies were buried in mass graves during the fighting.

Russian denial

The Kremlin denies Russian forces killed civilians, claiming that the images of dead bodies in Bucha are “fakes” produced by “Ukrainian radicals”.

“We categorically reject all allegations,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov says.

Moscow has called for a special UN Security Council meeting to discuss the situation.

More EU sanctions

The EU’s foreign policy chief Josep Borrell says the bloc is urgently discussing a new round of sanctions on Russia over the “atrocities” reported in Bucha and other Ukrainian towns that were occupied by Russian forces.

“We stand in full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people in these sombre hours for the whole world,” he says.

SOURCE: AFP

Russia rejects accusations of Ukraine Bucha killings

THE Kremlin on Monday rejected accusations that Russian forces were responsible for killing civilians near Kyiv and suggested images of corpses were “fakes”.

“We categorically reject all allegations,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists.

Peskov said that Russian “experts at the ministry of defence have identified signs of video fakes and various fakes”.

“We would demand that many international leaders do not rush to sweeping accusations and at least listen to our arguments,” he said.

International journalists over the weekend found corpses in civilian clothes, some with their hands bound, in the town of Bucha outside Ukraine’s capital after Kyiv’s forces retook it from Russia’s army.

Ukraine and Western leaders have erupted in outrage over the deaths in Bucha, a small town northwest of Kyiv.

Russia’s foreign ministry has called for a special UN Security Council meeting Monday to address what it said was a “heinous provocation” to blame Russian forces. — 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 team draws Viet Nam 1-1 in AFF Futsal opening match



PHOTO: MFF

THE Myanmar Futsal team played against Viet Nam on the morning of 4 April in the opening match of Group B of the AFF Futsal Championship 2022 and drew 1-1.

Myanmar squad took the lead at the beginning of the match and lost 1-0 in the first half.

But Myo Myint Soe scored the equalizer for the Myanmar team from the penalty spot.

Viet Nam is a strong team and has reached the last 16 of the 2021 Futsal World Cup.

Upon the draw result,

Myanmar Futsal Team Head Coach Mr Bunlert Cheowarang said: "I am just happy with the result today. The players did their best to follow my technique. I'm happy that my boys played well in defence and scored a goal."

Myo Myint Soe also won the best player award for the match against team Viet Nam.

The Myanmar national futsal team will play against the Australia team on the morning of 5 April in the second match of Group B of the AFF Futsal Championship 2022. —GNLM ■

Football world rallies round Netherlands coach Van Gaal after cancer revelation



Netherlands' head coach Louis van Gaal, gives a press conference after the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 qualification Group G football match between Latvia and The Netherlands, in Riga, Latvia, on 9 October 2021. PHOTO: AFP

NETHERLANDS coach Louis van Gaal has received messages of support from his former clubs Manchester United, Barcelona and Bayern Munich after revealing he has prostate cancer. Van Gaal, 70, said on Sunday he had been receiving treatment since

being diagnosed in 2020, but still plans to lead his team at the World Cup in Qatar in seven months' time. United, where he was in charge in 2014-2016, were among those wishing the Dutchman a speedy recovery.

"Everybody at Manchester United is fully behind our former manager, Louis van Gaal, in his battle against cancer. Sending you strength and courage, Louis," the English giants tweeted.

Barcelona, where he was twice manager and twice won La Liga, said on Twitter: "Our thoughts and prayers go out to former Barca manager Louis van Gaal... Stay strong, Louis, and get well soon." —AFP ■

Benfica target another European scalp against Liverpool

BENFICA face a gargantuan task in the Champions League quarter-finals on Tuesday but after already knocking out Barcelona and Ajax, there is belief they can spring another surprise against Liverpool.

Many circled Benfica as the kindest opponent available when the draw was made in Nyon last month, with this the furthest the Portuguese club have gone in the Champions League in six years.

The last time Benfica made the semis, they went on to reach the final, in 1990, when a team coached by Sven-Goran Eriksson lost 1-0 to AC Milan and missed out on lifting their third European Cup.

That was the last time Benfica really belonged with Europe's elite and it would be

the shock of the round if they were to upset Liverpool, who, along with Manchester City, are surely this year's tournament favourites.

Benfica's impressive run in the Champions League has

belied a tumultuous season domestically for the club, who parted ways with Jorge Jesus as coach in December following a 3-0 defeat by Porto and just seven wins out from their first 15 matches. —AFP ■



Benfica's players attend a training session at Benfica Campus training ground in Seixal near Lisbon on 4 April 2022, on the eve of their UEFA Champions League quarter final first leg football match against Liverpool. PHOTO: AFP