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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.

Tatmadaw members must be one with the people and abide by the dos and don'ts in their relations with the people: Vice-Senior General



SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets officers, other ranks and families of the Kengkham Battalion in Shan State on 7 April 2022.

BASED on the country's history and geographical conditions, the Tatmadaw plays a key role in the State defence strategy called the people's militia strategy with the participation of the entire people, 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 officers, other ranks and families at local battalions of Nawngwoe, Kengkham, Mongpying and

Taunggyi stations separately yesterday.

Speaking on occasion, the Vice-Senior General said that Myanmar firmly upholds the non-aligned foreign policy due to geopolitical conditions while striving for overcoming multiple political pressures as a challenge. To do so, the Tatmadaw is serving the State defence duty with a firm concept.

Big foreign countries and internal terrorist groups attempt to break up the Tatmadaw in

successive eras because of failure to end the government machinery. Hence, as they may commit posing the instigation into the Tatmadaw, families of the Tatmadaw members have to live in unison with mutual respect.

Officials must fulfil the requirements, including the health and education sectors of Tatmadaw members and families. If so, the Tatmadaw members can fully serve the security and military operation duties with

no need to consider the affairs of their families.

Based on the country's history and geographical conditions, the Tatmadaw plays a vital role in the State defence strategy called the people's militia strategy with the participation of the entire people. Hence, Tatmadaw members must be one with the people and abide by the dos and don'ts in their relations with the people. Then, the Vice-Senior General fulfilled the needs of officers, other ranks and wives

of the Tatmadaw members.

The Vice-Senior General presented foodstuffs and cash assistance for officers, other ranks and families from various military stations to the commander and officials. Lt-Gen Aung Zaw Aye from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) presented seeds of crops and foodstuff to officials.

They also warmly greeted Tatmadaw members and families from various military stations. — MNA

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State Administration Council Press Release

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

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

Information Team
State Administration Council

THE State Administration Council will specifically ease restrictions for service personnel, intellectuals and intelligentsia, and persons from various arenas and citizens who, with worries, absconded from the country except for persons who committed murders, robberies, setting fires, mine explosions and intentional attacks on security troops, those who crowded to attack public service personnel and some people, those who destroyed government and private-owned buildings and those who are highly involved in the CDM activities by providing monetary assistance and other means.

COVID-19 Vaccination Electronic Certificate (English Version) to be downloaded from Health Ministry's official website, c19vc.moh.gov.mm

MINISTRY of Health plans to release the COVID-19 Vaccination Electronic Certificate (English Version) online. Please be informed that you can apply through c19vc.moh.gov.mm, the official website of the Ministry of Health, from 7-4-2022.

Applicants for Electronic Vaccination Certificate

- Those who have been fully vaccinated.
- Those who have the recorded vaccination information on the Vaccination Management Information System (VMIS) with the immunization record issued in the Myanmar Language from the VMIS system with a QR code and check ID.

Requirements for application

- The name and the father's name of the applicant, passport number, check ID on the vaccination record issued by the VMIS in the Myanmar Language, and phone numbers.
- The front page of the applicant's citizenship scrutiny card, the passport page containing biodata, and the VMIS-Myanmar immunization record
- After filling in the information, each applicant must pay K5,000 via a mobile payment system which will charge K200 for the transaction fee.

- CB Pay, Myanmar Citizen Pay, UAB Pay and KBZ Pay can be used for online payment.

What to do after applying for COVID-19 Vaccination Electronic Certificate (English Version)

- Vaccination Certificate applicants can obtain the COVID-19 Vaccination Electronic Certificate at c19vc.moh.gov.mm within five working days if they have filled in the correct information.
- To do so, you must use the Token Key and Check ID (CHK-ID) received at the time of application.
- Applicants with incomplete or incorrect information can re-apply with the necessary corrections. There is no need to pay extra for such revisions.
- If the COVID-19 Vaccination Electronic Certificate is lost, you can download it again at c19vc.moh.gov.mm using the Token Key and Check ID (CHK-ID).

For more information, you can contact the Ministry of Health via its email address: c19vc@mohs.gov.mm.

Ministry of Health

Press release on granting OWIC during Thingyan holidays

- The Ministry of Labour grants Overseas Worker Identification Card (OWIC) to those who have complete documents after scrutinizing during office days.
- The OWIC processes will be conducted on Thingyan holidays — 9, 10, 11 and 12 April 2022 at the OWIC Office in Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

Ministry of Labour

53 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 7 April, total figure rises to 612,132

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **612,132** after **53** new cases were reported on 7 April 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **590,554** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **19,434** without casualties. —MNA

The system that met the requirements of the country will be practised

Our country has to rigidly stand with a Union based on Democracy and Federal System elected by people. Democracy, herein, is an administrative mechanism chosen by people and the Federal System is a system of dividing up authoritative power and sharing an equal opportunity. Notwithstanding the designation of the Federal System laying hedges, the system that met the requirements of the country will be practised.

(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.)

MoD Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar

STATE Administration Council Member Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo received Mr Vinay Kumar, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, at the ministry at 10:15 am yesterday.

At the meeting, they openly discussed enhancement of defence cooperation between Myanmar and India and further enhancing collaboration in other sectors.—MNA

Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo receives Mr Vinay Kumar, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar.



SAC member Daw Aye Nu Sein inspects job opportunities for local people, export promotion in Rakhine State

STATE Administration Council member Daw Aye Nu Sein inspected the TMP frozen and cold

storage factory in Dwarawady Myothit of Thandwe Township of Rakhine State in order to ensure

job opportunities for local people and export volumes, together with Rakhine State Chief Minis-

ter Dr Aung Kyaw Min, Social Affairs Minister U Aung Myo, Advocate General U Hla Thein and other officials yesterday. First, the factory manager reported on the operation of the cold storage factory, numbers of employees, finished-product production rate per day, export volume, livestock breeding, and plans to promote annual finished-product production rate based on fresh raw materials.

Then, SAC member Daw Aye Nu Sein and party inspected the fish, prawn and crab produc-

tion processes of the factory.

In Rakhine State, it is prohibited to capture crabs weighing below 80 grammes, and the companies do not buy crabs that are not in conformity with the standards of the Fisheries Department. The crab farms are primarily found in Thandwe, Sittway and Kyaukpyu districts and the soft-shell crabs, fish and prawns from these regions are delivered to China, Japan, China Taipei (Taiwan) and European Union Countries. In the evening, SAC member Daw Aye Nu Sein and party visited the Paowunmya Padamy Garden in Ngapali of Thandwe Township to check tourism activities. — MNA



The SAC Member and party views the production process at the TMP frozen and cold storage factory.

Press Release

1. The Ministry of Information supervises the printing and publishing enterprises by drafting the laws and rules which conform to a democratic system. Previously, printing and publishing were allowed after passing the censor in draft forms under the 1962 Printers and Publishers Registration Law. In 2014, the Printing and Publishing Law was enacted following the people's desire and the publications were exempted from pre-publication censorship and allowed the free press.
2. The ministry allows the printing and publishing enterprises freely and supervises following the laws/rules. Meanwhile, some printers and publishers violate the code of conduct by taking a chance on the free press. So the ministry shuts down such enterprises, revokes the business licence certificates and takes signs in a pact under the management system.
3. In 2021, the following printers and publishers were taken action for failing to follow the regulations under Section 8 of Printing and Publishing Law:
 - (a) the business licence certificates of one magazine and 11 news agencies were suspended and revoked for expressing subjects that affect State security, the rule of law and community peace.
 - (b) One publisher signed a pact under the management system for describing pornography, and the business licence certificate of one publisher was revoked for expressing matters that affect religion.
 - (c) Moreover, it also cooperated with ministries concerned to take action against Facebook Page that express things that can affect State security, the rule of law and community peace.
4. The Ministry of Information will assist in developing publishing enterprises and news media development in line with the laws and rules. It is here announced for the public not to express obscene words Myanmar society cannot accept and matters that can harm ethnic groups or citizens racially, religiously or culturally. It is required to avoid disrupting national security, the rule of law, community peace and tranquillity, equality, freedom, justice and rights of every citizen, encouraging and inciting crimes, brutality, violence, gambling and the offence of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Those who fail to follow will face serious actions under the laws.

Ministry of Information

MoHA Union Minister meets outgoing Australian Ambassador



The departing Australian Ambassador calls on the MoHA Union Minister yesterday.

MEMBER of the State Administration Council Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut received a delegation led by outgoing Australian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Andrea Faulkner

at the Ministry of Home Affairs Office in Nay Pyi Taw at 4 pm yesterday.

Permanent Secretary U Khaing Tun Oo, Chief of the Criminal and Legal Affairs Department

ment Officiating Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Lin of the Myanmar Police Force Headquarters also attended the meeting. They exchanged views on further cooperation between the two countries. — MNA

MoPF Union Minister receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein received Mr Vinay Kumar, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, at the Planning and Finance Ministry at 11:30 am yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on financial

cooperation between the two countries, the development of projects funded by Indian loans, the possible situation of the rupee/kyat to be used in trade between the two countries and what can be carried out in the future. — MNA



The Indian Ambassador to Myanmar call on the MoPF Union Minister yesterday.

MoFA Dy Minister attended and delivered the remarks at the launching ceremony of the 6th Anniversary of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Week 2022

U Kyaw Myo Htut, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, attended the Launching Ceremony of the “6th Anniversary of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Week 2022” held in the afternoon yesterday organized by the People’s Government of Yunnan Province, the People’s Republic of China through videoconference.

At the launching ceremony, Ren Jun Hao, Vice-Governor of Yunnan Provincial Government, U Kyaw Myo Htut, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Liang Jianjun, Counselor of the Asian Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, delivered the remarks. The Consul-Generals and delegates of the Mekong-Lancang countries residing in Kunming, China, also participated in the ceremony.

At the ceremony, Deputy Foreign Minister U Kyaw Myo Htut stated the significant role of Yunnan Province in the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation for its strong historical ties and traditional friendship with the neighbouring countries and representation of Lancang-Mekong River not only as a lifeline of the people in the region but also the foundation of the Family Spirit of “Shared River, Shared Future”.

He highlighted that Mekong-Lancang Cooperation was officially established on 23 March 2016 by the 1st Leaders’ meeting based upon the ideas that crystallized during the 17th ASEAN-China Summit in Myanmar to foster a peaceful, prosperous and sustainably developed Mekong-Lancang region. He also expressed that reinforced traditional friendship,

solidarity and family spirit are of great importance for collective efforts in addressing current and future challenges of the region through Mekong-Lancang Cooperation. The Deputy Minister also mentioned the current status of MLC, which has been entering into a new stage of comprehensive development after it has gone through the phase of nurturing. The Deputy Minister stressed that Myanmar has been celebrating the foundation of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation in March of every year, same

with other member countries. He said that, in honour of the 6th Anniversary of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation in 2022, a TV Programme reflecting the success of MLC Cooperation and MLC songs composed by the participants in the Cultural Youth Camp project under the MLC special fund were broadcast on the TV Channels, and an article highlighting the importance of MLC Principles and Spirits written by Myanmar MLC SOM Leader was published in the Newspapers. He also informed that the book “A success story of MLC in Myanmar”, which reflects the tangible results and benefits to the peoples by the implementation of MLC Special Fund Projects, will be published. In addition, He thanked China for the contribution to the MLC Special Fund to assist the development of entire Mekong-Lancang region, and also for 73 projects granted to Myanmar in various areas since 2017.

Yunnan Province, expressed his heartfelt thanks to everyone for long-term care and support for Yunnan Province’s participation in the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation. He also stated that Yunnan Province and Mekong countries had deepened their cooperation in anti-epidemic and health care, economic recovery and regional interconnection. In addition, he highlighted that providing Yunnan Provincial Government Scholarship to the students from Mekong countries and enhancing cultural exchange among the Mekong-Lancang countries will make concerted efforts to contribute wisdom and strength to the development of cooperation mechanism.

The members of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation are Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. It was established with an aim to assist regional efforts to achieve sustainable, inclusive development, and narrow development gaps in the region, while promoting peace and prosperity.—MNA



CBM Governor joins coordination meeting of ASEAN Central Bank Governors and CEOs of financial organizations online

GOVERNOR of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein attended the coordination meeting of ASEAN Central Bank Governors and CEOs of financial organizations via videoconferencing yesterday.

During the meeting, ASEAN alternative Chairman Mr Chea Chanto, Governor of Cambodian National Bank, made an opening remark and other chairpersons of banks made greeting speeches.

The ASEAN Banks Association discussed “Interoperable Data Framework & ASEAN QR Cross-Border Payments”. At the same time, Banks Association



in Cambodia about “the Digital Connectivity Enhancement across the ASEAN Member States”, and the officials coordi-

ated the discussion.

Then, CBM Governor U Than Nyein discussed the vital role of the ASEAN Banking

Interoperable Data Framework, safe banking businesses in ASEAN member countries, supportive action of “Digital

Connectivity Enhancement across the ASEAN Member States” in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, QR Code Payment of Myanmar, organizing of Technical Committee to develop Myanmar Standard of QR Code, launching of MMQR Specification Version (1.0), the needs to follow MMQR Standard, Digital Payment Switch to connect QR Code Payments and other financial integration with region countries.

Finally, Governor Mr Chea Chanto of the National Bank of Cambodia concluded the meeting after the closing remark. — MNA

ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies meeting held

DEPUTY Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win attended the ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting and related meetings virtually held by Cambodia yesterday morning.

The meeting discussed matters related to finding ways to work together to ensure long-term sustainability and development in the post-COVID-19 period, ASEAN financial cooperation issues working towards an inclusive and solid environment, progress of the Roadmap for Monetary and Financial Integration of ASEAN (RIA-Fin) and priorities. The deputy minister and the deputy governors exchanged views on their experiences in each country.

The meeting also discussed plans to push forward recovery efforts in the post-COVID-19 period and ensure long-term sus-

tainable development. The cooperation between the ASEAN Finance and the Central Banks becomes more critical for the regional economy, the ASEAN Blueprint 2025 implementation status and the progress of financial collaboration between the ASEAN countries.

ASEAN financial cooperation issues include regional capital liberalization in the ASEAN region, capital market development issues, matters relating to the implementation of the ASEAN Financial Cooperation Framework Agreement, inclusiveness in the financial sector and the development of payment and clearing systems.

The deputy minister also attended the meeting of the ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies and the US Department of Treasury held virtually yesterday. They discussed



the situation of digital finance in Myanmar. The ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies

Meeting to be held in 2023 will be hosted by Indonesia. Cambodia is hosting ASEAN meetings

in 2022, and this year’s theme is “ASEAN A.C.T: Addressing Challenges Together”.—MNA

MoI Deputy Minister meets Khamti district IPRD staff



DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint met the Khamti district administrator and the secretary of the Naga Self-Administered Zone on 6 April and instructed them to work together with the employees of the Ministry of Information for regional security and development matters.

He also presented them with 300 DVB T2 Set-top boxes donated by the Ministry of Information for local ethnic people and military families to receive television programmes. In the afternoon, he met officials from Homalin, Leshi, Lahe and Nanyun townships, Donhee, Pansawng Htanparkway, Mopainglut and Summarar towns, and the regional commandant at the MRTV Khamti Retransmission

Station.

Yesterday morning, the Deputy Minister inspected the Khamti TV Retransmission Station and cordially met with employees of the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications. Afterwards, he inspected the information and publicity services provided at the District Public Library.

During the meeting with the staff, the Deputy Minister urged the staff to carry out their duties for the local ethnic people despite the lack of access of department heads, to work together with relevant departments for regional development and education programmes for students. He also coordinated the submission of the staff as necessary. — MNA

Entrepreneurs delighted with tourism recovery from COVID-19

MYANMAR'S tourism industry is welcoming the ease of suspension on international passenger flights and tourism recovery on Myanmar New Year Day, which will fall on 17 April 2022.

It has been over two years since the international air transportation services halted amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The government will lift global flight restrictions from 17 April

and visit Myanmar once the international passenger flights resume on 17 April.

“The domestic tourism business is raising its head again during the New Year holidays. As Myanmar is soon to reopen the international tourists, there are enquiries about entry requirements for the COVID-19 and travel restrictions and permission in the country. Nearly 70 French tourists have said to visit My-



Tourists eye the famous destinations like Bagan, Inlay, Pindaya, cultural heritage, and ecotourism.



Traditional handcrafts are pictured against the scenic background in Bagan.



A joy ride on the horse cart. **PHOTOS: KANU**

2022 with a view to reviving the tourism business, effectuating the development of regional business and creating job opportunities.

With the domestic tourism businesses resuming, hotels and guesthouses at the beaches have been fully booked between 9 and 17 April. Moreover, tourists linking with the travel agents are also eager to come

anamar. Yet, transit is allowed with some restrictions at Singapore Changi Airport. The resumption of international travel to Myanmar is required to be informed. This way, the tourism industry will grow in a short time. Thailand and Viet Nam are also offering visa exemptions for travel purposes to attract tourists. If we can ease more travel requirements

and offer exemptions, there is potential to achieve positive change and success in the tourism industry among the regional countries,” U Maung Maung, a travel entrepreneur from the World Quest, was quoted as saying.

Viet Nam attracted more than 90,000 tourists in the first quarter of this year on account of the resumption of interna-

tional transport services, lifting the ban on tourism businesses and reopening the cross-border areas, which is a year-on-year rise of 89.1 per cent. Viet Nam strives to generate foreign revenues. Thailand is also endeavouring for tourism recovery. That is why Myanmar, the neighbouring country with Thailand, can also accelerate tourism in summer.

Tourists eye the famous destinations like Bagan, Inlay, Pindaya, cultural heritage, and ecotourism. Consequently, the businesses relying on the tourism industry will also return to normalcy. Tourists love the kind and patient Myanmar people who always welcome them with a kind and sincere smile. They are enthusiastic about coming here, travel agents stated.

Myanmar's captivating mountain ranges, scenic views and friendly and honest smiles of the local people are acknowledged by the tourists. I am delighted with the resumption of air travel. U Maung Maung added that the tourists are expected to visit Bagan, Inlay, Mandalay and Monywa's Phoe-wintaung (Buddhist cave).

Tourism entrepreneurs are delightfully welcoming moves to ease of travel restrictions starting from the Myanmar New Year Day. – Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

MNA to resume flights to Yangon, Mandalay and Kalay

FLIGHTS for Kalay Township, Kalay District of Sagaing Region, which were temporarily suspended due to the outbreak of COVID-19 disease, will resume on 8 April, according to the Myanmar National Airlines (Kalay).

Flights for Yangon-Mandalay routes will resume on Monday, Tuesday and Friday weekly on 8 April under the guidelines of the Ministry of Health.

Ticket prices are K148,000 for Kalay-Yangon, K150,000 for Yangon-Kalay, K104,000 for Kalay-Mandalay, K106,000 for Mandalay-Kalay. MNA office and other ticket dealers can be contacted to buy ticket purchase. — Maung Kyaw (IPRD)/GNLM

One of the MNA aircraft fleet.



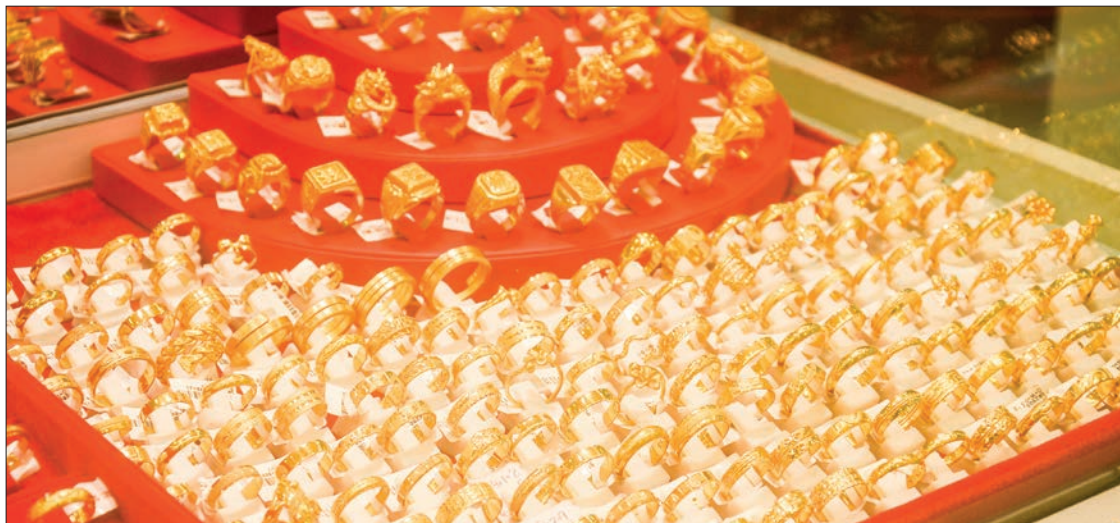
COVID-19 impacts stop gold exports

THE gold export has stopped owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, said Chair U Myo Myint of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

As international passenger flights have been banned, there is no export demand for gold yet. However, export procedures have been prepared, he continued.

“There is no foreign demand, yet the gold is ready for export. They appraise the gold and set the price depending on the prevailing market price. Then, it can be exported,” U Myo Myint elaborated.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Transport and Communications have declared temporary measures to



Gold jewellery is seen at one of the gold outlets.

prevent the importation of COVID-19 to Myanmar through air travel since 29 March 2020. They

are extended until 31 March 2022, as per the notification released by the Central Committee on Pre-

vention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on 18 March 2022.

As the fatality rate from COVID-19 and the infection rate have significantly dropped, the temporary suspension on international passenger flights will be lifted from 17 April in order for foreigners to enter Myanmar in line with travel requirements. Once Myanmar eases entry restriction, the gold export market is expected to revive.

Additionally, the international remittance for gold transactions valued below US\$50,000 is allowed to use the Telegraph Transfer (TT) system.

Japan and the Republic of Korea primarily purchase gold and other jewellery, and other tourists also buy them, the YGEA stated. — NN/GNLM

Fruit exports plummet by half this year

FOLLOWING the closure of the cross-border post by the leading buyer China and certain delay in the customs regulations, the exports of Myanmar's fruits this year is 50 per cent less than the same corresponding period last year.

Additionally, the banking and FX policy changes by the CBM, local currency depreciation against the US dollar, and

container shortages

are also contributing factors to the sluggish export market. Moreover, the domestic consumption is pretty low as well, traders said.

Moreover, the market uncertainty might prompt the growers to decrease the production acres, a market observer pointed out.

China accounts for 95 per cent of Myanmar's fruit exports.

Watermelons top the list of fruits exported to China, followed by mangoes and muskmelons. This year, the watermelon market collapsed due to the high-security measures in the light of COVID-19 in China's border areas. Following that, transport delays caused damage to fruit quality and doubled the truck fares. According to an exporter, the fruit growers and traders are suffering

losses during the pandemic.

“Mango growers are spraying the trees with the pesticide. They have wrapped the unripe mango in plastic bags. The growers are exchanging information and closely observing the market situations as the watermelon export market collapsed in the cross-border between Myanmar and China,” said a mango grower.

Muse is the major trading

route for watermelon, muskmelon, mango and plum. Myanmar's mangosteen, rambutan, lychee, watermelon, muskmelon, mango and plums have been cleared for import by China's food safety inspection mechanism — the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine (AQSIQ) for legitimate trade. — KK/GNLM

Myanmar exports dip to \$55.9 mln in past mini-budget period

MYANMAR Customs Department's statistics indicated that Myanmar's exports in the past mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022) slumped to US\$8.124 billion from \$8.18 billion recorded in the corresponding period of the last FY2020-2021.

According to data from the Ministry of Commerce, the figures reflected a sharp decline of over \$55.9 million compared with a year-ago period.

The negative pandemic consequences dealt a severe blow to the agriculture, livestock and mineral sectors as it disrupted transport and shut down the events. Following the closure of Sino-Myanmar border posts triggered by COVID-19 impacts and changes in China's Customs regulations, export saw a drastic drop in the agriculture sector this year. Moreover, Myanmar's live cattle trade is mainly relying on China. The legitimate market has halted since late 2020. Nonetheless, Chinese traders are constantly purchasing cattle on the black market across the border between Myanmar and China despite the suspension of cross-border trade.

At present, the CMP garment sector raises its head again after the vaccination programme for the factory workers.

Of seven export groups, agricultural

exports dropped by \$520 million against a year-ago period, mineral exports fell by \$249 million, and livestock exports declined by \$10.77 million. Other exports of forest products, fishery products and finished industrial goods rose.

Additionally, the Central Bank of Myanmar notified that foreign exchange deposits must be converted into local currency at its reference rate of K1,85. The export sector involves rice, broken rice, various beans and pulses, corn, fishery products, and other goods that see no change in cost and freight (CFR) and Free on board (FOB) prices. However, policy changes will incur a massive loss to the exporters as there is a large gap between the CBM's rate of K1,850 and the unofficial black-market rate of K2,050.

Between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022, export values were registered at \$2.4 billion for agri-products, \$5.35 million for livestock, \$481.58 million for fishery products, \$284 million for minerals, \$83.9 million for forest products, over \$4.529 billion for manufactured goods, and \$332 million for other goods. Myanmar's top export countries are China, Thailand, Japan, India, the USA, Spain, Germany, the UK, ROK and the Netherlands. — KK/GNLM

Corn price persists in decreasing amid fluctuating prices of other crops

THE corn price did not drop under the normal price, although other crops' prices fluctuate as corn plants can be grown all year round if the soil is moist, according to corn growers in Kyauktan Village, Minbu (Sagu) Township.

There are three types of corn such as corn, baby corn and raw corn (maize) and two types of corn, such as sugar corn and Shan corn. The price of sugar corn and Shan corn is the same, with a retail price of up to K130 per corn, making it more advantaged than growing other crops.

Other crops get reasonable prices

initially, but the prices tend to decline later. It causes growers uncomfortable. In the corn market, although the price is K90-K100 per corn during the monsoon season, the price is still good at K120-K130 per corn at present.

Corn growers are well cultivated with good soil by groundwater irrigating, but the plants can't grow in the rainy season. However, the corn prices are rising up and gaining advantages leading to more corn growers, said Ko San Tun, a corn grower in Kyauktan village, Minbu (Sagu) Township. — Zeya Htet (Minbu)/GNLM



One of the corn plantations. PHOTO: ZEYA HTET (MINBU)

Understand prospects of a reachable good result

COOKING oil plays a key role in making daily meals for all families. Although Myanmar people prefer to taste all oily cooked meals, they have to amend their mindsets to discard their eagerness to eat oily meals for their healthiness in time.

According to the research results, everybody needs just 2.5 ticals of edible oil per day. But, most of the Myanmar people cannot avoid such a rate. Indeed, these oily meals can bring disadvantages and terrible diseases to them, harming the lung, heart, blood veins and other inner body organs.

In calculating the oil consumption of the whole nation, the volume of edible oil produced at home is not sufficient for all people. It is because the individual oil consumption rate is still high.

As a result, the people need to reduce individual oil consumption while relevant ministries and region and state chief ministers should seek the best way and mean for rising production of edible oil at home. Local farmers need to fully utilize the cultivable lands under edible oil crops through a mix-cropping system. If so, it is sure to increase the per-acre yield of edible oil crops.

Moreover, the sown acreage of edible oil crops must be irrigated through modern techniques of pumping up the water in the summer in order to increase the per-acre yield of crops.

To be able to save the spending of foreign exchange used in the import of edible oil abroad, cultivable lands must be utilized for the cultivation of edible oil crops such as groundnut, sesame, canola and sunflower. Among them, sunflower can yield the largest volume of edible oil crops per acre. Hence, the production of sunflower oil can meet the local demand for appropriate oil consumption.

Awareness-raising measures must be taken for lessening the edible oil borne diseases that a large number of people suffer from. An adequate ratio of oil consumption will contribute much to enhancing the health and fitness of the entire people in line with the third social objective of the State. All the people need to launch their efforts because the second-best time is now.

All people should pass the message on to others, mentioning the danger of the high oil consumption rate. If they reduce edible oil consumption, they can save spending on buying the oil and protecting themselves against forthcoming diseases. So, they all need to know that good result is reachable.



Ukraine conflict threatens uneven COVID-19 recovery in Pacific region: World Bank

Countries in the East Asia-Pacific region were already seeing a decline in real incomes...

THE conflict in Ukraine threatens uneven recovery from the coronavirus pandemic among developing East Asian and Pacific countries, the World Bank said in a report on Tuesday.

“Just as the economies of East Asia and the Pacific were recovering from the pandemic-induced shock, the war in Ukraine is weighing on growth momentum,” World Bank Vice-President for East Asia and Pacific Manuela Ferro said. “The region’s largely strong fundamentals and sound policies should help it weather these storms.”

Countries in the East Asia-Pacific region

Countries in the East Asia-Pacific region that were large importers of fuel, such as Mongolia and Thailand, and big buyers of food, including the Pacific Islands, were already seeing a decline in real incomes, the report said.

Countries with large debt, like the Lao and Mongolia, and



A man wearing a face mask walks in front of a mural dedicated to frontline medical workers fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 29 Jan 2021. PHOTO: CHONG VOON CHUNG/XINHUA

those highly dependent on exports, like Malaysia and Vietnam, were susceptible to global financial and growth shocks, the report said.

While commodity producers and fiscally-prudent countries may be better equipped to weather shocks, the repercussions of these events will damp-

en growth prospects for most in the region, the report said.

Overall economic growth was projected to slow to 5 per cent in 2022 — a reduction of 0.4

percentage point than expected in October. If global conditions worsen and national policy responses remain weak, then growth could slow to 4 per cent, the report said.

China, which accounts for 86 per cent of regional output, was projected to grow 5 per cent in the baseline and 4 per cent in the downside scenario, the report said.

Output in the rest of the region was projected to expand 4.8 per cent in the baseline and 4.2 per cent in the downside scenario. In the downside scenario, 6 million more people in the region would remain trapped in poverty in 2022 at the \$5.50 per-day poverty line, the report said.

Magnifying existing post-COVID difficulties

“The war, financial tightening and China slowdown are likely to magnify existing post-COVID difficulties,” the report added. “Struggling regional firms, more than 50 per cent of which reported payment arrears in 2021, will

be hit by new supply and demand shocks. Households, many of whom fell back into poverty during the pandemic, will see real incomes shrink even further as prices soar.”

Indebted governments, who have seen their debt as a share of GDP increase by 10 percentage points since 2019, will struggle to provide economic support, the report added.

Increased inflation, at least 1.0 percentage point above previous expectations due to the oil price shock alone, will shrink room for monetary easing, according to the report.

The World Bank has downgraded its growth projections for Southeast Asia, due to “multiple shocks” in the global economy, including the war in Ukraine. The World Bank forecast region-wide growth of 5 per cent this year, down from a forecast of 5.4 per cent in its last outlook in October. Its “low case” scenario foresees growth dipping to 4 per cent in 2022.— ANI



Covid increases risk of blood clots for up to six months: study

PEOPLE who have had Covid-19 have an increased risk of developing serious blood clots for up to six months after getting infected, even in mild cases, a study said Thursday.

Previous research has indicated that Covid raises the risk of blood clots, but the new study in the BMJ medical journal shows how long the threat can linger.

To find out, researchers compared data from more than a million people in Sweden’s national registries who contracted Covid from February 2020 to May 2021, with a control groups of over four million who did not test positive.

They found that those with Covid had a higher risk of pulmonary embolism, a blood clot that blocks arteries in lungs, up to six months after infection.

Danger of deep vein thrombosis

There was also an increased danger of deep vein thrombosis — a blood clot normally in legs — up to three months after contracting Covid.

After adjusting for a range of factors, they found a 33-fold increase in the risk of

pulmonary embolism for those who had Covid, as well as a five-fold rise for deep vein thrombosis.

People who suffered severe symptoms from Covid those with pre-existing conditions were more at risk, the study found.

But even people who had mild cases that did not need hospitalization had a higher danger of pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis.

The chance of clotting was higher during the first wave of the pandemic than later stages, which the researchers said was due to vaccine coverage and better treatments as time went on.

The researchers said their findings had “major policy implications”, calling for more treatment to prevent blood clots from developing, particularly in high risk cases.

They also emphasised that their results highlighted the importance of getting vaccinated.

In a linked editorial, researchers from the University of Glasgow not involved in the study said it “reminds us of

the need to remain vigilant to the complications associated with even mild SARS-CoV-2 infection”.

Treating and diagnosing clots

When patients are admitted to hospital, for coronavirus or any other condition that leaves them bed-bound, it is common practice to administer low-dose blood thinners to prevent the development of blood clots.

However, given that patients with COVID-19 seem to be at a higher risk of developing blood clots, it’s currently being debated whether higher doses of blood thinners are required to prevent these clotting complications.

Trials are underway to attempt to answer this important question.

Diagnosing these blood clots in patients with COVID-19 can also be particularly challenging.

Firstly, the symptoms of a worsening lung infection associated with the virus can be indistinguishable from the symptoms of a pulmonary embolism.

Another challenge in COVID-19 is

that the virus can impact laboratory tests which may also be used to diagnose venous blood clots.

A good example of this is a test called D-dimer, which is a measure of clotting in the body. Normally, this test would be higher in almost everyone with new

venous blood clots. However, people with severe COVID-19 infection can also have an elevated D-dimer simply due to the severe infection. In some patients, this means that the test is no longer helpful to diagnose blood clots.

SOURCE: AFP



Health workers prepare to give people free Covid-19 tests at Barcroft Community Center in Arlington, Virginia, on 26 May 2021. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/OLIVIER DOULIERY/AFP

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed U Myo Myint, Deputy Director-General (Construction) of the Department of Building under the Ministry of Construction, as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 7 April 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 8 April, 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Kachin and southern Shan States, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and eastern Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and isolated in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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: Slight increase of day temperatures in Nay Pyi Taw, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 April 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 April 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 April 2022: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

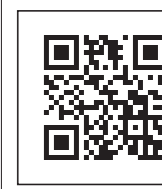
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COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

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.



A nurse administers a Covid-19 vaccine to a local in Tamway Township, Yangon Region.

On 6 April and yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams

from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave

COVID-19 vaccines to 5,639 people from sixteen townships in Shan State (North), 12,311

people from ten townships in Mon and Kayin States, 198 people from Tamway Township in Yangon Region, 37,838 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 1,375 from thirteen townships in Rakhine State, 75,100 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region and 375 people from Monyo and Htantabin Townships in Bago Region, respectively.

Similarly, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 24 students from Namkham township in Shan State (North) on 6 April.

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

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, electronics and unregistered motorbikes seized

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

On 5 April, the port on-duty inspection team under the management of the Customs Department carried out inspections at the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Inspection Station and electronics (estimated at K77,100,000), imported in violation of import licences, were seized. The action was taken under the Customs Law.

On 6 April, the combined inspection team led by the Forest Department under the management of the Kachin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force carried out inspections. It seized 25.2322

tonnes of illegal teak (estimated at K3,195,260) in Mohnyin and Bhamo Districts, and action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 6 April, the inspection team led by the Police Force under the management of the Sagaing Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force carried out inspections. It seized two unregistered motorbikes (estimated at K200,000) and an unregistered vehicle (estimated at 20,000,000) in Salingyi and Kalay townships.

On 7 April, a combined inspection team led by the Region Forest Department carried out inspections. It seized 5.0796 tonnes of illegal teak (estimated at K1,523,880). The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, the inspection team led by the Forest Department under the management of the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force carried out inspections. It seized 9.3468 tonnes of illegal timbers (estimated at K1,103,040) in Bago and Okpo (Setthwa forest reserve) Townships. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

A combined inspection team led by the Forest Department under the management of the Rakhine State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force carried out inspections. It seized 42.4422 tonnes of illegal timber (estimated at K5,260,560) in Pauktaw Township of Sittway District. The action was taken under the Forest



Seized goods.

Law.

Therefore, 16 arrests (estimated value of K108,382,740)

were made on 5, 6 and 7 April, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Illegal drugs worth K1.35 billion seized in Amarapura township



ILLEGAL drugs worth K1.35 billion were taken in Amarapura Township on 4 April, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

A collaborative team consisting of members of the Anti-Illegal Drug Police Force inspected the vehicle driven by Sai

Kham Khaing and accompanied by Sai Yi Seng and Lin Zaw Oo between mileposts (423/1) and (423/2) on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway, according to a report. It seized 800,000 stimulant tablets and five kilogrammes of Ketamine worth K1.35 billion from the vehicle.

It is reported that the confiscated illegal drugs were transported from Shan State (South) to Mandalay Region. Action is taken against the arrested suspects under the law, and the police are investigating to identify and arrest other suspects, according to the MPP. — MNA

Illegal drugs worth over K620 million seized in Myitkyina

ILLEGAL drugs worth over K620 million were seized in Myitkyina Township, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

A combined team consisting of members of the anti-illegal police force stopped two vehicles driven by Ma Nan Aung and Dwe Saing Mai on the Ywathit road, Tatkon ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State, at around 8 pm on 4 April, to search the vehicles according to the report.

Ma Nan Aung fled her vehicle, from which the police seized 1.1 kilogrammes of

opium. The statement of Dwe Saing Mai led the police to the house of Ma Nan Aung, and a Honda Fit vehicle was seized from the house.

At around 9:30 pm, 7.15 kilogrammes of opium and 280,000 stimulant tablets were confiscated from the house of Dwe Saing Mai. The confiscated illegal drugs were reportedly brought to Kachin State from Shan State (North). Action is taken against arrested suspects and the police are working to identify and arrest the related suspects under the law. — MNA

India's first case of XE COVID-19 variant reported in Mumbai



Healthcare workers collect nasal samples of passengers arriving from other states for the Covid-19 testing in Mumbai. PHOTO: ANI

INDIA on Wednesday reported its first case of the new XE variant of COVID-19 - which was first detected in the United Kingdom (UK). The case was detected in Mumbai, said officials while adding that a case of the Kappa variant was also reported in the country's financial capital.

"Results of 11th test under the Covid virus genetic formula determination - 228 or 99.13 per cent (230 samples) patients detected with Omicron. One patient affected by 'XE' variant and another is affected by the 'Kapa' variant of COVID19," news agency ANI quoted Greater Mumbai

Municipal Corporation (GMMC) as saying.

The XE variant, detected first in the UK, is a mutation of strains of the Omicron variant that had caused the third wave of the pandemic in India. According to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), XE has a growth rate of 9.8 per cent, which is above the stealth BA.2 Omicron variant.

"So far there is not enough evidence to draw conclusions about transmissibility, severity or vaccine effectiveness," the UKHSA said. "As this estimate has not remained consistent as

new data have been added, it cannot yet be interpreted as an estimate of growth advantage for the recombinant."

Meanwhile, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued a warning against the XE variant, saying it has detected "significant differences in transmission and disease characteristics, including severity".

"The XE recombinant (BA.1-BA.2), was first detected in the UK on 19 January and less than 600 sequences have been reported and confirmed since," the WHO said in a report, as reported by news agency IANS.

"Early-day estimates indicate a community growth rate advantage of 10 per cent as compared to BA.2, however, this finding requires further confirmation."

"WHO continues to closely monitor and assess the public health risk associated with recombinant variants, alongside other SARS-CoV-2 variants, and will provide updates as further evidence becomes available," the global health body noted.— ANI ■

Shanghai's temporary hospitals expected to accommodate over 70,000 patients

APPROXIMATELY 47,700 beds have been set up in a number of newly built temporary hospitals in Shanghai, with another 30,000 being readied, as the city is sparing no effort to contain its latest resurgence of COVID-19.

A total of 62 temporary quarantine sites have been designated in hotels, stadiums, exhibition centres and training centres, said Gu Honghui, deputy secretary-general of the municipal government.

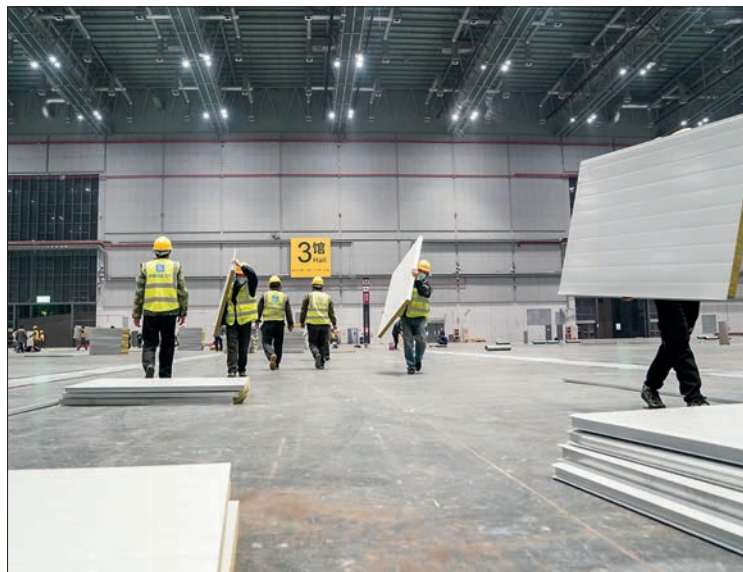
Gu said new positive cases must be quarantined immediately and receive proper treatment at designated facilities.

Shanghai reported 13,354 new locally transmitted COVID-19 confirmed and asymptomatic cases on Monday, bringing the city's total number of local cases to over 73,000 in the latest resurgence, which began in March.

All wards in the city's largest temporary hospital in the Shanghai New International Expo Centre have entered

use, and they can accommodate nearly 15,000 people infected with COVID-19, according to the municipal government.

A total of 2,218 medical staffers from 11 medical teams, including one from the Shanghai Children's Medical Centre,



People work at the National Exhibition and Convention Centre in east China's Shanghai, 5 April 2022. Shanghai is converting the National Exhibition and Convention Centre (NECC) into a makeshift hospital with a planned capacity of 40,000 beds. PHOTO: XINHUA

have been stationed at the hospital.

The city's first parent-child quarantine area has also become operational since Monday evening, as the hospital admitted approximately 4,000 patients on that day.—Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Most residents in US California favour continuing COVID-19 restrictions: survey

THOUGH most coronavirus-related policies are expiring and cases remain low in California, a new survey showed that most residents in the most populous US state are in favour of efforts to control the spread of COVID-19, even if this means having some restrictions.

The results of the statewide survey from the Public Policy Institute of California were posted on the website of the non-profit research institution on Wednesday. The survey, fielded from March 6-17 of 1,672 adults, showed that more than six in ten Californians still favour COVID-19 restrictions. Of those surveyed, 46 per cent favour strongly, 18 per cent favour somewhat.

The survey showed surprisingly large gender differences on this issue as women (57 per cent) are far more likely to strongly favour controlling the spread than men (35 per cent). — Xinhua ■

Direct Biologics reveals successful outcomes from EXIT COVID-19 Phase II Clinical Trial

Direct Biologics, a regenerative biotechnology company with a life-saving mesenchymal stem cell (MSC) derived extracellular vesicle (EV) platform technology, announces topline results from its first-in-human, multicentre, Phase II double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized clinical trial, EXIT COVID-19, today which used the EV product ExoFlo to treat COVID-19 related Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS).

"Overall, ExoFlo demonstrated a robust safety and efficacy profile that warrants further clinical investigation with a pivotal Phase III study. In addition to an unequaled reduction in 60-day mortality rate of 37.6% in comparison to placebo, no reportable adverse events were observed," said Dr Vikram Sengupta, Chief Medical Officer. "ExoFlo also substantially outperformed placebo with respect to time to discharge and ventilator free days. — ANI ■

New candidate vaccines against COVID-19 variants designed: study



Vials are seen during the fill and finish operation for Sinovac vaccines at Malaysian pharmaceutical company Pharmaniaga on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 5 Oct 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHU WEI

CHINESE scientists have described a new strategy for making vaccines against COVID-19 that could elicit effective neutralizing antibodies against the Omicron and Delta variants.

Researchers led by Wei Wensheng from Peking University developed a platform to produce the next-generation vaccine design or circular RNA (circRNA) vaccines.

The spike protein of the virus that causes COVID-19

has been used as the primary target of mRNA vaccines. But those vaccines with a linear RNA structure tend to miss the target in neutralizing emerging variants.

The circRNA vaccines with a closed ring structure are more stable than mRNA vaccines, thus inducing more potent humoral and cellular immune responses, according to the study recently published in the journal Cell.—Xinhua ■

IEA to release 120 mil. barrels of oil reserves to tame prices



An employee checks a pipe at the construction site of a gas metering station, part of the pipeline link between Bulgaria and Greece. PHOTO: AFP

THE International Energy Agency is moving ahead with a collective oil stock release of 120 million barrels in an effort to curb surging energy prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the intergovernmental body's chief disclosed Wednesday.

IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol tweeted the amount includes 60 million barrels contributed by the United States as part of its overall draw from its Strategic Petroleum Reserve and that more details of specific

contributions from member countries will be announced soon.

The move marks the second coordinated oil stock release by the Paris-based agency, whose 31 members include the United States, Japan and most of Europe but not Russia, since Moscow's invasion began on 24 Feb. IEA member countries had previously pledged to tap a total of 62.7 million barrels in March.

The IEA agreed at an extraordinary meeting earlier this month that the new release of

oil was necessary to stabilize the global energy market, which has been in turmoil due to the military aggression by Russia — the world's third largest oil producer -- against its neighbor.

In late March, Washington announced plans for its largest-ever release of emergency oil reserves, totaling 180 million barrels over six months. The amount includes the 60 million barrels to be contributed to the IEA coordinated action, according to local media reports.—Kyodo ■

Ukraine war, energy crisis force UK into fossil fuels rethink

GIVEN the climate emergency, the UN chief says that investing now in fossil fuels is "moral and economic madness". But given the energy shock from the war in Ukraine, Britain is set to do just that.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government will on Thursday release a much-delayed energy strategy that will call for more renewable power from nuclear, offshore wind and solar.

But it will also invite new licences to drill for North Sea oil and gas and help alleviate price pressures "in the nearer term", according to an outline of the plan released in advance by the government.

The strategy "will reduce our dependence on power sources exposed to volatile international prices we cannot control, so we can enjoy greater energy self-sufficiency with cheaper bills", Johnson said in a statement. When Britain hosted the COP26 climate summit in November, the prime minister sounded as ominous as any environmentalist in warning governments about the dangers of inaction.—AFP ■



Cows graze in a field as work got underway on a drill site for a fracking project near Blackpool, in northwest England, before fracking was banned in 2019. PHOTO: OLI SCARFF/AFP

China's marine economy logs steady growth in 2021

CHINA'S gross ocean product rose 8.3 per cent to over 9 trillion yuan (about 1.41 trillion US dollars) in 2021, official data showed.

The figure contributed 8 percent of the country's gross domestic product expansion, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

In breakdown, the marine transportation sector maintained robust growth, with the cargo and container throughput at coastal ports reporting year-on-year growth of 5.2 per cent and 6.4 per cent, respectively, said the ministry. The added value of marine biomedicine climbed 18.7 per cent year on year to 49.4 billion yuan



Photo taken on 8 June 2021 shows a partial view of the Deep Sea No. 1 oil production and storage facility located at Lingshui 17-2 gas field some 150 km off the island province of Hainan. PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHANG JIANSONG

in 2021, thanks to increasing policy support, it said.

Coastal tourism gradually recovered as policies to stimulate consumption and help enterprises tide over difficulties were intro-

duced, while the industry recorded around 1.53 trillion yuan in added value over the period, up 12.8 per cent from the previous year, according to the ministry.—Xinhua ■

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (060-715N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-4-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority**

Agent For:
M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE LTD

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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
Myanmar Port Authority**

Agent For:
M/S X-PRESS FEEDERS LINES

New Tesla factory another win for business-friendly Texas

TESLA'S unveiling this week of a new auto factory in Austin has highlighted corporate America's growing affinity for Texas compared with California and other states seen as less business-friendly.

The state, bigger than France in land mass and second among US states to California in population, has become the location of

choice for Tesla CEO Elon Musk's new "Gigafactory."

The new factory will be officially presented at what Musk has dubbed a "Cyber Rodeo" on Thursday, with up to 15,000 visitors.

Last year, Tesla moved its corporate headquarters from Silicon Valley to Austin. And Tesla is far from alone in picking the Lone Star state as its corpo-

rate seat. Texas Governor Greg Abbott has spoken of the state's commitment to "economic liberty". In practice that means Texas is one of just a handful of US states with no individual income tax, or a corporate income tax.

The state also is aggressive about offering subsidies to attract businesses and new jobs.—AFP



Preparations on the eve of the grand opening of the Tesla factory, 6 April 2022 in Austin, Texas. PHOTO: SUZANNE CORDEIRO/AFP

Samsung forecasts Q1 operating profit up 50.3% year-on-year

SAMSUNG Electronics expects operating profits for the first quarter to rise 50.3 per cent, the South Korean tech giant said in a statement Thursday, despite global supply chain woes.

The world's biggest smartphone maker forecast 2022 first-quarter operating profits of about 14.1 trillion won (\$11.6 billion), up from 9.4 trillion won in the same quarter last year. Samsung did not provide details on the performance of its various divisions. The company is expected to release its full results on 28 April.

Analysts said the forecast was likely driven by strong smartphone sales, but warned of an expected drop in profits in the memory chip division. "Price decline in memory chips will be contained on the back of stronger than expected demand," Kim Un-ho, an analyst at IBK Investment & Securities, said in a report. Profits in Samsung's mobile business are expected to soar by 55.8 per cent compared with Q4, to over 4.1 trillion won, offsetting an anticipated six per cent decline in profits from its memory chips division, the report said.—AFP

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(Reg. No. IV/2120/2022) (March 18, 2022)

Use in respect of: - "Pharmaceutical preparations;" (International Class 5)



(Reg. No. IV/2121/2022) (March 18, 2022)

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Moe Mynn Thu (LL.B, LL.M, M.Res)
Rouse Myanmar
For Merck Sharp & Dohme B.V.
Email: myanmar@rouse.com
Dated: April 8, 2022

MYANMA Port Authority "NOTICE of High Tide"

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.11 feet to 20.18 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of April 18th to April 19th, 2022. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

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1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(1)	IFB/001(22-23)	Cement Additive (6) Itmes	US\$
(2)	DMP/L-034(22-23)	Spares for Caterpillar G3412 Generating Set Gas Engine (157) Items	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-035(22-23)	Spares for MTU Engine Ex 1.5 MW Generating Set (56) Items	Ks
(4)	DMP/L-036(22-23)	Spares for Volvo Tractors (50) Items	Ks
(5)	DMP/L-037(22-23)	Spares for (SC 400-2) Sumitomo Crane (65) Items	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-038(22-23)	Industrial Raw Materials (2) Groups	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-039(22-23)	Class 'G' Cement (1000) Ton	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-040(22-23)	4 1/2" Drill Pipe G 105 (1200) Meter	Ks
(9)	DMP/L-041(22-23)	Spares for Kwangshin CNG Compressor (46) Items	Ks
(10)	DMP/L-042(22-23)	Spares for Clean Energy (Mother & Daughter) CNG Compressor (1MW) (42) Items	Ks
(11)	DMP/L-043(22-23)	Spares for Suction Dryer (3) Items	Ks
(12)	DMP/L-044(22-23)	Spares for L-Type & ZW-Type Dispenser (10) Items	Ks
(13)	DMP/L-045(22-23)	Motor Power Cable, Building Lighting & Security Lighting Accessories (27) Items	Ks
(14)	DMP/L-046(22-23)	Spare Parts For Generator (G 3412) (86) Items	Ks
(15)	DMP/L-047(22-23)	Maintenance, Inspection and Spare Requirement Services Contract for PLC (Daw Nyein) (1) Lot	Ks
(16)	DMP/L-048(22-23)	Electronic Flow Measurement System Maintenance, Services and Spare Requirement for (Yenangyaung/Magway/Kyawzwa/Titut) (1) Lot	Ks
(17)	DMP/L-049(22-23)	Window Application Software and Workstation Software (2) Groups	Ks
(18)	DMP/L-050(22-23)	Assorted Sizes for Tyre (1) Lot	Ks
(19)	DMP/L-051(22-23)	Acquisition and Survey Instruments and Accessories (6) Items	Ks
(20)	DMP/L-052(22-23)	Electrical Accessories for Pyay Oil Field (3) Groups	Ks
(21)	DMP/L-053(22-23)	Electrical Accessories for TSB,TGG and YNM Oil Field (23) Items	Ks
(22)	DMP/L-054(22-23)	Electrical Accessories for ZJ 70L SR-1 (29) Items	Ks
(23)	DMP/L-055(22-23)	Electrical Accessories for CHK Oil Field (26) Items	Ks
(24)	DMP/L-056(22-23)	Electrical Accessories for TKA, MUB, NDN and MDY Oil Field (6) Groups	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 7 April 2022 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **12:00 pm on 29, April 2022.**

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **29-4-2022, 12:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

Israel's Bennett loses majority after MP quits coalition

A key member of Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's Yamina party said Wednesday she was quitting his coalition government, in a surprise move that leaves him without a parliamentary majority.

Idit Silman's announcement left Bennett's coalition, an alliance of parties ranging from the Jewish right and Israeli doves to an Arab Muslim party, with 60 seats -- the same as the opposition.

"I tried the path of unity. I worked a lot for this coalition," Silman, a religious conservative who served as coalition chairperson, said in a statement.

"Sadly, I cannot take part in harming the Jewish identity of Israel."

On Monday, Silman lashed out at Health Minister Nitzan Horowitz, after he instructed hospitals to allow leavened bread products into their facilities during the upcoming Passover holiday, in line with a recent supreme court ruling reversing years of prohibition.

Jewish tradition bars unleavened bread from the public domain during Passover.

"I am ending my membership of the coalition and will try to continue to talk my friends into returning home and form-

ing a right-wing government," Silman said.

"I know I'm not the only one who feels this way."

Bennett's coalition may continue ruling with 60 seats, although with difficulty passing new legislation. If another member of the coalition defects, however, the Knesset could hold a vote of no confidence and potentially lead Israel back to the polls for a fifth parliamentary election in four years. Political analyst Dahlia Scheindlin told AFP that if Silman "is the first person to really prepare to bring down the government, she is doing it from the place of conviction".—AFP ■



A general view shows Israel's Knesset (parliament) in Jerusalem. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

NEWS IN BRIEF

SL president will not resign: chief whip

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa will not resign under any circumstance, Chief Government Whip Johnston Fernando told the parliament on Wednesday, reported Xinhua.

Addressing the parliament session on Wednesday, Fernando said 6.9 million citizens of the country had voted for the president.

"As a member of a responsible government, I can assure you that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa will not resign from his post under any circumstances. We will face this challenge," Fernando said.—Xinhua ■

China to regulate use of Chinese characters

The Chinese government has launched a nationwide campaign to regulate the use of Chinese characters in publications and on radio, TV, and the internet.

The National Press and Publication Administration and the National Radio and Television Administration jointly launched a notice, asking local authorities to investigate and correct the misuse of Chinese characters in traditional publications such as books and newspapers, online publications, advertisements, radio, TV programs, and online audio and video programs.—Xinhua ■

Yemen's president transfers power to new leadership council: state media



Yemen's president announced Thursday he had formed a new council to lead the war-racked country, state media reported, a major shake-up in the coalition battling Huthi rebels. PHOTO: OFFICIAL INSTAGRAM PAGE/AFP

YEMEN'S president announced Thursday he had formed a new council to lead the war-racked country, state media reported, a major shake-up in the coalition battling Huthi rebels.

"I irreversibly delegate to this presidential leadership

council my full powers," President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi said in a televised statement early Thursday, the final day of peace talks held in Saudi Arabia's capital.

Hadi's internationally recognised government, supported

by a Saudi-led military coalition, and the Iran-backed Huthi rebels have been locked in a violent power struggle since 2014, when the insurgents seized the capital Sanaa.

A United Nations-brokered truce that started Saturday — the first day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan — has offered a glimmer of hope in the conflict considered the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The truce came as the peace talks were unfolding in Riyadh without the participation of the Huthis, who refused to hold talks on "enemy" territory. Some analysts had cast doubt on what the negotiations could achieve in the absence of the Huthis, but Thursday's news could mean sometimes fractious anti-Huthi forces are united in any future negotiations.—AFP ■

Germany stages country-wide raids against 'neo-Nazi networks'



People hold a banner which reads 'We are the people' as they take part in a march organised by the right-wing populist 'Pro Chemnitz' movement, on 14 September 2018 in Chemnitz, the flashpoint eastern city that saw protests marred by neo-Nazi violence. PHOTO: GETTY/AFP/FILE

INVESTIGATORS swooped on suspected neo-Nazi militant cells across Germany on Wednesday and arrested four suspects as the country pursues a forceful crackdown on far-right extremists. In what Der Spiegel magazine called "the biggest blow against the militant neo-Nazi scene in the recent past", the federal prosecutor's office said officers staged dawn raids at the homes of 50 suspects in 11 states.

"The four men arrested are accused of membership of a right-wing extremist criminal organization," it said in a statement, as

well as charges including grievous bodily harm. Spiegel reported that one of the suspects was a non-commissioned officer in the German military. More than 800 police officers were involved in detaining the suspects and conducting the searches.

'Biggest threat'

The targets are believed to belong to the far-right martial arts group Knockout 51, the banned Combat 18 named after the order in the alphabet of Adolf Hitler's initials, US-based Atomwaffen (Atomic Weapons) Division or the

Sonderkommando 14/18. Three of the men now in custody, identified only as Leon R., Maximilian A. and Eric K., were detained in the eastern town of Eisenach. The fourth, Bastian A., was picked up in Rotenburg an der Fulda in central Germany.

The investigation, which used information from the domestic security watchdog, the MAD military intelligence unit and the federal police force, "showed evidence of the suspects having personal ties to the far-right martial arts and music scenes".—AFP ■

Russia-Ukraine talks continue: Kremlin

RUSSIA and Ukraine are continuing negotiations but there remains a long way to go, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Wednesday.

“There is still quite a long road ahead ... The working process is continuing, but more viscerally than we want,” Peskov told a daily briefing, stressing that Moscow would like Kiev to be more active during the negotiations.

The withdrawal of Russian troops from the Kyiv region was to facilitate the peace talks, he told France’s LCI broadcaster earlier in the day.

Russia is interested in Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky agreeing to Russia’s conditions, which were clearly formulated by the Russian delegation, so that the military operation will come to an end, he said.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said the talks between Ukraine and



The wreckage of a car is seen at the central square of Borodyanka, northwest of Kyiv, on Monday. PHOTO: SERGEI SUPINSKY/AFP

Russia will continue despite the evidence of “atrocities carried out by the Russian military”, the Ukrinform news agency reported.

“In any case, we must find even small opportunities for the negotiation process. Without this, I think it is difficult to end the war,” Zelensky was quoted as saying in an interview with Turkey’s Haberturk television

channel on Wednesday.

He emphasised the importance of the mediation mission of other countries, including Turkey, in the talks, Xinhua news agency reported.

At least 280 people, including children, were found dead in Bucha, some 28 km northwest of Kyiv after the Ukrainian army retook control of the town from the Russian military.—Xinhua ■

Red Cross evacuee convoy arrives from Russian-held city



A young evacuee with her dog arrives in Zaporizhzhia on 6 April 2022. PHOTO: AFP

A Red Cross convoy arrived in the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia on Wednesday after failing to reach the besieged port city of Mariupol, an AFP journalist on the scene reported.

Accompanied by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), seven buses and at least 40 private cars arrived in the city carrying hundreds of evacuees from Russian-occupied

areas, in what was the first successful international evacuation six weeks into the war.

The ICRC said most of the people arriving were in fact from Mariupol, which is still held by Ukrainian forces, but had been evacuated from the nearby Russian-held city of Berdiansk.

“These people have really gone through the worst,” ICRC spokesperson Lucile Marbeau told AFP.

“We’ve been hearing people saying how they had to walk out of Mariupol. There in Mariupol there is still no food, no water, no electricity.”

Marbeau explained that there was “barely any connection” for residents to be able to call their families or try and find a way out.—AFP ■

Ukrainian president orders formal halt of trade with Russia

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky instructed the government to formalize the cessation of Ukraine’s trade with Russia, the presidential press service said in a statement Wednesday.

In fact, import and export operations between Ukraine and Russia have been completely terminated since the start of the conflict, the statement said.

According to Ukraine’s Fiscal Service, Ukraine saw a 38.7

per cent year-on-year growth in trade with Russia in 2021 with a value of 10.09 billion US dollars. Exports grew by 26.5 per cent to 3.44 billion dollars, while imports increased by 45.9 per cent to 6.65 billion dollars.—Xinhua ■

QUICK SUMMARY

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

Residents in East told to leave

Ukraine tells residents in the country’s east to evacuate “now” or “risk death” ahead of a feared Russian onslaught on the Donbas region, which Moscow has declared its top prize.

President Volodymyr Zelensky says Russia is working to “accumulate fighting force to realize their ill ambitions in Donbas”.

Putin speaks on Bucha

Russian President Vladimir Putin meanwhile accuses Ukrainian authorities of being behind “crude and cynical provocations” in Bucha, with Moscow denying any responsibility.

Putin daughters sanctioned

The United States announces sanctions on two of Putin’s daughters, saying family members are known to hide the Russian president’s wealth.

It also declared “full blocking” sanctions on Russia’s largest public and private financial institutions, Sberbank and Alfa Bank, and says all new US investments in Russia are now prohibited.

The EU is also looking to add Putin’s daughters to its sanctions blacklist, European diplomats tell AFP.

Putin ‘still wants all Ukraine’

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg says there is no sign Putin has dropped “his ambition to control the whole of Ukraine”.

UN rights body suspension

The UN General Assembly votes Thursday on suspending Russia from the UN Human Rights Council as punishment for invading Ukraine.

SOURCE: AFP

NEWS DIGEST

US set to impose more sanctions on Russia

The United States on Wednesday imposed additional sanctions on Russia for its military operation in Ukraine, targeting the country’s major financial institutions and the two daughters of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

According to a factsheet from the White House detailing the measures, US President Joe Biden will sign an executive order banning new investment in Russia by Americans no matter where they live.

Additionally, Americans will no longer be allowed to conduct business transactions with major Russian state-owned enterprises, whose assets subject to US jurisdiction will be frozen. The US Department of the Treasury will announce the names of these entities on Thursday.

Hungary’s PM proposes Russia-Ukraine ceasefire talks in Budapest

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Wednesday invited Putin to a summit meeting in Budapest to make progress toward an immediate ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine.

Orban said that he spoke on the phone with Putin, who called him Wednesday morning to congratulate him on his election victory.

“I know (a ceasefire) is not going to happen by itself, so I invited Putin, the presidents of Ukraine and France, and the German chancellor to Budapest, the sooner the better,” Orban said.

SOURCE: XINHUA

SEA Games Men's Football: Myanmar faces host Viet Nam in Group A



PHOTO: ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

ACCORDING to the Asian Football Confederation, Myanmar is included in the same Group A against host Viet Nam

in the South-East Asian Games (SEA Games) men's football tourney.

Among the teams in the

same group, Myanmar will face Timor-Leste and the Philippines, who met Myanmar at the 2019 SEA Games.

The winner of the 2019 SEA Games Men's Football tourney, Viet Nam and first-runners up Indonesia, and second-runners up Myanmar, are surprisingly placed in the same group.

The SEA Games national football tournament is open to under-22 players and three senior players.

Group matches will be held from 6 to 16 May. The semifinal matches will be played on 19 May, and the third and final round will be held on 22 May.

The entire tournament will be held from 6 to 22 May, with the top two teams from each group advancing to the semi-finals. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM ■

Ajax boss Ten Hag closes in on United job: reports

ERIK ten Hag is the strong favourite to be named Manchester United's next full-time manager, dealing a crushing blow to the dreams of embattled Paris Saint-Germain coach Mauricio Pochettino, according to British media reports on Thursday.

Both the BBC and the Daily Mail claim the 52-year-old Ajax manager is seen as fitting the profile the United board want for the man who they hope will restore the glory days the club enjoyed under Alex Ferguson.

The Mail says United held talks with Ajax — whose chief executive is former United goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar — at

the end of last week about the conditions under which Ten Hag can leave. His contract is up at the end of next season and would cost United around £1.6 million (\$2.1 million) to prise him away whereas PSG might demand a far larger sum for Pochettino to leave. However, Pochettino's position at PSG is far from secure after a disappointing exit in the last 16 of the Champions League — the barometer by which coaches at the Qatar-owned club are judged.

Ten Hag — whose Ajax side were denied a place in the 2019 Champions League final in the final minute by Pochettino when he managed Tottenham — has



Ajax coach Erik ten Hag is seen as the favourite to be given the challenge of turning Manchester United's fortunes round according to British media reports. PHOTO: ANP/AFP

been interviewed by United and is said to have demanded backing from United to pursue his transfer targets. — AFP ■

Benzema finds recognition at last after magical night for Real Madrid

REAL Madrid might want both Kylian Mbappe and Erling Haaland this summer but Ka-

rim Benzema's latest Champions League hat-trick shows they already have the world's deadliest



Karim Benzema's hat-trick against Chelsea on Wednesday put Real Madrid in sight of the Champions League semi-finals. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

number nine.

There is an even an argument to say Benzema is the finest player in the world full-stop right now, after he upstaged Mbappe in Madrid's demolition of Paris Saint-Germain in the last 16 and with Liverpool's Mohamed Salah struggling for form.

Carlo Ancelotti said in November Benzema was "not crying" about another Ballon d'Or passing him by, the rankings instead putting the Frenchman fourth. — AFP ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Russian, Belarusian runners banned from Boston Marathon



Kenya's Lawrence Cherono edges Ethiopia's Lelisa Desisa for first place in the Men's Elite race at the 123rd Boston Marathon on 15 April 2019 in Boston, Massachusetts. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

RUSSIAN and Belarusian runners will not be allowed to take part in this year's Boston Marathon because of the invasion of Ukraine, organisers said on Wednesday. Russian and Belarusian athletes living in their respective countries are barred from the 18 April race, the Boston Athletic Association said.

However, Russian and Belarusian citizens not residing in either country would be

allowed to take part, but not under the flag of either nation.

"Like so many around the world we are horrified and outraged by what we have seen and learned from the reporting in Ukraine," Boston Athletic Association chief executive Tom Grilk said. "We believe that running is a global sport, and as such, we must do what we can to show our support to the people of Ukraine," Grilk added in a statement. — AFP ■