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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.

Only when the country earns increased finance will it provide necessary aid to service personnel and fulfil the needs of the nation: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting 3/2022 of the Union government in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 May 2022.

A government responsible for the nation's economic development needs to take this into consideration, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 3/2022 of the Union government yesterday.

In his speech, the Senior General said the government needs to implement suitable projects and re-improve administrative, economic and political arenas to enable the people to walk on the path of democracy the people inspire.

Efforts are being made to implement the democratization process in the country. All citizens have the right to democracy. Being citizens, all civil service personnel on duty need to be free from party politics according to the experience of the nation and the Constitution.

Democratic rights of citizens and civil service personnel

Efforts are being made to implement the democratization process in the country. All citizens have the right to democracy.

Terror acts of PDF at home and involvement of local and foreign organizations

NUG formed so-called PDF terrorist groups with the support

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... the government needs to implement suitable projects and re-improve administrative, economic and political arenas to enable the people to walk on the path of democracy the people inspire.

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Tatmadaw sea-going hospital vessel (Thanlwin) offers medical treatment to residents in Cocokyun Township, Yangon Region



THE Tatmadaw sea-going hospital ship (Thanlwin) which plans to provide medical services to the residents of Cocokyun Township, Yangon Region and the coastal region of the Tanin-

thayi Region offered healthcare services to 285 patients at Cocokyun People's Hospital yesterday.

As such doings, healthcare services were provided to 65 medical treatment patients, surgeries to 18 patients, 28 patients with obstetric/gynaecological diseases, 32 child disease patients, 43 orthopaedic patients, 19 patients with ear/nose/throat, 53 eyes related patients and 27 patients with oral disease.

Moreover, the medics conducted operations on four general patients and diagnosed 17 x-ray patients, 20 ultrasound scanning patients, 22 patients for ECG and 76 patients for lab tests. — MNA

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.

On 4 May 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 1,360 people from Kengtung and Tachilek townships in Shan State (East), 5147 people from thirteen townships in Mon and Kayin States, 560 people from Tamway Township in Yangon Region, 17,332 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 14,926 people from thirteen townships in Rakhine State, 24,747 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region and 250 people from three Township townships in Bago Region, respectively.

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

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

THE Ministry of Commerce oversees the importation of necessary medical supplies and anti-COVID-19 devices critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities through trading posts and international airports and seaports.

Packs of 1.60 tonnes of masks were imported by a company yesterday.

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

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments to prevent COVID-19, and contact persons for enquiries can be reached through the Ministry's Website – www.commerce.gov.mm. — MNA



A local in Tachilek Township, Shan State gets COVID-19 vaccine shot.



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Only when the country earns increased finance will it ...

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of terrorism oriented local and foreign organizations, causing terror acts in the nation. Some EAOs breaking ethnics participate in the cases. As such, the unrest at home became terror acts. Some persons supply necessary explosives and ordinance to PDFs. Some of them are being taken action. Now, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Tatmadaw and relevant organizations are taking security measures and restoring peace and stability for the nation. Some ethnic armed organizations do not accept terrorism.

Regarding the situation to restore peace, the Senior General said: Past 12 February was the Diamond Jubilee Union Day. Coming 4 January will be Diamond Jubilee Independence Day. Union Day was based on the Panglong Agreement signed in 1947. The ethnic armed conflict based on various definitions and demands over the agreement turns 75. Political attitudes happened to diversity after the country had regained Independence in 1948. The armed conflict of communists, which started on 28 March 1948, gave birth to the internal armed conflicts. When the ethnic affairs worsened, some parts of the Tatmadaw went underground. Some officials were forced to retire. It cannot be healed. The governments in successive have been striving to solve such problems. U Nu, in his tenure, extended the invitation for peace talks. Some of them achieved success, but some failed. Thousands of persons abandoned arms. These can be seen in the records. In his tenure, General Ne Win gave offers of peace. There is a significant and historic photo. With the caption: "They left here", the picture bore the moves of BCP crossing the creek in Paukkaung and leaving the above-ground meeting. It is a historic photo. At that time, the KNC group led by Saw Hunter Tha Hmwe signed the peace agreement. After the Revolutionary Council era, U Ne Win in the Lanzin Party era made efforts for the peace invitation, but the efforts failed. During its tenure, the Tatmadaw government ceased fire with ethnic armed organizations across the nation to restore peace in 1989. The agreements could not be signed, but gentlemen's agreements were

taken. They were UWSA Wa group, Mongla group, and U Zakhun Ting Ring's Special Region 1, 2 and 3. The peace agreement could not be signed. In 2015 during the tenure of President U Thein Sein, our efforts reached the signing of the NCA. But it was not thoroughly completed. From 2016 to 2020, the Union Peace Conference (21st Century Panglong) was held. The coming year's Independence Day will be the Diamond Jubilee Anniversary. Till today, we, our country, have not tasted the fruits of peace, democratic rights and the Independence yet. So, I told you last year that I'd like to try hard to set the year of peace this year. This year, I extended an invitation for peace on 22 April. If we invite the peace process, they said they want to discuss it. They said something about it. Their attitudes are in diversity depending on leaders and members as well as kinds of groups. Some groups accepted the invitation. Some groups responded to us for reporting to someone or seeking the decision of the committees. Simply, I said I invited you all to hold peace talks. I will meet with the leaders of organizations. I will meet organizations individually. Leaders should come here together with two members for discussions. First, I will meet with them. After that, the peace talks committee formed with three SAC members will meet with the groups individually. After holding discussions, I will explain it. We will negotiate with them for their wishes as much as possible. In this regard, we have to deal with each group. But, we decided to implement democratization at first. We will shape the country in democratic administration to be a democratic country. It is also an aspiration of the entire people.

So, if we review it, we will find the hierarchic administration and sharing of a power system. So, it can be found that we have to implement a federalism administration system suitable for Myanmar as the best. So, after I have explained it to all ethnic armed organizations to have a thorough understanding, we will discuss their wishes and explain the situations of the country. I will listen to all their discussions. And they have to review the deserved situations. So, I have given an

offer of peace to them.

Need to make efforts to develop the nation

It is necessary to efficiently utilize the existing underground and above ground natural resources to enable the people to earn income and job opportunities. Hence, agricultural and livestock tasks must be done to produce value-added products to be exported to domestic and international markets. As agriculture and livestock is the basic product of Myanmar, all need to strive to secure success.

Needs for full electrification for development of the nation

Electricity is essential for the improvement of a nation. The country faces electricity

one-season crops are grown can be placed under edible oil crops in the double-cropping pattern, it can contribute to the domestic oil deficiency and reduce importing cooking oil. Hence, arrangements must be made to supply water and inputs to these farmlands. Some agro-based products leave feedstuffs beneficial for agricultural and livestock farming works, creating job opportunities.

Need to generate jobs at home

There are some three million graduates in the country. Those graduates need to participate in the manufacturing and medium scale industries depending on their qualifications. It is necessary to operate the manufacturing works across the nation. If the job op-

portunities suitable for Myanmar. A government responsible for the nation's economic development needs to take this into consideration.

Need to turn out the educated for development of the nation

The matriculation examination results will be announced at the designated time. In the coming year, it is necessary to encourage education. Some a half of population faces weakness in education. Only when the country has plentiful educated persons will the country undertake the development tasks successfully. To do so, the Ministry of Education, together with relevant ministries, are to implement education development projects.

Need to have success in works

It is necessary to supervise the personnel to have good relations with the people. The Senior General stressed the need to release the correct information to the people and submit correct and accurate data to the government. Only when data and facts are correct will it contribute much to the success of the process undertaken by the government.

The Union Ministers reported on their relevant work sectors.

In conclusion, the Senior General said as training to secure success in sports is designed to discharge the State duties, officials need to recognize their efforts and moves. The government considers guarantees for the lives of selected athletes.

At present, most youths have lesser patriotic and nationalistic spirits. Hence, it is necessary to teach, discuss and train those youths to foster a nationalistic spirit. Relevant ministries and organizations conduct cultural courses for youths. Those who initiate the fostering of nationalistic and patriotic spirit must conform to the national characteristics. Entertainments of artistes must give a nationalistic spirit to the people. Ministries need to strive to earn the deserved incomes. Only when the country earns increased finance will it provide necessary aid to service personnel and fulfil the nation's needs.—MNA

The government needs to initiate the production of foodstuffs and personnel goods. Only when the country earns deserved income will it implement the projects for the people. It is necessary to encourage ethnic businesspersons to operate manufacturing in industries suitable for Myanmar. A government responsible for the nation's economic development needs to take this into consideration.

deficiency not only in previous years but this year. Mainly, the rareness of diesel, coal, and natural gas inputs and the high price affect the electrification process. The government is trying its best to overcome these challenges. Hence, the government will do its utmost to reduce fuel consumption and full supply of electricity in the 2022-2023 financial year.

Needs for the development of works

There are more than 33 million acres of net sown acreage in the country, but most of the farmlands are under one season crops with at least double cropping and mix-cropping works. If the lands where

opportunity is booming at home, the number of labourers who flow out will decline. So, the country can mitigate the loss of labour. These tasks must be done from the basic status. And Union ministers and region and state chief ministers are to implement these projects.

Need to upgrade domestic production for local economic development

The government needs to initiate the production of foodstuffs and personnel goods. Only when the country earns deserved income will it implement the projects for the people. It is necessary to encourage ethnic businesspersons to operate manufacturing in in-

Tatmadaw members should not commit carelessness for their duties as they are assigned round the clock: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets officers, other ranks and families in Cocokyun on 5 May 2022.

TATMADAW members in far-flung areas have to live in unison inside and outside the military units to prevent terror dangers, said State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win while meeting officers, other ranks and families in Cocokyun yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General said Tatmadaw members in far-flung areas have to live in unison inside and outside the military units to prevent terror dan-

gers. Sports contribute to unity. As the government allotted the budget for the infrastructures for Tatmadaw members and families, it is necessary to maintain the structures for long-term existence systematically. The Tatmadaw members must always take training for discharging the State defence duty at full capacity. Tatmadaw members should not commit carelessness for their duties as they are assigned round the clock. Officials need to manage duties and functions for the Tatmadaw members as they take out their tasks in positions



The Vice-Senior General comforts the patients on board the hospital ship.

too far from the headquarters.

After attending to the needs of the Tatmadaw members and families, the Vice-Senior General present-

ed foodstuffs to them through officials.

Yesterday morning, the Vice-Senior General comforted the local people of Cocokyun

receiving medical treatment aboard the sea-going hospital vessel (Thanlwin) and wore glasses to the patients who received eye surgical operations.

The sea-going hospital vessel (Thanlwin) is giving medical treatment to local people in Cocokyun as of 4 May. So far, 680 local people have received medical treatments for respective diseases.

The Vice-Senior General viewed round the coconut oil plant, decoration and household utensil industry and production of coir rope at the coconut and coconut product industry of the local military unit and left instructions on the need to produce the coconut products on a commercial scale in cooperation with the Small-Scale Industry Department under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development and sale of products at fair prices.

He then inspected the breeding of domestic cows, layers, broilers, DYL pits and dairy cows at the breeding farm and thriving seasonal crops at the local military unit. — MNA

76th Myanmar Fire Brigade Day ceremony held in Yangon

THE 76th Myanmar Fire Brigade Day celebration, which falls on 5 May this year, was held at its Headquarters in Yangon yesterday morning. The ceremony was addressed by Director-General U Myat Thu of the Fire Services Department on behalf of Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut and attended by Yangon Region government ministers, departmental officials, Fire Brigade members, donors, invitees and media personnel.

While addressing the ceremony, the director-general said the fire brigade must build manpower, equipment power and technology power in a balanced way to make changes in antici-

pation of the current and future challenges in dealing with fires and natural disasters. He called on firefighters to be trained continuously by utilizing the task and technical capabilities and having expertise in the relevant field in which they work.

He stressed that training is key to mastering the systematic handling and use of evolving disaster-relief vehicles and equipment in response to disasters. Fire safety can only be effective if information and communication technologies are available rather than advanced fire and search and rescue technology. In the opening remarks, he said, group exercises should be conducted to fulfil individual and

team coordination skills.

After touring the firefighting equipment on display in the gallery, the director-general and senior officials presented certificates and awards to donors and honourees, including those who have excelled in the training, recipients of the State Good Service Personnel Award, members of the fire brigade who have donated blood several times, volunteer auxiliary firefighters with more than 25 years of service.

On 5 May 1946, 197 volunteer firefighters from township-level fire brigades in 19 districts across Myanmar convened the first 'All Burma Fire Brigade Conference' in Yangon.



PHOTO: KANU

National leader General Aung San himself addressed the conference. The "Fire Brigade Day" was created to commem-

orate the day when firefighters gathered in unison.—Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

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Tatmadaw has to safeguard the National interests

TATMADAW has to safeguard the National interests of the people and the country without the acceptance of all acts detrimental to Our Three Main National Causes, and will put an emphasis on the end of armed conflicts for long-lasting peace.

(Excerpt from New Year Message of greetings delivered by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on the New Year occasion in 1384 Myanmar Era Myanmar New Year Day on 17-4-2022)

SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets Cocokyun township departmental officials, locals, inspects township hospital, high school, Aung Naing Thu Coir Rope Factory

STATE Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win met with Cocokyun Township departmental staff and locals at the township hall yesterday.

The event was attended by SAC members U MOUNG HAR, Saw Daniel and Dr Banyar Aung Moe, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Moe Aung, senior military officers of Command-



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General meets departmental personnel and residents in Cocokyun Township yesterday.



At the Aung Naing Thu coir rope factory.



At the township hospital.



Cash assistance.

er-in-Chief Office, the Commander of Yangon Command, Deputy Ministers, township-level departmental officials of Cocokyun township and local residents.

Township Administrator U San Min reported on the history of the township, administration, economy and social affairs of locals while the Yangon Region Chief Minister explained the regional development activities.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General said that he wanted to know the implementation works of the five-point road map and nine objectives of SAC and took the relevant departmental officials to resolve the needs and difficulties of locals and government employees. Cocokyun is a large one formed with 12 islands that are essential geographically and for the country's security. The locals should understand the value of the island. Similarly, the

efforts of government staff working at Cocokyun are also appreciated as they serve their duties at the forefront of the country with patients. The Prime Minister assigned duties to the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development to conduct training courses for SMEs at coir rope factory and commodity products manufacturing industries to ensure job opportunities for individual incomes. It should give the training to produce marketable products suitable for the current changing living style. Moreover, the regional government should create a market for the products submitted at the township level.

It needs to explore new techniques to produce new commodities based on the region's advantage as it produces plenty of coconuts.

Learning opportunities in rural and cities are not that differ-



At the training course.

ent in the IT era in the education sector. The support and well-being of teachers, parents, and township administrative officials can promote the exam results. The government fulfilled the basic infrastructure needs starting in 2012. Tatmadaw vessels provided transport services once every two weeks and Tatmadaw aircraft once

every month.

Then, the Vice-Senior General provided cash assistance and food aid to the relevant officials.

He also comforted residents receiving medical treatment at the township hospital in Cocokyun Township and presented foodstuffs.

He then inspected the hos-

pital compound and stressed the need for the health staff to maintain the medicines and materials as the health is the most important, systematically use the provided tools, conduct health awareness campaigns and cooperate with administrative organizations and locals. Afterwards, he offered cash prizes and foodstuffs.

The Vice-Senior General visited the foodstuff and commodity manufacturing training courses opened by the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development at the basic education high school of Cocokyun Township. He gave the necessary instructions to the trainees and officials and gave presents to the Headmistress, including the trainees.

Finally, the Vice-Senior General went to the Aung Naing Thu coir rope factory and examined the factory's operations. —MNA



U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations receives Mr Watanabe Hideo, Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Association

U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations received the delegation led by Mr Watanabe Hideo, Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Association yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they

cordially discussed matters relating to further promotion of economic and investment cooperation in Myanmar.

Permanent Secretary for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations also attended the meeting.—MNA

Myanmar delegation led by U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for International Cooperation and Chairman of the Task Force to facilitate provision of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar through the AHA Centre departs for Phnom Penh to attend the Consultative Meeting

A Myanmar Delegation led by U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for International Cooperation and Chairman of the Task Force to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar through the AHA Centre, departed for Phnom Penh via Bangkok on 5 May 2022 to attend the Consultative Meeting upon the invitation of Mr Prak Sokhoun, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The Union Minister was accompanied by members of the Task Force; Dr Aye Tun, Depu-

ty Minister for Health, U Aung Tun Khaing, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, U Chan Aye, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials from relevant ministries and departments.

The Consultative Meeting will be held with an aim to convene a high-level platform to enhance the delivery of Phase-II humanitarian assistance to Myanmar and to achieve a common understanding and explore the possibility of providing more assistance to Myanmar within

the framework of the ASEAN arrangement.

At OCHA's request, Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing received a courtesy call by the delegation led by Ms Joyce Msuya, OCHA's Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator at the Sokha Hotel, Phnom Penh. The Meeting was also attended by Deputy Ministers and the relevant officials for the provision of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar.—MNA



The MoIC Union Minister leaves for Phnom Penh on 5 May 2022.

MoALI Union Minister receives Japan-Myanmar Association Chairman



UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo received Mr Watanabe Hideo, Chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Association, at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting focused on accelerating cooperation in the Myanmar-Japan agriculture and

livestock sector development by creating job opportunities in Japan for Myanmar citizens. The two sides also discussed storage and transport system development, enhancement of private sector cooperation, Seintalone mango and vegetable farming, production and market penetration. — MNA

CRIME NEWS

Police seize illegal commodities

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

On 2 May, the Rakhine State Forest Department conducted inspections in Taungup and Thandwe townships and seized K5,333,222 worth of illegal timbers (67.4458 tonnes). The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 3 May, the Bago Region Customs Department inspected vehicles leading to Bago from Thaton and found K3,690,000 worth of undocumented soft drinks and clothes in three vehicles worth K30,000,000. The action

was taken according to the Customs procedures.

On 4 May, the Kawkaik (Tadakyoe) joint checkpoint of Kayin State seized the used materials for vehicles and machinery, an adjustable aluminium ladder worth K15,975,000 and two cars worth K65,000,000 that carried these illegal materials. The action was taken in accordance with the Customs procedures.

Similarly, the inspection team of the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Checkpoint captured K15,080,000 worth of clothes that were more than the mentioned amount in ID. The action

was taken according to the Customs procedures.

Moreover, the Ayeyawady Region Forest Department seized 2.2364 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K156,548 in Yekyi Township and took action under the Forest Law on the same day.

On 5 May, the Bago Region Forest Department also confiscated K317,016 worth of illegal timbers (4.5288 tonnes) in Yedashe Township of Toungoo District and took action under the Forest Law.

Therefore, according to the committee, 18 arrests (estimated value of K135,551,786) were made from 2 to 5 May. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

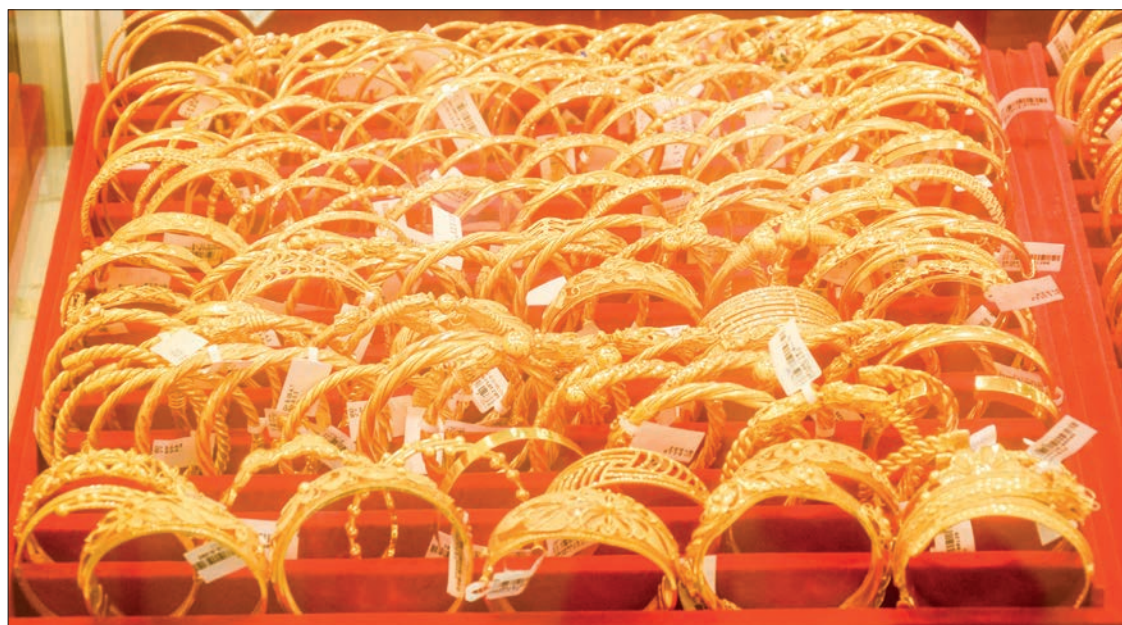
Raw precious metals to be imported in coming rainy season to avoid shortage

RAW gold metal will be imported from foreign countries in the coming rainy season, not falling short of natural metal supply, said U Myo Myint, chair of Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

Gold mines usually collapse in the rainy season (June-August). Additionally, common illnesses are caused in the rainy season. He continued this effort would avoid an unnecessary shortage of raw gold metal.

“The heavy rainfall triggers the collapse of gold mines. Furthermore, workers catch flu and cold due to floods and heavy rain. Typically, the supply of raw gold declines during this period of the year.

“Therefore, we will import raw gold from foreign countries. We will also buy them from gold miners. Also, we will request



At present, the domestic gold market sees an inflow of raw metal from regions and states other than Yangon.

the Central Bank of Myanmar to sell gold to distribute it to the domestic markets,” U Myo Myint elaborated.

The import of raw precious metals is to cover possible scarcity of raw materials during the rainy season for the goldsmiths

and retail shops in the domestic market.

Raw gold metal is expected to be imported from seven mem-

bers of ASEAN, Japan and India.

As a result, gold shops are processing company registration, seeking import licence and opening accounts at the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank.

YGEA will soon submit a report to the CBM to sell the gold, U Myo Myint said.

Moreover, he added that gold traders and retailers are urged to make gold transactions by adding up to K5,000 to the price set by YGEA. On 5 May 2022, the price of 24-carat gold was designated at K2,026,700 per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme), according to the YGEA.

At present, the domestic gold market sees an inflow of raw metal from regions and states other than Yangon. The resales of imperfect items and scrap metal are found as well, YGEA stated. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar ships over 250,000 MT of rice in April

MYANMAR delivered over 250,946 million metric tons of rice and broken rice in April 2022, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Last month, a total of 35 exporter companies delivered over 244,826 MT of rice to foreign trade partners through maritime trade, whereas 6,120 MT were sent to neighbouring countries via border posts, totalling over 250,946 MT. The export volume in cross-border trade significantly plunged owing to trade delays triggered by China's virus policy. Myanmar shipped rice and broken rice to China, regional countries and European Union countries through maritime trade. In April, Myanmar exported rice to 17 foreign markets, mostly to Cameroon, China, Angola, the Philippines, and Poland. Meanwhile, Myanmar shipped broken rice primarily to Belgium, followed by China, Spain, the Netherlands, Poland and three other countries.

The prices of low-quality white rice varieties were approximately US\$330-355 per MT, depending on the different types and quality. The export price of Myanmar's rice was relatively lower than the rates of Thailand and Viet Nam. Yet, the prices

were higher than those of market prices of India and Pakistan, MRF's data showed.

China banned Myanmar trucks and drivers from entering its side because of the COVID-19 protocols, and only Chinese short-haul drivers are allowed to transport the goods.

As a result, the cost of Chinese short-haul trucking tremendously rose. That is why rice and broken rice export volume plunges from 60,000 to 4,000 bags per day. China shut down all the border posts with Myanmar in the wake of COVID-19 negative consequences. Of the border posts, the Kyinsankyawt border post has been reopened on trial run from 26 November.

The prices of low-quality white rice varieties were approximately US\$310-355 per MT, depending on the different varieties and quality. The export price of Myanmar's rice was relatively lower than the rates of Thailand and Viet Nam. Yet, the prices were higher than those of market prices of India and Pakistan, MRF's data showed.

Myanmar delivered more than 1.4 million metric tons of rice and broken rice in the past mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022). — KK/GNLM

Myanmar Seintalone mango fetches good price in China

THE export price of Myanmar's Seintalone mango to China this year inched higher than that of last year, according to U Kyaw Soe Naing, general secretary of Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association (Mandalay).

At present, export to China is on a trial run. After the goods pass COVID tests at the Muse 105th-Mile Post, mangoes are delivered to China. The mango prices touched a high of 130-140 Yuan per 16-kg basket this year, which rose from 80-

100 Yuan recorded last year.

“Myanmar started to export mango to China. Sanitizing fruits harmed quality in the first batch. As a result, only the COVID test will be run later. Only two to three trucks are daily conveyed to China for now. China's market will come to a halt once the virus is detected on the truck. Chinese buyers come to the Muse 105th-Mile Post and set the price.

They offer a high price this year. A basket of 16-kg mango fetches over K50,000,” he elaborated.

If the virus is not detected, the market is likely to raise its head. Negotiations with China's counterparts are still undertaken to facilitate the trade. In addition to the Seintalone variety, Maethi, Shwehinthar, Padamyar Ngamauk, and Yinkwe varieties will also be sent to China.

The weather condition wreaked havoc on the yield this year, yet the price is pretty good. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM



At present, export to China is on a trial run. After the goods pass COVID tests at the Muse 105th-Mile Post, mangoes are delivered to China.

OPINION

Boost legal trade with anti-illegal trade measures

ILLEGAL trade is a hindrance to the development of legitimate trade processes in all countries. Hence, all governments emphasize the implementation of the legal trade process with chances for businesspersons while taking measures of anti-illegal trade.

The Chairman of the State Administration Council gave guidance to effectively speed up the illegal trade at the submission of the monthly report on seizures of illicit trade in February 2022 and to place emphasis on the supervision of border trade not to emerge the illegal trade during his recent Kengtung trip in Shan State (East). As the Head of State pays attention to anti-illegal trade measures, all need to speed up their duties in line with the guidance.

Illegal trade worth of estimated value of K6.324 billion was seized in 298 cases across the nation in January 2022, K3.150 billion in 247 cases in February and K3.430 billion in 301 cases in March. Seized goods comprised explosives, chemical precursors and drugs that are dangerous for the entire people. So, assigned personnel need to be loyal to the State in inspection and seizures.

As such, all businesspersons need to operate legal trade processes without committing the illegal trade, which brings disadvantages to the economy of the State and the citizens in the trade sector being operated with neighbouring countries. They should make efforts to seek interests not only for themselves but for the country in legal trading.

conducted for service personnel assigned in the anti-illegal trade process to have a wider knowledge of directives, SOPs, laws, rules and procedures for making correct decisions in seizing the illegal trade goods.

Anti-illegal trade benefits the State but brings loss to those in the illegal trade process. So, some of them are attempting to directly or indirectly harm those involved in the seizures of illegal trade products. Departmental heads need to arrange security and convenience of service personnel in the anti-illegal trade measures.

As such, all businesspersons need to operate legal trade processes without committing the illegal trade, which brings disadvantages to the economy of the State and the citizens in the trade sector being operated with neighbouring countries. They should make efforts to seek interests not only for themselves but for the country in legal trading.



Bribery and Corruption

By U Khin Maung (A retired diplomat)

1. Bribery and corruption are, in my view, two sides of the same coin. Bribery and corruption, these two facts or ideas are very much correlative, that is to say, they are closely related to or depend on another fact or idea. For example, a bribe-giver, as an accomplice, aids and abets a corrupt official in committing corruption, and the corrupt official expects or demands and takes a bribe from a person in return for favouritism, the act of unfairly treating him better than others.

2. And now, the question is, what does it tend to corrupt? On this point, I believe I can't do any better than to quote what the scholars have said. They are reproduced, and kindly see below: - "Power tends to corrupt, and

absolute power corrupts absolutely." "Lord Acton" Historical essays.

"The greater the power, the greater dangerous the abuse."

"Edmund Burke" In a speech delivered to the House of Commons," UK

"Corruption is a global shame and a sin against good manners and character. Mr Ban Ki-moon — former United Nations Secretary-General.

So, in support of all these scholarly views, I, as a layman, would like to say that corruption is, without a shadow of a doubt, a crime, a shame and a sin. In a much better definition, Professor Syed Hussein Alatas has pointed out that "the association of corruption and crime is a well-known

phenomenon".

3. Corruption; does it mean only bribe-taking? Well, I don't think so, I am afraid. From the legal point of view, corruption also means maladministration of justice, mismanagement of affairs, prejudice, bias, wrong-doing etc. And mismanagement, in a sense, means failure to do something that ought to be done and committing an act which ought not to be done. Well, now, before tackling what factors bring about prejudice and bias, I think we should see their meanings. Prejudice means an unreasonable dislike of or preference for a person, group or custom etc. And bias means a strong feeling in favour of or against one group of people or one side in an argument. In

our culture, there are four kinds of prejudice and bias. Prejudice and bias, first, arising from an emotional issue or wish; second, arising from anger; third, arising from fear; and fourth, arising from ignorance.

4. May I quote relevant writings of a well-known scholar Mr Syed Hussein Alatas from his famous book "Corruption and the Destiny of Asia" as follows: "The association of corruption and crime" is a well-known phenomenon. But the forms of this association vary according to the degree of corruption. As corruption develops in intensity, these forms multiply.

5. In this article, may I also present to you the significance of the rule of law. This phrase, the

rule of law, means equality before the laws, fair play, and uniformity of laws for all private citizens and public officials alike. In connection with the rule of law, the first Prime Minister of our independent and sovereign union, U Nu, said in the address to the Parliament (The Pyithu Hluttaw): "is to base all our activities firmly on the rule of law." And Chairman and Prime Minister of the State Administration Council, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, also expresses the significance of the rule of law on every occasion, relevant, proper and necessary.

6. Under the old administration system, we, BCS- Burma civil service personnel, were entrusted and honoured with magisterial powers, by virtue of our posts

and by virtue of experience and expertise. While I was serving as a subdivisional officer, I was empowered and entrusted with special magisterial powers. Our superior officers, such as the district and sessions judges, frequently advised and, I would like to say, taught and guided all the subordinate judges and magistrates not to meet or talk exclusively with a client or a party to a dispute, in his or her chamber, or in any place privately. Our superior judges and magistrates explained to all of us that the other client or the other party might misunderstand us. We were taught and guided that a magistrate or a judge should bear in mind that "it is not enough that

justice is done, but justice must be seen to have been done". And to win the hearts and minds of the people we were serving as a judge or a magistrate, we should always go on learning so as to be entitled to be addressed as "the learned judge", the learned magistrate. Learning, in this context, means laws, the supreme court's instructions, supreme court's rulings must be read and studied in earnest and also learning anything that is worth it for the improvement and expansion of legal education. After all, no educative process, legal or whatsoever, is ever the end: it is always the beginning of more education, more learning, more living".

7. I think we have already

had a law entitled "suppression of bribery and corruption act, and our successive governments have suppressed and treated it as a shame, sin, crime and evil. And, as living laws are necessary in this living world, I am sure our authorities concerned have already taken necessary actions to review and revise or, if necessary, to amend that "suppression of bribery and corruption act." so as to be in line with the changing world.

Reference

- (1) Corruption and the destiny of Asia, Syed Hussein Alatas.
- (2) Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary.
- (3) Law and custom in Burma and the Burmese family, Dr Maung Maung.
- (4) Book of essential quotations.
- (5) Word power made easy. Norman Lewis

Millions in Beijing urged to work from home to fight Covid

THE streets of Beijing's business district were deserted on Thursday as the government called for people to return to work remotely, with scores of subway stations shut after a national holiday muted by coronavirus curbs.

Chinese authorities have stuck to their zero-Covid policy of lockdowns and mass testing as they battle the biggest outbreak since the early days of the pandemic, with entire neighbourhoods in the capital sealed over handfuls of infections.

Beijing reported 50 local cases on Thursday, a day after it said people in Chaoyang, its most populous district, should work from home.

Those among the district's 3.5 million residents who needed to visit their offices were encouraged to drive themselves and avoid gatherings.

At least one other Beijing district has also encouraged residents to work from home, while dozens of subway stations across the capital remained closed. Open restaurants offer only takeaway.



Many subways and restaurants are closed in Beijing to stamp out Covid cases. PHOTO: JADE GAO/AFP

But Feng Yin hao, a massage parlour employee in Chaoyang district, said Beijing was "still normal" compared to the country's largest city, Shanghai.

Authorities have been treading cautiously since an extended lockdown in the southern finance hub led to food shortages and public anger. "Residents can accept the

situation now," Zhan Jun, a man living in Chaoyang, told AFP. But "if things are like in Shanghai... if it's too severe, things will sound different." Shanghai — epicentre of

the latest outbreak — reported more than 4,600 mostly asymptomatic infections on Thursday and 13 more deaths.

Quiet holiday

The call to work from home followed an unusually quiet Labour Day holiday, with the capital stepping up Covid testing requirements for entering public spaces, discouraging travel and shutting down gyms.

Domestic tourism revenue from the five-day break was down by more than 40 per cent from a year ago, according to official data.

Dozens of Chinese cities were implementing full or partial lockdowns, or measures restricting mobility as of 3 May, analysts from Nomura said.

The economic impact of the stringent measures has started to weigh, with independent data on Thursday showing that activity in China's services sector slumped in April to its second-lowest level on record.

Meanwhile, the case of a Beijing Covid patient who infected dozens of others via the

city's public toilets sparked amusement on social media — with Weibo users sharing photos of one public restroom that now appeared to be requiring proof of a recent Covid test to enter.

"Don't go to the toilet unless necessary, apply for a one-day loop permit with your neighbourhood committee with your 24-hour PCR test," one user on the Twitter-like service joked.

Some curbs were being loosened, however, with Beijing announcing Wednesday that international travellers can be released from quarantine after 10 days in a centralised facility and a week of home isolation, down from a total of 21 days.

Government spokesman Xu Hejian told reporters the move was due to the Omicron variant's shorter incubation period and usually milder symptoms.

Close contacts of confirmed cases will also have a shorter centralised quarantine, officials said.

SOURCE: AFP

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 5 May 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 06th May, 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in eastern Shan State, fairly widespread in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and (northern and eastern) Shan, Kayah States, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago Regions and Kachin, Chin States and isolated in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-8) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and (4-7) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and (southern and eastern) Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 May 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 May 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 May 2022: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

CURRENT AFFAIRS

People's voices on Myancopharm COVID-19 vaccines

MYANCOPHARM COVID-19 vaccine packaged in Myanmar was introduced at immunization sites in respective townships yesterday, according to the Ministry of Health. The Ministry has also announced that the vaccine can be safely used for five-year-olds, pregnant and lactating women.

The Global New Light of Myanmar interviewed the people regarding the Myancopharm COVID-19 vaccine.

Interviewer: TWA(GNLM)

U Kyi Lay
Age 65
South Okkalapa

I heard that the vaccination started today. Since I didn't hear the notice, I didn't know. I knew it because others told me. They say it is produced

in Myanmar. It is a good sign that our country can produce this kind of medicine. I heard that the Myanmar Pharmaceutical company recently produced a COVID-19 vaccine (oral).

The standard of Myanmar's medicine packaging is high from the beginning. Medicines from National pharmaceutical factories are on equal terms internationally. As the Chairman of the State Administration Council encourages the domestic production of the COVID-19 vaccine, it is a good sign that it is produced.

Ko Min Min
Age 38
Pharmacy Shop
Thanlyin Township



"I would like to say that I am proud that my country has started the packaging. Our country first tested the oral medication successfully. Although the symptoms are subsided, it does not disappear overnight. Therefore, I want everyone to be vaccinated while the government provides the vaccination. The nature of the medicine has fewer side effects than the previous ones.

Daw Lay May
Age 56
Vendor
Yankin

I couldn't be vaccinated today because the vaccine is given from 9 am to 12 pm, and I was late. I will go the other day. Children said that the vaccine is produced in Myanmar. I had a headache during the first dose and was sick during the second dose. But I realized the result of the vaccine when I had no symptoms, whereas others became sick quite often.

Ko Aung Kyaw Oo
Age 50
Dawbon



As it is produced in the country, the country's foreign expenses will be reduced. Since it is produced to be suitable for the country's climate condition, it is better for the people. It is a good plan to be vaccinated under the government's scheme.

I would like to encourage all to be vaccinated with Myancopharm rather than other vaccines that need to be purchased.

Ko Myo Chit
Age 39
Company Staff
Dawbon

I know they are starting to use Myancopharm. I read that this vaccine is being produced in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and the Sinopharm China National Biotec Group. I don't know the effect of the medicine yet. I had a headache and nausea and was sick during the previous doses.

It is necessary to abide by the preventive guidelines of the Ministry of Health to get rid of this epidemic as soon as possible.



98 Myanmar nationals caught for illegal crossing Thai border

THAI authorities arrested 98 Myanmar nationals for illegal crossing the Thai border in Prajuab Khirikhan Province in Thailand on 4 May.

It is learned that the arrested people were about to go to Bangkok, according to the investigation. Among those, no symptoms of COVID-19 infection were reported. A total of 58

men and 40 women who lived in Bago Region, Magway Region, Mawlamyine and Dawei paid between the amount of 20,000-25,000 Thai Baht to agents in order to cross the border without proper documents.

Similarly, 223 Myanmar nationals who came to Thailand illegally were also arrested on 28 and 29 April. — TWA/GNLM

PyinOoLwin authority warns losses for people buying divided state-owned lands



An aerial view of PyinOoLwin.

THE PyinOoLwin District Administration Body made an announcement on 4 May regarding the sales of plots of divided land at low prices in PyinOoLwin, saying that there may be losses for the buyers in the future.

The announcement was released due to the real estate agents selling state-owned vacant lands, farmlands, forest lands, and village lands on social media without implementing the methods permitted by the government.

"I saw the sales of divided farmlands

on social media. Since the price is not high, I made enquiries about the property ownership, and the lands are said to have Form-7 with a guarantee.

They guaranteed that a contract could be made with any lawyer," said Ma Thei Wut Yee.

Action will be taken under the law against those who implement beyond the rules of Form-7, divide the lands and sell them without permission, make fences and walls and live, it is reported. — TWA/GNLM

Int'l arrivals to Vietnam surge during first 4 months this year

VIETNAM saw around 192,400 international arrivals in the first four months of this year, up nearly 185 per cent year-on-year, courtesy of the re-opening of tourism activities and the resumption of a number of international flights, the General Statistics Office said Wednesday.

In the period, visitors entering the country by air accounted for around 88.6 per cent of the total.

Over the four months, approximately 118,300 foreign visitors to Vietnam were from Asia, up 96.7 per cent year-on-year.

The number of tourists from Europe, the Americas and Oceania also saw hikes of more than six times, 15 times and 19 times respectively from the

same period last year.

Vietnam fully reopened its borders to international visitors on 15 March as part of its efforts to revive the country's tourism and economy after nearly two years of interruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vietnam received a record number of over 18 million international arrivals in 2019, the last full year before the pandemic broke out, according to the office. In 2020 and 2021, the number of international arrivals to Vietnam respectively plunged 78.7 per cent and 95.9 per cent respectively.

The country targeted serving over 5 million overseas tourists in 2022, according to the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 16 March 2022 shows Ha Long Bay, Vietnam's northern Quang Ninh province. PHOTO: VNA VIA XINHUA

Pfizer sees high demand for Covid-19 pill as profits jump

PFIZER executives said Tuesday they are confident of strong demand for the company's Covid-19 antiviral treatment amid easing pandemic rules as the big drugmaker reported another round of strong earnings.

The US pharmaceutical giant, reporting surging first-quarter profits based on a big jump in revenues from its Covid-19 vaccine, said its Paxlovid treatment for the virus would be a valuable means for governments to limit the severity of outbreaks as they ease social distancing and masking rules.

Pfizer Chief Executive Al-

bert Bourla said the company is seeing "very strong signs of increasing demand for Paxlovid as it remains one of the best tools we have."

Citing rising vaccine fatigue, Bourla said the company is also focused on a Covid-19 vaccine booster that provides immunity for a year.

"People are tired of the repeated booster, so it is extremely important to come to a vaccine that could be a yearly vaccine," Bourla told analysts on a conference call, adding that while the company has made progress on this front, "it's not technically easy to achieve."—AFP



An employee works at a facility producing a Covid-19 coronavirus vaccine. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE

Beijing closes dozens of subway stations as Covid controls tighten



Passengers exit from the Beijing West Railway Station of No 9 subway line in Beijing, capital of China, 31 Dec 2011. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

BEIJING closed dozens of subway stations on Wednesday, as Covid restrictions slowly constrict movement across

the Chinese capital of over 21 million people.

The world's second-biggest economy has been battling

its worst coronavirus flare-up since the early days of the pandemic, with most cases found in the business hub of Shanghai, where residents have been largely stuck at home for more than a month.

Scenes of chaos and anger at the rolling lockdown there have alarmed Beijing residents, who fear their city is being closed down by stealth despite recording just dozens of daily cases.

On Wednesday, the Chinese capital recorded just 51 local virus infections including asymptomatic ones, while Shanghai reported nearly 5,000, a downward trend as the city loosens some restrictions.—AFP

Cuba kicks off Int'l Tourism Fair to boost economic recovery

CUBA'S International Tourism Fair opened Tuesday at the Plaza America exhibition centre in the seaside resort of Varadero.

The opening ceremony of the event, the 40th edition of the fair, was attended by Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel and other high-ranking officials.

Addressing the audience, Cuban Prime Minister Manuel Marrero voiced confidence in the recovery of the local tourism industry amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the tightening of the US-led economic and trade embargo against the island. The fair takes place as Cuban tourism is bouncing back

with the arrival of over 450,000 international tourists so far this year, up from just 390,000 visitors for the whole year of 2021. Running through Saturday, the event brings together more than 5,000 travel agents, tour operators, and business owners from over 60 countries.—Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Romania Black Sea port becoming Ukrainian export hub



Workers assist the loading of corn on to a ship at Pier 80 in the Black Sea port of Constanta, Romania, 3 May 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

LIKE a giant elephant trunk, a huge hose sweeps above the hold of a ship in Romania's Black Sea port of Constanta, spilling tonnes of corn into the vessel before it sets sail.

Russia's blockade of Ukraine's seaports has forced the country's exporters to look for alternatives to move their precious cargo.

So now the country's grain is loaded onto trains, lorries or barges in the small Danube ports of Reni and Izmail in the southwest, for transport to the Romanian port.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has transformed Constanta into a vital maritime export hub for Ukraine's crops.

Before the war, Ukraine

exported 4.5 million tonnes of agricultural produce per month through its ports — 12 per cent of the world's wheat, 15 per cent of its corn and 50 per cent of its sunflower oil.

"We need to make sure the grain gets to consumers' tables without delay to avoid the risk of famine," said Viorel Panait, chief executive of Comvex, which handles Constanta's bulk raw materials.

"We hope to accelerate the pace... because, given the unfortunate situation that our Ukrainian neighbours are going through, we must help them as much as we can," he told AFP.

Opportunity

Neighbouring Bulgaria said this week it was willing to help export Ukrainian grain from its Black Sea port of Varna — and is getting to work upgrading its infrastructure.

In the meantime, Constanta is moving the cargo as fast as it can.—AFP

Japan minister shows negative view over banning Russian oil imports

KOICHI Hagiuda, Japan's minister of economy, trade and industry, speaks at a press conference in Washington after meeting with U.S. officials, including Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, on

Wednesday about keeping pace with the European Union over its plan to ban oil imports from Russia as an additional sanction against Moscow following its invasion of Ukraine.

"Japan has limited resources and it is difficult for us to immediately align ourselves" with the EU, Economy, Trade and Industry Minister

Koichi Hagiuda told reporters in Washington after meeting with senior U.S. officials.

His remark came after European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the regional bloc is proposing to ban all oil imports from Russia by the end of this year.

"It is necessary for countries to do what they can do to keep pace," Hagiuda said, while adding his government wants to "share the same direction" after U.S. President Joe Biden expressed his intention to hold talks among the Group of Seven nations by the end of this week on imposing more sanctions against Russia.—Kyodo



File photo shows a liquefied natural gas tanker in waters off Sodegaura, Chiba Prefecture, in April 2009, which arrived from Sakhalin island under the Sakhalin 2 project. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

Surprise interest rate hike in India

INDIA'S central bank announced a surprise interest rate hike of 0.4 percentage points on Wednesday, as Asia's third-biggest economy reels from galloping inflation in the wake of the Ukraine war.

The announcement came hours before the US Federal Reserve was expected to undertake its largest rate hike in two decades

in response to accelerating inflation in the world's biggest economy.

This could spark capital outflows from emerging markets such as India.

In its first increase in borrowing costs since August 2018, Reserve Bank of India governor Shaktikanta Das said it would

"increase the policy repo rate by 40 basis points to 4.40 per cent with immediate effect".

"Most alarmingly, persistent and spreading inflationary pressures are becoming more acute with every passing day," he said in a televised address.

He added that shortages of edible oils due to the conflict in Europe and export bans by key producers such as Indonesia — which began imposing a complete ban on palm oil last week — were causing food prices in India to shoot up.

The Indian economy bounced back strongly from the coronavirus pandemic with one of the world's fastest growth rates, but is now grappling with rising costs as global commodity prices skyrocket.

Consumer inflation has consistently overshoot the RBI's two-to-six per cent target in the first three months of the year, hitting a 17-month high of 6.95 per cent in March. Economists expect inflation in April to have crossed seven per cent.—AFP



The Indian economy bounced back strongly from the coronavirus pandemic with one of the world's fastest growth rates, but is now grappling with rising costs as global commodity prices skyrocket. Workers wearing facemasks pack pre-ordered vegetables for distribution at the Tamilnadu horticulture centre in Chennai. **PHOTO: AFP**

US trade deficit hits highest on record as imports soar

A surge in imports of goods and services in March drove the US trade gap to the highest level ever recorded, with huge increases in purchases of autos, computers, furniture and clothing, the government reported Wednesday.

The trade deficit jumped more than 22 per cent to \$109.8 billion, as the double-digit increase in imports to an all-time high of \$351.5 billion outstripped the more modest gain in exports, the Commerce Department said.

But US exports also hit a record of \$241.7 billion, the data showed. As the world's largest economy showed a robust recovery from the pandemic disruptions in recent months, businesses have been hampered by global supply chain snarls and shortages that meant relatively modest import gains.—AFP

Lufthansa optimistic for 2022 as tourist demand bounces back

GERMAN national carrier Lufthansa on Thursday said it slashed its losses in the first quarter and set its sights on a record summer for tourist traffic as demand recovers from the pandemic.

The airline group's net loss over the first three months of 2022 came to 584 million euros (\$620 million), down from one billion euros in the same quarter last year.

The improved result was due in part to the rise in air traffic as coronavirus-related restrictions were rolled back in



Lufthansa warns that 'ticket prices will have to rise' due to the surge in fuel costs. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

many countries and fears over the Omicron variant ebbed.

The number of pas-

sengers on Lufthansa flights "more than quadrupled" in the first quarter to 13 million, from three mil-

lion in 2021, when travel restrictions in many markets were more severe.

"New bookings are

increasing from week to week," Lufthansa CEO Carsten Spohr said in a statement, with demand rising particularly strongly among leisure travelers.

"We are expecting strong growth in the summer and probably more holiday-makers than ever before," Spohr said in a press conference.

For business travel, the recovery was slower, with the group expecting traffic to reach "around 70 per cent" of its pre-coronavirus level by the end of the year, the group said in

a statement.

In all, Lufthansa expected to offer "around 75 per cent" of its pre-crisis capacity over the year.

On track

Lufthansa's cargo division had a "record result" in the first quarter, the carrier said, as demand for freight remained high amid turmoil in global supply chains.

The segment recorded an operating result — a key measure of underlying profitability — of 495 million euros, up from 315 million euros in the first quarter of 2021.—AFP

Shell profit up as high oil prices offset Russia hit

BRITISH energy giant Shell on Thursday logged soaring first-quarter net profit as surging oil prices offset a sizeable charge linked to its Russia exit.

Profit after tax leapt 26 per cent to \$7.1 billion (6.7 billion euros) from a year earlier, Shell said in a statement.

While the group took a \$3.9-billion charge on its exit from Russia after Moscow invaded Ukraine, it saw lower costs elsewhere.

Underlying earnings spiked almost three-fold to a quarterly record of \$9.1 billion, sparking

fresh calls in Britain for a windfall tax on energy majors.

UK consumers are enduring a cost-of-living crisis caused by the highest rate of inflation in decades, also as economies reopen from pandemic lockdowns. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who faces a key mid-term test in local elections Thursday, has dismissed calls for a windfall levy on oil giants, arguing it would slow their efforts to invest in cleaner energy.

Yet environmental campaigners and opposition politicians are calling for a one-off tax to ease

household budgets and curb reliance on fossil fuels.

Windfall tax

"A windfall tax on these unexpected record profits of unimaginable sums would be the fastest and fairest way to ease pressure on households feeling the pinch and reduce our dependence on oil and gas, which is the root cause of the cost of living crisis," said Greenpeace UK's Philip Evans.

Shell added Thursday that revenues rallied 51 per cent to \$84.2 billion in the first three months of the year.—AFP



Shell added Thursday that revenues rallied 51 per cent to \$84.2 billion in the first three months of the year. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/AFP/FILE

TikTok to launch ad revenue-sharing programme for creators

TIKTOK on Wednesday announced an ad revenue-sharing programme with the social media platform's most prominent creators, moving closer to a model already used by its competitors. The short-video format app has become wildly popular in recent years with more than a billion active users globally,

but has been criticized for not providing a way for creators to effectively monetize content. Under the new TikTok Pulse programme, companies can place their ads next to user content in specific categories, including health, fashion, cooking, gaming and others — and creators will get a cut.

"We will begin explor-

ing our first advertising revenue share program with creators, public figures and media publishers," the company, a subsidiary of Chinese tech firm ByteDance, said in a statement. "We're focused on developing monetization solutions in available markets so that creators feel valued and rewarded on TikTok."—AFP

Toyota to recall over 9,000 imported cars in China

JAPANESE automaker Toyota will recall imported cars from the Chinese market starting from 11 May over safety concerns, according to the country's top quality watchdog.

Filed by Toyota Motor (China) Investment Co., Ltd., the recall involves

6,832 imported Lexus NX 260, NX 350h and NX 400h+ models manufactured between 31 March 2021 and 17 March 2022 due to problems with the display system, the State Administration for Market Regulation said in a statement.

The multi-functional display screen may not switch properly when shifting gears or driving due to defects in the control program, which may distract the driver and lead to safety risks, the company said.—Xinhua

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

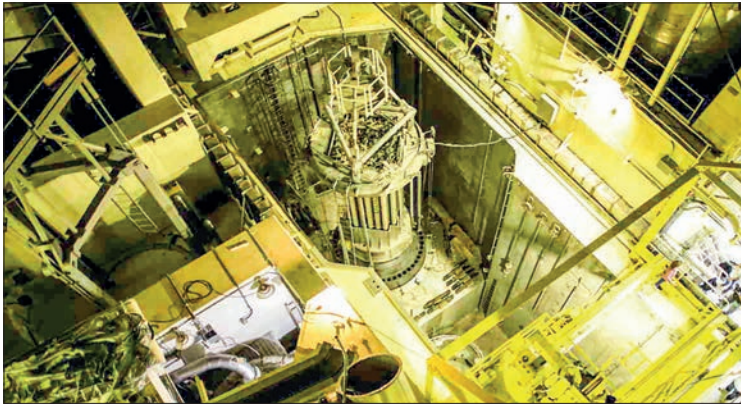
The manufacture of **Sigma Agrochemical Co.,Ltd** have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "**Agri Leading Biotech Co.,Ltd**", to new distributor name "**Taw Win Dar Co.,Ltd**". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days.

Taw Win Dar Co.,Ltd. Ph-09-448027852

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Sapar Kaung Paung Thay	Bispyribac-sodium 20% WP	P2022-5572

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Philippines could revive nuclear plant if Marcos wins presidency



This file photo shows the nuclear reactor inside the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant in Bataan province situated in the Central Luzon region of the Philippines. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

A mothballed nuclear power plant built near a fault line and volcanoes in the Philippines during Ferdinand Marcos's dictatorship could be revived if his son wins next week's presidential election.

The \$2.2 billion Bataan plant became a monument to the greed and graft of the Marcos era, and was left dormant after the dictator was toppled in 1986.

Even before the Chernobyl nuclear accident that year sealed its fate, there were concerns

about Bataan's design and location. The plant sits on the coast 18 metres (59 feet) above sea level and near several volcanoes in a part of the Philippines regularly shaken by earthquakes.

Yet Ferdinand Marcos Junior has vowed to speed up the adoption of nuclear power if he is elected and has left open the possibility of resuscitating his father's failed venture.

"We really have to look at nuclear power," Marcos Jr said in March, insisting at least one

plant was needed to cut exorbitant electricity prices in the country. Marcos Jr, also a fan of wind, solar and geothermal technology, said a South Korean proposal to rehabilitate the Bataan plant should be revisited.

"Let's look at it again," he said.

Studies by South Korean and Russian experts showed it was possible to get the 620-megawatt plant working again, Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi told a Senate hearing in 2020.—AFP

UK voters head to polls with historic N.Ireland result predicted

POLLS open across the UK on Thursday in local and regional elections that could prove historic in Northern Ireland and heap further pressure on embattled Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

The contest for the devolved assembly in Belfast could see a pro-Irish nationalist party win for the first time in the troubled history of the British province.

The results, which are expected from Friday, could have huge constitutional implications for the four-nation UK's future, with predicted victors Sinn Fein committed to a vote in the province on reunification with Ireland.

Polls open at 0600 GMT for councils in Scotland, Wales and much of England, with Johnson facing a potentially pivotal mid-term popularity test.

Poor results could reignite



A voter walks out of Holy Trinity Church being used as a polling station in Dobcross near Manchester during local elections on 5 May 2022. **PHOTO: OLI SCARFF / AFP**

simmering discontent within his ruling Conservatives about his leadership, after a string of recent scandals.

Jeopardy

Johnson, 57, won a landslide 2019 general election victory by vowing to take Britain out of the European Union, and reverse rampant regional inequality.

Despite making good on his Brexit pledge, the pandemic largely stalled his domestic plans.

But his position has been put in jeopardy because of anger at revelations of lockdown-breaking parties at his Downing Street office and a cost-of-living crisis.—AFP

'Always had hope': US anti-abortion activist eyes historic win

MADelyn Ocasio can hardly believe the good news. At 66, the anti-abortion activist from the outskirts of Miami hopes her dream of seeing the US Supreme Court roll back half a century of abortion rights is finally about to come true.

Like her, opponents of abortion across the country are eyeing a historic win after a leaked draft ruling indicated the court is likely poised to strike down Roe v. Wade, the ruling that enshrined abortion rights nationwide in 1973.

"We felt in our hearts that Roe would be overturned this year," said Ocasio, who works with the national anti-abortion group Sidewalk Advocates for Life.

"I have always had hope, but I have more hope now," she told AFP from the garden of

her house in Coral Gables on the edge of Miami, in front of banners that read "Abortion hurts women" and "Abortion kills children."

"And I do hope that all the protests do not deter the justices," she added, anticipating a huge backlash against the Supreme Court.

"Life begins at conception, and it is not a woman's right" to terminate a pregnancy, Ocasio said. Now, like other Florida activists, she wants officials in the southern US state, led by Republican Governor Ron DeSantis, to ban elective abortions very soon. "In our state, they passed the law to ban abortion after 15 weeks (of pregnancy), but I feel it's not enough," she said. "We should have stronger laws in Florida to ban abortion completely."—AFP

French left reaches deal on alliance to hamper Macron

FRANCE'S left-of-centre parties on Wednesday reached an alliance deal for June parliamentary polls, aiming for a strong enough showing to hinder President Emmanuel Macron's controversial reform plans.

After talks dragged through the night past a Tuesday deadline, the Socialist Party (PS) fell in line alongside the Greens and the Communist Party (PCF) behind the hard-left France Un-

bowed movement (LFI), who emerged as the dominant force on the left in April's presidential election.

"We want to elect MPs in a majority of constituencies to stop Emmanuel Macron from pursuing his unjust and brutal policies and beat the far-right," the PS and LFI said in a joint statement.

The alliance must still be approved by the Socialists' Na-

tional Council on Thursday, with people close to the party leadership warning against viewing the vote as a foregone conclusion.

"No one on the left can win on their own," PCF leader Fabien Roussel told France Inter radio, saying the new alliance needed to harness "the immense hope among the French public, among workers, among young people who are asking us to unite".—AFP



Anti-abortion activist Madelyn Ocasio takes banners and posters from her car outside of her house in Miami, Florida, on 3 May 2022. **PHOTO: CHANDAN KHANNA / AFP**

Japan, Britain expected to agree on defence pact

JAPAN and Britain are expected during their leaders' summit Thursday to agree in principle to allow their troops to enhance cooperation as they aim to make the Indo-Pacific region "free and open" despite an assertive China's clout there.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine and support for the war-torn nation are also high on the agenda for Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and his British counterpart, Boris Johnson, as both nations maintain strong sanctions to punish Moscow for its aggression.

Japan and Britain both

belong to the Group of Seven nations, whose members have been ramping up joint pressure on Russia. The G-7 leaders are expected to discuss further sanctions later this week, US President Joe Biden said, after the European Union unveiled plans to phase out Russian oil imports by the end of this year.

Kishida is in London on the final leg of his eight-day tour that has taken him to Southeast Asia, Italy and the Vatican before Britain.

The trip is aimed at seeking coordination in responding to the war on Ukraine and real-

izing a free and open Indo-Pacific, with the Japanese leader having raised the alarm about the broader ramifications of the unfolding crisis spilling beyond Europe to Asia.

London has been strengthening its commitment to the Indo-Pacific region in view of its economic and geopolitical importance. If a reciprocal access agreement, as the defence cooperation pact is known, is reached, Britain would be the third country to have such an accord with Japan after Tokyo's longtime ally the United States and Australia. —Kyodo



UK and Japan leaders Boris Johnson and Fumio Kishida were on Thursday to hold talks in London, where they were set to agree a new defence agreement and measures to reduce dependency on Russian energy supplies. PHOTO: AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

'Heavy fighting' at Azovstal

THE mayor of the destroyed city of Mariupol says contact has been lost with Ukrainian forces holed up in the Azovstal steel plant amid "heavy fighting" with Russian troops.

City officials have no way of knowing "what's going on, whether they are safe or not", Vadym Boichenko tells Ukrainian television.

The Kremlin denies Russia is storming the plant after Ukraine accuses Moscow of launching a "powerful" assault on the industrial zone.

Later Russia announces its forces will cease fire at Azovstal and open a humanitarian corridor for civilians for three days.

Mariupol military parade planned: Kyiv

UKRAINE accuses Russia of planning to hold a military parade in the destroyed city of Mariupol on 9 May to celebrate victory over the Nazis in World War II. Kyiv says an official from Russia's presidential administration has arrived in the strategic southern port city, to oversee plans for the Victory Day parade.

Eastern assault continues

RUSSIAN forces continue to pound sites to the east of the country, Ukraine's general staff says, as Moscow seeks to establish "full control" of the regions of Lugansk and Donetsk, and to maintain a land corridor to occupied Crimea.

In Lugansk, governor Sergiy Gaiday says two people have died in the last 24 hours, and "the whole region is under fire completely, there is no safe place".

Belarus launches manoeuvres

BELARUS, a Moscow ally that shares a border with Ukraine, launches "surprise" military manoeuvres, to test the reactive capacity of its army, its defence ministry says.

Belarus military units were testing their capacity to "go on the alert, move to predetermined zones and undertake combat training," it says.

EU to support Moldova

EUROPEAN Council President Charles Michel pledges to increase EU military aid to Moldova, Ukraine's neighbour that has seen a series of attacks in a pro-Moscow separatist region.

SOURCE: AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS

France and India call for immediate end to Ukraine hostilities



France's President Emmanuel Macron (R) welcomes India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (L) before their meeting at the Elysee Palace in Paris, on 4 May 2022. PHOTO: STÉPHANE DE SAKUTIN, AFP

INDIA and France on Wednesday called for "an immediate cessation of hostilities" in Ukraine, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi again stopping short of condemning Russia's invasion of its neighbour.

India, which imports much of its military hardware from Russia, has long walked a diplomatic tightrope between the West and Moscow -- notably refusing to denounce the latter or vote against it at the United Na-

tions over its actions in Ukraine.

"France and India expressed their deep concern over the humanitarian crisis and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine," Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron said in a joint statement after they met in Paris for talks and a working dinner.

"Both countries unequivocally condemned the fact that civilians have been killed in Ukraine, and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities in order for the two sides to come together to promote dialogue and diplomacy, and to put an immediate end to the suffering of the people."

However, only France condemned "Russian forces' illegal and unjustified aggression against Ukraine". —AFP

Russia practises nuclear-capable missile strikes: ministry

RUSSIA on Wednesday said its forces had practised simulated nuclear-capable missile strikes in the western enclave of Kaliningrad, amid Moscow's military campaign in Ukraine.

The announcement came on the 70th day of Moscow's military action in the pro-Western country, with thousands killed

and more than 13 million displaced in the worst refugee crisis in Europe since World War II.

After sending troops to Ukraine in late February, Russian President Vladimir Putin has made thinly veiled threats hinting at a willingness to deploy Russia's tactical nuclear weapons.

During Wednesday's war games in the enclave on the Baltic Sea located between EU members Poland and Lithuania, Russia practised simulated "electronic launches" of nuclear-capable Iskander mobile ballistic missile systems, the defence ministry said in a statement. — AFP

Japan, Britain expected to agree on defence pact

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SPORT



Myanmar team players seen under training ahead of the SEA Games men's football competition. PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar men's football team latest players selected for SEA Games

ACCORDING to the football officials, the Myanmar Football Federation has selected 20 finalists for the 31st SEA Games men's football competition.

Myanmar National Football Team head coach Veliza Popov released the final list on 5 May and selected 20 players for the tournament.

Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, four extra players are being trained together to be ready to replace infected players if necessary.

The team line-up includes Goalkeepers Pyae Phyo Thu, and Pyae Phyo Aung, defenders Thet Hein Soe, Soe Moe Kyaw, Hein Zeya Lin, Win Moe Kyaw, Thet Paing Htwe, Aung Wunna Soe, Midfielders Zaw Win Thein, Lwin Moe Aung, Lin Htet Soe, Wai Lin Aung, Yan Kyaw Soe, Ye Lin Htet, Myat Kaung Khant, and Strikers Htet Pyae Wai, Win Naing Tun, Maung Maung Lwin, Aung Kaung Marn and Hein Htet Aung.

Maung Maung Lwin, Aung

Kaung Marn and Win Moe Kyaw were selected as senior players.

Two goalkeepers: Aung Ko Latt and Thura Kyaw, and two strikers: Ye Yint Aung and Yarzar Aung, will continue to train with the team and be replaced if necessary, an official said.

Team Myanmar is placed in Group A together with host Viet Nam, Indonesia, the Philippines and Timor-Leste and will play against Timor-Leste on 8 May as an opener. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

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.

Leicester aim to write 'another chapter' against Roma in Euro semi

LEICESTER boss Brendan Rodgers says the club are attempting to write "another chapter" in their story as they prepare to face Roma with a place in the Europa Conference League final at stake.

The Foxes, who shocked the football world by winning the Premier League in 2016 under Claudio Ranieri, last season won the FA Cup for the first time in their history.

They travel to Italy on Thursday locked at 1-1 after last week's semi-final first leg against Jose Mourinho's men.

Rodgers, whose team dropped into the Conference League after failing to progress from the Europa League group stage, said Wednesday he had been trying to create a "winning mentality" at the club, who have struggled in the Premier League this season.—AFP



Leicester boss Brendan Rodgers says the club are attempting to write "another chapter" in their story as they prepare to face Roma with a place in the Europa Conference League final at stake. PHOTO: AFP

Man City suffer most painful Champions League meltdown in Madrid



Real Madrid forward Karim Benzema (centre) celebrates scoring a penalty against Manchester City. PHOTO: AFP

MANCHESTER City have become accustomed to Champions League heartache, but the manner of their latest collapse against Real Madrid might be the most painful defeat of all.

Four times Pep Guardiola's men held a two-goal advantage in a classic semi-final tie they eventually lost 6-5 on aggregate. Thirteen-time champions

Madrid somehow found a way to win as City, last year's defeated finalists, melted away in the white-hot atmosphere of the Santiago Bernabeu on Wednesday.

For 89 minutes, the English champions showed the maturity built up over a decade of experience in the competition but in 90 seconds their best-laid plans were destroyed.

Riyad Mahrez's stunning strike 17 minutes from time put the visitors 1-0 up on the night and 5-3 on aggregate, apparently ending the contest.

Madrid had not even mustered a shot on target until Rodrygo swept home Karim Benzema's cross as stoppage time approached.

Suddenly, the Bernabeu believed and yet another of the world's most expensively assembled squads succumbed to the Real rope-a-dope just as Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea had done in the previous two rounds.

Rodrygo headed in again after less than a minute of the six added on and could even have had a hat-trick before extra-time started.

In the end, fittingly, it was Benzema who delivered the final blow from the penalty spot to earn an unlikely victory in a tie in which Madrid had trailed for 178 minutes.—AFP