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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.

SAC Vice Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party offer certificates, titles to members of the Sangha who passed the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida selection exam



Vice Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party take five Precept from members of the Sangha at Certificate and Title offering for recipient members of the Sangha who passed Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Exam on 22 May 2022.

A ceremony to honour 20 members of the Sangha who passed the 74th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida selection examination organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture was held in conjunction with the certificate presentation ceremony at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday morning.

First, Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha

Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bharmo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa gave Saraniya Ovadakatha.

On the occasion, the Chairman Sayadaw urged members of the Sangha who passed the examination to continue continuous efforts for strengthening and flourishing of the Buddha Sasana. The Sayadaw called on laypersons to support the Buddhism. Both monks and disciples are to join hands in

ensuring long term existence of the Buddhism, he added.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko supplicated religious affairs.

Vice Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win offered Mula Abhidhammakovida title and certificate to Ashin Manita, who has passed the two and

a half Pitaka treatises, of Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery in Dagon Myothit (East) Township of Yangon Region. SAC member Dr Banyar Aung Moe also offered title of Dighanikayakovida and certificate to Ashin Acaralankara who has passed the two Pitaka treatises, from the same monastery.

Union Ministers U Maung Maung Ohn, U Ko Ko and Dr Thet Khaing Win, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Soe

Thein, Lt-Gen Thet Pon of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe and officials offered titles of Vinayakovida and certificates to seven members of the Sangha for passing the one Pitaka treatise and titles of Ubhatovibhangakovida and certificates to 11 members of the Sangha for passing the first portion of Vinaya.

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SAC Vice Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party offer certificates, titles to members of the Sangha who passed the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida selection exam



Vice Chairman of SAC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win offers certificate to Ashin Manita for Mula Abhidhamma title on 22 May.



Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife, SAC member Dr Banyar Aung Moe and party donate offerings to members of the Sangha at title offering ceremony in Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon on 22 May.

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Vice Chairman of the Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Nayaka of Thiho Pari-

yatti Buddhist Learning Centre in Kyaukme of Shan State (North) Agga Maha Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Canandasara deliv-

ered a sermon, and congregation shared merits gained. They then offered alms to members of the Sangha who passed the exami-

nation.

Until the 74th examination, 15 Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title recipient Sayadaws and six

Tipitakadhara Sayadaws have emerged during the 74 years period for serving the religious duties.—MNA

Vice Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win pays homage to remains of State Ovadacariya Shwethuwun Sayadaw

PRESIDING Nayaka of Ponnya Neinmitayama Shwethuwun Monastery in Kyeepwaryay Ward in Thingangyun Township of Yangon Region State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Saddhiya passed away at 1:40 am on 21 May 2022 (Saturday).

The remains of the Sayadaw are being kept at Ponnya Neinmitayama Shwethuwun Monastery. Yesterday morning, Vice Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party paid homage to the remains of the Sayadaw and made cash



Vice Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win pays homage to remains of Shwethuwun Sayadaw on 22 May.



donation. The Vice-Senior General and party paid homage to Ovadacariya Sayadaws of the Final Rites Organizing Committee, supplicated plans to hold the final rites and fulfilled the needs.—MNA

3 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 22 May, total figure rises to 613,222

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,222** after **3** new cases were reported on 22 May 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,186** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 21-5-2022, a total of **31,262,653** people have been vaccinated. Of them, **25,820,980** people have been fully vaccinated and **5,441,673** people have yet to get the second shots and **1,941,532** people have received booster doses.—MNA

We will have to continue to consolidate the strength of the national unity in the future also

AS for the country which is a heterogeneous society, historical lessons have taught us that only the national unity can ensure the non-disintegration of the Union and the perpetuation of sovereignty. We will have to continue to consolidate the strength of the national unity in the future also.

*(Excerpt from the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council
Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing on occasion of 74th Anniversary Union Day on 12 February 2021)*

SAC Vice Chairman National Disaster Management Committee Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets with people affected by natural disasters, provides relief supplies to Mon State disaster management team



Vice Chairman of the State Administration Council, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee-NDMC, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets officials of Mon State Disaster Management Body and departmental officials in Mawlamyine on 22 May.

VICE Chairman of the State Administration Council, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee-NDMC, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win met with the people affected by natural disaster due to the heavy rains from 20 May in Mawlamyine, Chaungzon, Thanbyuzayat, Thaton and Paung townships, officials of the Mon State Disaster Management bodies and department officials in Mawlamyine yesterday.

At the meeting, the Mon State Chief Minister reported to the Vice-Senior General on the situation of the floods, evacuation of flood victims to shelters, assistance of the state government, local military personnel and charities to the victims, repairs of the damages to bridges and buildings, formation of disaster management teams, and conditions for providing necessary health care services to flood victims.

While addressing the meet-

ing, the Vice-Senior General said the five-colour warning system which has been pre-released in stages to make it easier to understand the danger of the cyclones. The yellow level is to warn the fishermen who are going to work at sea to be aware of the cyclone situation in the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea. The orange level means that the cyclone is moving towards the coast and it is to pay close attention to the cyclone's changes. The red level is that the cyclone will reach the coast after 12 hours and to evacuate to safer places as it may be dangerous. Brown means that the people are in the middle of the cyclone and need to be sheltered in a safe place. The green stage is that the cyclone has weakened and they can return to their homes.

He stressed the need to educate the public to know and understand the colour index classification system. He said, to address the natural disasters, plans are being drawn up based on the

experiences of natural disasters in Myanmar such as Cyclone Nargis, Cyclone Giri and Tahley Earthquake. As natural disasters are unavoidable and should be prepared in advance, it can be overcome by preparation, prevention, educating, rehearsing and cooperating if it happens, he said. He also highlighted the need to systematically carry out the rehabilitation works if it happens.

The Vice-Senior General also noted that it is necessary to make preparation for taking care of consequent impacts related to tidal wave, outbreak of infected diseases and waterborne diseases.

At the meeting, the flood victims were provided rice, construction materials, cash assistance, and relief supplies, worth over K 40 million. The charities,

members of the fire brigade, and the Red Cross Society were also presented with cash assistance.

Afterwards, the Vice-Senior General and party inspected the status of the works carried out at the confluence of the Haungtharaw and Attaran rivers to prevent flood at the Phetkhin road and and Taungwaing road, and provided necessary coordination.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Soe Win views rescue equipment and machinery in Mawlamyine on 22 May.

SAC Vice Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win comforts patients receiving medical treatment at Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed) in Mingaladon Township



STATE Administration Council Vice Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win encouraged officers, other ranks and families receiving medical treatment at Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed) in Mingaladon Township of Yangon Region yesterday morning.

At the meeting room, the commandant of the hospital reported on hospital adminis-

tration and medical treatment. The Vice-Senior General asked for further information and attended to the needs.

The Vice-Senior General comforted officers, other ranks and families receiving medical treatment and asked about their diseases. Then, foodstuff and aid were presented to them.

The Vice-Senior General presented cash award for health staff serving at the hospital through the commandant of the hospital.—MNA

State Administration Council Vice Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win presents cash assistance to a patient Tatmadaw member at DSGH (1000-bed) in Mingaladon 22 May.

Second-day meeting of peace negotiation group and Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) held

THE second-day meeting of the Peace Talks Team of the State and the delegation led by the Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) was held yesterday at the meeting hall of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Member of the State Administration Council, Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peace-making Negotiate Committee, Union Minister at the Office of the Union Government (1), Leader of the Peace Talks Team Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, SAC

Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Secretary of the Committee Lt-Gen Min Naung, Chairman of the RCSS General Yawd Serk, RCSS Secretary-1 Col Sai Ngin and Member of RCSS Central Executive Committee Col Song Han.

At the meeting, Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein, a member of the Negotiate Committee, explained the National Solidarity and Peace-making Negotiate Committee's findings on the agreements contained in Part 1, 2 and 3 of the Union Accord, and remaining issues to be discussed in Part 3. RCSS asked for further in-

formation. They then discussed general issues related to peace and development, and signed the three-day agreements of negotiations.

Afterwards, Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) Gen Yawd Serk and leader of the peace negotiate team Lt-Gen Yar Pyae made concluding remarks and exchanged gifts.—MNA

Peace Talks Team leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and RCSS Chairman General Yawd Serk exchange gifts at the peace talks on 22 May.



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Union Information Minister addresses 3rd conference of Myanmar Writers' Association

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn addressed the 3rd conference of the Myanmar Writers' Association held at the Department of Printing and Publishing on Theinbyu Road in Yangon yesterday.

While addressing the conference, the Union Minister said the Myanmar Writers' Association has been working to develop literature for the benefit of the country, to strengthen the unity of the literary world, to assist in the social activities of the literary world and to bring classical and contemporary literature into the hands of the readers, to the extent that the third conference was convened. Looking at the four objectives of the association, it is clear that the Myanmar Writers' Association is capable of achieving these goals, he continued.

He expressed words of commendation for the efforts of the association which was continuously carrying out social activities, literacy development activ-



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and Newly-elected CEC members of Myanmar Writers' Association pose for group photo at the 3rd Conference of MWA on 22 May.

ities and supporting the state's goods deeds. The association is currently made up of over 5,100 members in 202 townships.

The Union Minister said that he would like to welcome and honour one of six future steps in the report of the Central Executive Committee submitted to the 3rd Conference, "Myanmar Writers' Association, should be

a genuine social literary organization free from party politics. "Standing in line with democracy", which supports the unity of the association, as well as it will contribute to the state-building activities with clear vision, free from politics.

In the morning section of the conference, decisions were made upon the submission at

the conference, and Daw Cho Cho Tin (Ma Sanda), Chairperson of the Myanmar Writers' Association, made concluding remarks.

The election of the Central Executive Committee for the third term of the Myanmar Writers' Association was held, and U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe) was elected as the

Chairman; U Myo Tun (Maung Sein Naung-Lewe) as Vice Chairman (1); U Soe Myint (Soe Hmu) as Vice Chairman (2); U Myat Soe (Myat Soe-Hline) as Vice Chairman (3); U Nyunt Tin (Maung Nyein Thu-Gyobingauk) as Secretary; U Aung Than Oo (Pathein Aung Than Oo) as Joint-Secretary (1); U Maung Maung Kyi (Yenanmyay Maung Maung Kyi) as Joint-Secretary (2); U Aung Kyi (Aung Kyi Nyunt-Tekkatho) as Joint-Secretary (3); U Aye Min (Dr Aung Htet-Medicine (1)) as Treasurer; U Nyunt Hlaing (Maung Maung Nyunt Hlaing) as Audit Leader and U Tin Aung Shwe (Dr Tin Aung Shwe) as Information Officer; were appointed as the members of the Central Executive Committee.

Afterwards, Chairman U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe) gave a speech and the third conference of Myanmar Writers' Association was successfully concluded.—MNA

Union Minister and athletes arrive back from SEA Games competitions

THE Myanmar sports contingent, which competed in the 31st Southeast Asian Games which is being held from 12 to 23 May in Hanoi and other cities, returned to Yangon International Airport at 4 pm yesterday by air.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe, Yangon Region Ministers, officials from the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, the Myanmar Sports Federations, artistes, and fans welcomed back Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan and party.

Gold medalists Ye Tun Naung from 70-kilo Bodybuild-



Union Minister U Min Thein Zan and victorious Myanmar athletes are warmly welcomed back at Yangon International Airport on 22 May.

bagged one gold, two silvers and two bronze medals.

Meanwhile, Bodybuilding team won one gold, two silver and one bronze medal and Kurash team won one gold, one silver and two bronze medals.

Next, Myanmar Billiard and Snooker team won one gold, one silver and one bronze medal while Sepak Takraw team won one more gold and three bronze medals.

Likewise, Petanque team won one gold and two bronze medals and Judo team two silver and two bronze medals.

Track and Field team won two silver medals, while Shooting team won another two silvers, and Canoeing and Kayak team grabbed one silver, and six bronze medals.

Taekwondo team took one silver, and three bronze medals while international rowing team bagged three bronze medals.

Also, Boxing team won one silver and two bronze medals, and Archery team won one bronze medal, and Weightlifting team won another one bronze medal respectively.

Myanmar has collected nine gold medals, 18 silver medals and 35 bronze medals in total.—MNA



Athletes and fans welcome back victorious Myanmar athletes at Yangon International Airport on 22 May.

ing event, Thein Than Oo from Wushu event and Khin Cherry Thet from Petanque event, silver medalists and bronze medalists from respective sport events and athletes who participated in the Chess, E-Sports, Women's Football and Men's Volleyball events along with international referees included in the Myanmar team.

Myanmar competed in 20 sport events in the 31st Southeast Asian Games.

In the 31st SEA Games, Myanmar Vovinam team swept three gold, three silver and six bronze while Wushu team

Re-invitation for basic education staff who are absent from duty

THE State Administration Council is implementing nine objectives, including a social goal of national health and higher education, and is working hard to restore education to the next generation of young people in order to develop the nation's human resources.

For the education of the new generation, basic education schools across the country were reopened on 1-11-2021, and higher education universities/colleges were reopened on 12-5-2022. Basic education schools for the 2022-2023 Academic Year will be reopened on 2-6-2022.

Basic education is very important in the education of the new generation of young people who will be the leaders of the future. So those students can learn fully and to make the teachers/students ratio balance, experienced teachers are needed.

In order to resume their teaching duties for the next generations, teachers and educators who have been away from their duties due to intimidation, participation in peaceful protest, or worry, and teachers and educators who have been prosecuted under staff discipline are informed to report to the relevant Township Education Offices where the schools are located or the nearest Township Education Offices in their current area of residence to file an appeal voluntarily by 31-5-2022.

Among the basic education staff who are absent from duty due to various reasons, those who are absent without leave due to various reasons, those under the investigation, and those who file an appeal, shall be considered as unpaid leave for the period of non-duty and will be re-employed except for those who have committed serious crimes.

State Administration Council
Information Team

Peace delegation led by Vice Chairman of New Mon State Party (NMSP) arrives in Nay Pyi Taw to participate in peace talks offered by the SAC Chairman



Peace delegation of New Mon State Party (MNSP) arrives in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 May.

AS Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 22 April called for peace talks with ethnic armed

organizations-EAOs to achieve perpetual peace in the country and an end to the armed conflicts, a peace delegation led by Vice Chairman of the New Mon

State Party (NMSP) Nai Aung Min arrived in Nay Pyi Taw from Mawlamyine yesterday.

On arrival at the Horizon Lake View Resort in Nay Pyi Taw by car, the delegation was welcomed by members of the National Solidarity and Peace-making Negotiate Committee and ethnic people from the Department of Culture holding the Myanmar miniature flags and placards bearing, "Perpetual Peace is the real aspiration of the people", "Achieving peace is the true desire of all citizens", "Let's hold talks for peace in the Union", "Only the ethnic nationalities are in unity, stability, peace and tranquility will be achieved".—MNA

Action to be taken for selling, storing palm oil at a higher price

IT was announced on 22 May that it would take action under the Important Goods and Services Act if the persons raise prices, store goods illegally and scam in the domestic market.

The Committee for the Supervision of the Import and Distribution of Edible Oils under the Ministry of Commerce has issued the statement in a bid to manage the domestic palm oil prices.

Depending on the daily monitoring of FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, transportation charges, bank expenses, and basic wholesale reference price to be traded in the local market are taken

into account, including taxes for setting the proper prices.

After Indonesia permitted re-export palm oil to other countries this week, palm oil prices fallen slightly in the world's palm oil exporters this week then previous week, with FOB prices expected to rise sharply this week. From 23 to 29 May, the basic reference of Yangon wholesale price of palm oil is K5,500 per viss.

These basic wholesale quotes are available on the Department of Consumer Affairs website: www.doca.gov.mm and on the Facebook page of the Myanmar Oil Traders and Oil Entrepreneurs Association.—MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal teak, oil products, foodstuff, restaurant accessories and auto parts seized on 21 and 22 May

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

On 21 May, a multi-departmental inspection was carried out at the 105th-mile trade zone in Muse.

Unspecified car spare parts and various accessories at estimated value of K6,587,497, a Wheel Loader worth approximately K1.5 million and a 12-wheel Mitsubishi Fuso truck worth approximately K35 million carrying the goods were seized

and action is being taken in accordance with customs procedures.

Similarly, an inspection team led by the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force conducted an investigation in Sagaing Region, and a team led by the Myanmar Police seized 7,000 visses of dregs oil worth approximately K2.1 million in Kanbalu Township and action is being taken under the petroleum and its related products law.

An inspection team led by the region's General Administration Department is also taking action against illegal bags

of wheat flour estimated at K6.3 million under the Import and Export Law.

Similarly, an investigation was carried out under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force in Bago Region on 22 May.

Combined inspection teams led by the Region Forest Department seized 38.1856 tonnes of illegal sawn timbers at estimated value of K14,397,318 in Toungoo and Thayawady Districts under the Forest Law.

Inspections led by the Myanmar Police Force seized two



Photo shows seized illegally imported flour bage on 21 May.

unlicensed TOYOTA Mjar and RACITS vehicles estimated at K4.5 million near the milepost No 7/0 of DaikU-Sittoung Road (Byuhar Road).

Thus, a total of 13 arrests worth approximately K70,384,815 were made on 21 and 22 May, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee.—MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myeik District Rice Traders Association to buy paddy from Myeik Tsp at minimum rate of K700,000 per 100 baskets

MYEIK District Rice Traders Association pledged to purchase paddy from local farmers in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region at the minimum rate of K700,000 per 100 baskets, said an official of the association.

This year, the local farmers in Myeik Township are facing difficulties to produce paddy seeds owing to the high agricultural-input cost, hike in fuel oil price and saltwater intrusion in agricultural fields. Saltwater intrusion impacts prompt some farmers to suspend the agricultural operations, the farmers stressed.

“It is hard for the farmers to cultivate paddy only with their income. They cannot bear both paddy seed cost and fuel price burden. As the association will help treat our land with tractor, the farmers are interested in resuming the agriculture,” a farmer U Tun Win from Kabin village said.



Freight workers are loading bags of rice onto truck.

If the association offers a higher price than the current set price in the difficult time of the farmers, the farmers can return to their work.

The cultivation of paddy costs around K200,000-K300,000 per acre. They are not profitable with the basic price of 100-basket paddy.

“If the floor rate of paddy is set K540,000 per 100 baskets. Our association will offer K700,000 at least. If the market price reaches K900,000, we will offer

the rate higher than that. This way, farmers are encouraged to go back to their fields. To fulfill the requirements of the rice consumption in Myeik city, we have to order from other regions. About K2,000 million worth of rice are supplied to Myeik city every month. If we support local farmers, that K2,000 million will flow into them. My rice mills could purchase 500,000-600,000 tonnes of rice paddy last year,” said U Maung Htway, chair of Myeik District Rice Traders Association.

There is a total of 42,476 acres of paddy in Myeik Township, according to Agriculture Department. This move is to help the local farmers tackle with their difficulties and provide self-sufficiency in the township, in coordination with the private businessmen and departments concerned.—Myint Oo (Myeik)/GNLM

142 companies submit EOIs for legitimate corn export to China

ONE hundred and forty-two companies are found to submit Expression of Interest (EOIs) for a legitimate corn export to China so far, said U Min Khaing, chair of Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Working task force scrutinizes the EOIs in line with those protocols. Myanmar’s Department of the Consumer Affairs and Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS), the authorized organization of the State, is conducting the survey to the drying mills and warehouses as well.

“Majority of 142 companies has been under scrutiny of Working Task Force and some has finished screening test. As the mills are in every place, about 75 per cent of scrutinizing will be completed at the end of May. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Ministry of Commerce will continue the process for those companies which passed the test. Then, the list of companies which are in line with the rules and regulations will be forwarded to the General Administration of Cus-

toms of the People’s Republic of China (GACC). If those companies are given the go-ahead by the GACC, the export is slated to commence in September,” said U Min Khaing.

The SPS Protocol (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Protocol) for biosecurity is a must for legitimate export to China, the main trade partner of agricultural products with Myanmar. Myanmar’s Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and GACC have signed an agreement to legally ship corn to China.

At present, the corn industry is endeavouring to seek permits from the GACC and to meet the import food safety criteria.

Therefore, the exporter companies have been notified to submit EOIs to the working task force by 31 March 2022 in order to meet the SPS protocol requirements and file annual registration.

The protocols include the exporters must have a company or institution which can handle the standard drying mill or warehousing operation for

exports or can strictly adhere to the agreements during the set period. Those who have a history of the corn exports to China must also present the documents. The company has to comply with the rules and regulations set by China. Additionally, they need to adopt Good Agricultural Practice and contract farming in need to enhance the corn sector and ensure food safety.

The prices stood at K1,050-K1,070 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg) in Yangon market and FOB prices were approximately US\$340-360 per tonne, according to Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung).

Myanmar exported 2.3 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021 financial year. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to China, India and Vietnam.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year.—NN/GNLM

Htikhee border sees largest trade among Myanmar-Thailand border posts

MYANMAR’S Htikhee border carried out the largest trade among the Myanmar-Thailand border posts, with an estimated value of US\$254.92 million between 1 April and 13 May of the current financial year 2022-2023, according to Myanmar Customs Department.

The figures soared from \$118.995 million recorded in the year-ago period. There showed a significant increase of \$135.9 million.

Exports of natural gas from Taninthayi Region contributed to the enormous increase in trade through the Htikhee border in the previous years, the Ministry of Commerce stated.

The border trade between Myanmar and Thailand is conducted through the border areas—Myeik, Kawthoung, Tachilek, Myawady, Mawtaung, Htikhee and Meisei posts.

Myawady border post witnessed a small decrease in trade value owing to the transportation difficulty triggered by the security concerns and extreme weather condition.

Myanmar primarily exports natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dried), beans, corns and bamboo shoots to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, and consumer goods such as cosmetics and food products from the neighbouring country.

Bilateral trade between Thailand and Myanmar through the Htikhee border in the past mini-budget period (Oct 2021-Mar 2022) touched a high of US\$965.469 million.—KK/GNLM

OPINION

Cyclone shelters, ready to give shelter to disaster victims

Most Myanmar people have accumulated knowledge about cyclonic storm Nargis which severely hit Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and parts of Mon State in 2008. It gave physical and mental suffering to millions of people, leaving hundreds of thousands of people dead and injured. Hence, the word of Nargis always shakes the heart of the people in taking preventive measures against natural disasters. But such an unforgettable record left invaluable lessons to the people.

The dreadful Nargis stipulated the people to observe the weather forecasts whenever any kinds of disasters are slated to fall in parts of the nation. Most of the people in both Yangon and

These cyclone shelters are scattered in disaster-prone areas such as Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago, Magway, Taninthayi and Sagaing regions and Rakhine, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Shan states. The shelters can be used as accommodation for victims whenever they face natural disasters such as flooding, storms and others. During the normal time, the shelters can be used for community welfare tasks.

Ayeyawady regions participate in the rehearsal to take preventive measures against natural disasters even in the condition of fine weather. It is because no one people wish to give casualties anymore in the disasters.

Primarily, depressions and storms may fall one after another in the country in the rainy season. Hence, eleven regions and states have built 219 cyclone shelters in order to give shelter to the people when any disasters fall.

The national natural disaster management fund has been spent on the construction of 146 cyclone shelters to give shelters to local people in 11 regions and states after cyclonic storm Nargis had hit.

In so doing, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement took responsibility for the construction of 87 cyclone shelters and relevant regions and states, 59, totalling 146.

In the work process, the outbreak of COVID-19, difficulties to take out money from banks, high prices of construction materials, shortage of labour and security measures hampered the construction of the cyclone shelters. So, there remain 24 cyclone shelters to be built by ministries for 17 cyclone shelters and region and state governments for seven. They have built 122 cyclone shelters at the end of February 2022.

Up to the second week of May this year, 219 cyclone shelters have been completed. Now, 23 shelters are under construction and there remain four buildings to be constructed.

These cyclone shelters are scattered in disaster-prone areas such as Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago, Magway, Taninthayi and Sagaing regions and Rakhine, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Shan states.

The shelters can be used as accommodation for victims whenever they face natural disasters such as flooding, storms and others. During the normal time, the shelters can be used for community welfare tasks.

Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly to focus on "Health for Peace, Peace for Health" for recovery and renewal

In a world threatened by conflict, inequities, the climate crisis and pandemics, the Seventy-fifth session of the World Health Assembly will stress the importance of building a healthy and peaceful planet by harnessing science, data, technology and innovation.

This year's session of the Health Assembly will focus on the theme of "Health for Peace, Peace for Health" and will run from the 22-28 May at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. It will include the appointment of the next WHO Director-General.

"The pandemic has undermined progress towards the health-related targets in Sustainable Development Goals and laid bare inequities within and between countries," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "Sustained recovery will require more than 'getting back on track' and reinvesting in existing services and systems. We need a new approach, which means shifting priorities and focusing on the highest-impact interventions."

The Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly will kick off with a high-level segment on 22 May with speeches from the elected Health Assembly President, Heads of State, special guests, an address by the WHO Director-General and the presentation of the Director-General's Health Awards. The Director-General's speech will set out WHO's five priorities going forward, expanding from the vision delivered at the Executive Board meeting held in January 2022.

Ahead of the Health Assembly, on 20 May, WHO will publish the latest set of World Health Statistics, its annual compilation of health statistics for WHO's 194 Member States. The latest edition summarizes trends in life expectancy and causes of death and reports on progress towards global health/development goals



The Health Assembly is WHO's highest decision-making body, setting out the Organization's policy and approving its budget. PHOTO: PAHO/FILE PHOTO

expectancy and causes of death and reports on progress towards global health/development goals

Rethinking risks in times of COVID-19



Rescuers evacuate residents from their flooded homes in Bekasi, Indonesia, 19 February 2021. PHOTO: REZAS/AFP/FILE

As world leaders are traveling to Bali to meet at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2022 and discuss how to better prevent and reduce current and future risks, the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and United Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) have launched the

new report "Rethinking Risks in Times of COVID-19."

The report reveals that the way individuals and decision-making bodies such as governments view risks associated with hazards and shocks has undergone a fundamental change as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Before the pandemic there was not much awareness that

hazards, such as floods, droughts or regional disease outbreaks can have knock-on effects on societies globally. Only when COVID-19 started to spread and affect our daily lives, the true extent of how interdependencies in our highly interconnected world are causing impacts to cascade within and across societies became fully visible," said Dr. Michael Hagenlocher, lead author of the report and senior scientist at UNU-EHS.

As infections were on the rise, the unfolding pandemic prompted a range of policy measures, including stay-at-home orders and shutdowns of public life to limit the spread of the virus and avoid health systems becoming overwhelmed.

Preventing health systems

The effects of these measures were vital in preventing health systems from collapsing and critically necessary for reducing COVID-19 fatalities, and undoubtedly saved millions of lives across the globe. However, the cascading effects of some of these policies hit the most vulnerable the hardest. Underlying issues such as poverty, precarious jobs in

the informal economy, lack of access to education and structural gender biases were made worse by the pandemic.

"Rethinking Risks in Times of COVID-19" presents the results of research from five case studies, conducted in five geographically and socially diverse locations; an urban setting in Ecuador, coastal areas in India, the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh, the Maritime Region in Togo, and Indonesia.

The experience of people in each location reveals not only the human cost of the cascading effects from the pandemic, but also points to lessons that can be learned for risk management in the future. A clear picture emerges showing that the pandemic cast a far-reaching net of impacts that rippled across societies far beyond the immediate effects of COVID-19 itself.

The new report "Rethinking Risks in Times of COVID-19" has set out a number of clear recommendations that can be taken to improve risk management.

One is to join the dots on interconnections. The cascading effects originating from COVID-19

made it possible to understand how things are connected, and how this results in and exacerbates impacts. For example, many people working in the informal economy in Guayaquil, Ecuador, rely on an influx of trade from the city's port, which significantly slowed down during the pandemic, ultimately resulting in significant financial impacts for individuals. By understanding how this system of interconnections works, it is possible to identify where there are vulnerable components that need to be addressed.

Several measures to combat COVID-19

Another is to identify the possible trade-offs implicit in policy measures. Several measures to combat COVID-19, such as school closures, stay-at-home orders and travel restrictions, while necessary to reduce the spread of the disease and save lives, had widespread cascading effects that impacted people disproportionately based on their individual situations. This highlights the need to assess and evaluate possible trade-offs and cascading effects involved in introducing such

for 2020.

The 2020-2021 Results Report, also published before WHA, summarizes the Organization's achievements and challenges in implementing the programme budget.

Key issues

The Health Assembly will discuss global strategies on food safety, oral health, and tuberculosis research and innovation. It will also discuss the report of the Working Group on WHO Sustainable financing.

Other key topics under discussion include:

- strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies;

- an implementation road map 2023-2030 for the global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable

diseases;

- an Intersectoral Global Action Plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders 2022-2031;
- prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment; poliomyelitis; and the Global Health for Peace Initiative.

Agenda items will be discussed in Committee A, which deals with predominant programme and budget matters, and Committee B, which deals mainly with administrative, financial and legal matters. Details can be found in the provisional agenda. The venues at the Palais des Nations are: Plenary — room XIX; Committee A — room XX; and Committee B — room XVII.

Assembly delegates, partner agencies, representatives of civil society and WHO experts will also

discuss priorities for public health in a series of strategic roundtables.

The Health Assembly is WHO's highest decision-making body, setting out the Organization's policy and approving its budget. WHA is attended by delegations from all WHO 194 Member States. The Health Assembly's agenda is prepared by the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board, which will meet on 18-20 May, 2022.

The Health Assembly is open to Member States, Associate Members, Observers, invited representatives of the UN and other participating inter-governmental organizations and non-State actors.

SOURCE: UN



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 22 May 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is vigorous over the Andaman Sea, South Bay and Eastcentral Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 23 May 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, fairly widespread in Kachin, (Northern and Southern) Shan and Kayah states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon states and isolated heavyfalls in Ayeyawady Region. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squall with rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (40) mph. Squall with rough seas are likely at times elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (35) mph. Wave height will be about (10-12) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and (8-10) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of increase of rain in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi regions and Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 May 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 May 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23 May 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

SOURCE: UNDRR

CURRENT AFFAIRS

100 baskets of summer paddy priced at some K800,000 in Pantanaw Township in May

ACCORDING to the rice traders in Pantanaw township, the price of 100 baskets of summer paddy produced this May from Ayeyawady Region is around 800,000 kyats.

Summer paddy such as Hsin Thukha, Pakhan, Theeyin and Hmawby are worth between K750,000 and K800,000 per 100 baskets depending on the type and the moisture, said a rice trader Ko Min Min.

The domestic rice price has risen since the mill owners purchased in advance in May. Due to increased purchases because of the decrease in summer paddy cultivation, the price has up. Farmers are selling the summer paddy while there are still purchases, according to farmer U Aye Thein.

According to rice traders, domestic retail prices of a bag of Pawsan rice is priced at over 60,000 kyats, summer Ziyar K31,000, Shwebo Bayg-



Piles of newly-harvested summer paddy are seen at farmland.

yar (Pawsan) is over K55,000, Pathein Pawsan is about K50,000, Pyapon Pawsan over K47,000 and Pathin Manaw Thukha about K33,000.

In the 2022-2023 fiscal year,

there are countries who would like to buy up to 2 million tonnes of rice, and, therefore, traders are collecting summer paddy. About 240,000 tonnes of rice, and broken rice were exported

to abroad, earning about USD 80 million in April.

Relevant departments are providing farmers with fertilizers, loans, seedling, and insurance prices. Summer paddy

produced from Ayeyawady Region is being traded between 800 baskets and 1,500 baskets. A total of 35 companies are exporting rice and broken rice to 27 foreign countries. According to the paddy prices, 100 baskets of Pawsan paddy is K 1.4 million and 100 baskets of Shwethwe is K 950,000 in Pathein township; 100 baskets of Pakhan paddy is K 900,000 and 100 baskets of Hsin Thukha is K 850,000 in Yekyi township; 100 baskets of Pawsan paddy is K 1.45 million, Manaw Thukha and Hsin Thukha is K 860,000 per 100 baskets in Myaungmya township; 100 baskets of Hsin Thukha paddy is K 770,000 and Pakhan Shwewah paddy is K 800,000 per 100 baskets in Laymyethna township; 100 baskets of Pawsan paddy in Maubin township is K 1.3 million, Manaw Thuka is K 850,000 per 100 baskets; 100 baskets of Pawsan paddy is K 1.07 million in Kyaiklat township.—TWA/GNLM

Five strong wind-affected trawlers sink in sea in Rakhine State

DUE to strong winds on the evening of 21 May at about 31 nautical miles northwest of Kyunthaya Island in Rakhine State, five trawlers sank in sea, according to the Rakhine State Government.

“It was a squall at around one o’clock in the afternoon all over Rakhine State; There were

some boats sinking and many houses were damaged at Kyunthaya Island,” said U Hla Oo, a resident of Manaung.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology released a statement on 21 May stating that the cyclone has weakened and moved towards to the northern Thailand.

“Due to the heavy winds, three trawlers from Kyunthaya village and two more trawlers from Pyinwaing village, and all 13 people who sank with the boats were searched and rescued by the people and they all have arrived back home,” said U Kyaw Sein Tun, a rescue worker.

Although some trawlers were reported sunk near the Ngapathon Island in Myebon Township, no one was killed. Those who were injured in the rescue work were taken to Ngapathon Hospital.

Residents of Thandwe, Kyaukpyu, Myebon and Sittway make a living by fishing and the notice of the village administrator to not go to the sea was weak, locals say.

“Everyone is in the sea right now. Despite the weather forecast on TV and radio, local authorities did not provide advance notice. This is what almost all trawlers have to deal with,” said Daw Yi Yi Win.—TWA/GNLM



Some trawlers are seen at sea as usual for their fishing work.

Medical Services Department recruits more than 1000 medical doctors



University of Medicine (2) in Yangon.

THE Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour, and the Ministry of Transport and Communications are recruiting fresh graduates with medical degrees, according to the Union Civil Service Board.

The positions are to fill 986 vacancies of Medical Services Department and 82 vacancies in dentistry. In addition, the Department of Human Resources for Health is also recruiting 107 demonstrators with medical degrees and the Traditional Medicine University 13 demonstrators with

medical degrees for academic positions. Furthermore, the Social Security Board is recruiting 21 assistant doctors with medical degrees and the Myanmar Railways four assistant doctors with medical degrees, according to the Union Civil Service Board. Applicants are encouraged to apply via online by 21 June.

The Ministry of Health warned more than 1,200 medical doctors who graduated in 2020 and 2021 to fulfill their contractual duties for three years on 13 May.—TWA/GNLM

Health care in US explicitly “luxury”, rather than right: report

FOR many Americans, regular health care is financially out of reach. Health care is explicitly a luxury, rather than a right, said a report of popular science magazine Scientific American.

During the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, media outlets, health experts and scholars have explained the COVID-19 vaccine divide in the United States as partisan, educational, racial or socioeconomic. As it stands, the overall U.S. adult vaccination rate has hovered around 65 percent for months now, said the report published

on Wednesday.

“But this division may go back to the founding ideals of democracy in the US: Americans simply aren’t accustomed to expecting much from their government,” said the report.

If preventing further pandemics is truly a goal of the U.S. public health system, then instead of investing in private health care and subsidizing private research for vaccine development, the country should invest in the development of public health systems and de-

velop strategies to include social rights in the principles of its democracy, said the report.

For many Americans, regular health care is financially out of reach. Half of Americans carry medical debt — and the government has little role in ensuring access to health care, said the report.

“It has been clear for months throughout this pandemic that vaccine acceptance is not only a scientific issue, but also a public health and communication problem,” said the report. — Xinhua



Medical workers carry a patient into a hospital in New York, the United States, on 13 December 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA/WANG YING

NEWS IN BRIEF



4 subway lines in Shanghai to resume service

FOUR subway lines in Shanghai will resume service starting Sunday, the Shanghai Shentong Metro Group said Friday, adding that passengers must hold a negative nucleic acid test result within 48 hours for entry.

The subway routes include Line 3, Line 6, Line 10 and Line 16, some of which link the city’s train stations and the downtown areas. Metro trains on these four lines will operate from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Shanghai is inching back toward reopening after the latest resurgence of COVID-19 infections brought the megacity of 25 million to a standstill. Community transmission of infections in all its 16 districts has been cut off.

The megacity reported 88 confirmed locally transmitted COVID-19 cases and 770 local asymptomatic cases on Thursday, the municipal health commission said Friday. — Xinhua

Beijing extends COVID control measures amid local outbreak

BEIJING will maintain strict and tight COVID-19 control measures as hidden community-level transmission has been discovered through recent screenings, a municipal official said at a press briefing Friday.

Dine-in services at restaurants will remain unavailable, and schools will continue suspending in-person classes, said Xu Hejian, a spokesperson for the Beijing municipal government.

THE national capital reported 54 new locally transmitted COVID-19 infections between 3 p.m. Thursday and 3 p.m. Friday, said Liu Xiaofeng, deputy head of the Beijing municipal disease prevention and control center. — Xinhua

German gov’t allows further tax relief to cushion COVID-19 impact

THE German government on Thursday passed a bundle of tax relief measures to help citizens and companies cope with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Individuals and companies are still carrying a heavy burden as a result of the pandemic, the government said. Aside from social cohesion, the aim of the measures is to “protect the health of citizens while safeguarding jobs and supporting

the economy.”

Employees in Germany will now be able to claim a tax allowance of up to 600 euros (630 U.S. dollars) per year for working from home.

Although companies are no longer obliged to allow employees to work from home, almost 25 percent were still working remotely in April, according to Munich-based the ifo Institute.

Employers in the health-

care sector can now also pay their nursing professionals a tax-free bonus of up to 3,000 euros. This allowance is intended to “reward the special efforts of nursing staff during the pandemic,” the government said.

Other measures include allowing companies to carry back losses to two preceding years, to ensure liquidity. (1 euro = 1.05 US dollars) — Xinhua

Arab League, China vow to deepen anti-COVID-19 cooperation



Egyptian girls pose in Pharaoh costumes in front of the Giza Pyramids on the southwestern outskirts of the Egyptian capital Cairo, on 18 December. PHOTO: AFP

CHINA and the Arab League pledged to deepen their cooperation in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, said a statement published Friday by the Chinese embassy in Egypt.

The two sides made the remarks during a meeting held

Thursday in Cairo between Chinese Ambassador to Egypt Liao Liqiang and Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Arab League (AL) Assistant Secretary General for Social Affairs.

“Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, China and Arab countries have stood to-

gether and helped each other,” said the Chinese ambassador, noting “the traditional friendship and strategic partnership between China and Arab countries have been constantly deepened and enhanced.”

China stands ready to continue working with Arab countries to combat the pandemic, and build a community of a shared future for China and the Arab countries as well as a community of common health for the two sides through cooperation in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, said Liao.

He also highlighted China’s dynamic zero-COVID policy, which has ensured not only the steady development of China’s economy, but also the security of the global industrial and supply chains, bringing benefits to the world. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD



Photo shows a trade ministers' meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Bangkok, Thailand, on 21 May 2022. **PHOTO: THAI GOVERNMENT / KYODO**

APEC should push for strong policies to avert future crises: Thai deputy PM

THAILAND'S Deputy Prime Minister and Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanavisit called for enhanced efforts from Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies to respond to future crises and achieve better and more inclusive economic growth in the region.

While addressing the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting on Saturday and Sunday, Jurin said "I strongly hope that the outcome of this meeting will include a strong policy stance regarding the recovery of the regional economy af-

ter the COVID-19 pandemic, from where we should emerge stronger than ever in order to cope with future crises."

Thailand is the host of APEC 2022. Jurin highlighted Thailand's theme of "Open. Connect. Balance." and urged member economies to advance APEC's work in deepening economic integration and mobilizing the progress of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP).

He also reiterated the importance of resuming safe and convenient cross-border travel

and promoting digital and supply chain connectivity while taking into account environmental protection and bolstering food and agricultural security to ensure the well-being of the region's people.

The meeting, with online or offline participants from APEC economies, has seen member economies detail their perspectives on the future of trade policy, especially for reviving and strengthening regional economic integration and supporting the multilateral trading system. — Xinhua

NEWS IN Brief

Italy's oil imports from Russia quadruple since February: reports

ITALY is importing three times more of oil from Russia than it did before the start of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, according to news reports on Friday.

A story published in the Financial Times reported that Italy had quadrupled the amount of Russian crude oil it imports to 450,000 barrels per day.

The dramatic increase is due to a distorting impact of sanctions against Russia, the report said.

The developments are based around the ISAB oil refinery on the southern Italian island of Sicily, which is owned by Moscow-based Lukoil. — Xinhua

Kenya launches strategy to guide tourism recovery

KENYA has launched a strategy to guide the growth and recovery of the tourism sector in the next five years, a senior official said. Najib Balala, cabinet secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife said in Nairobi, Kenya's capital, that the strategy outlines an actionable plan that is designed around the four pillars that will assist to transform Kenya into a top tourist destination in Africa.

"The strategy calls for repositioning of Kenya's brand, developing new and existing markets, developing new tourism products and experiences as well as developing enablers to further strengthen the industry," Balala said during the launch on Friday evening.

Government data indicates that international tourist arrivals hit 870,465 in 2021, earning the country 146 billion shillings (about 1.25 billion US dollars). — Xinhua



Tourists look on a lion as it enjoys its early morning wildebeest in Maasai Mara National Reserve, Narok County, Kenya, 19 September 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

India attracts highest ever foreign direct investment in 2021-22

INDIA received the highest ever foreign direct investment (FDI) worth 83.57 billion US dollars during the financial year 2021-22 (April 2021-March 2022), the federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry said Friday.

The ministry said India had rapidly emerged as a preferred FDI destination, and that the FDI inflows had increased 20-fold in the past 20 years.

According to the ministry, FDI equity inflows in the manufacturing sector rose by 76 percent during 2021-22.

The country's southern state of Karnataka emerged as the top FDI equity inflow recipient state. Singapore remained the top investor with 27 percent share, followed by the United States with 18 percent share in



Employees assemble parts and make final inspections of Honda Activa scooters in Narasapura, on the outskirts of Bangalore, India. The Activa is India's top-selling two-wheeled vehicle. **PHOTO: MANJUNATH KIRAN/AFP**

total FDI inflows. Computer software and hardware were the top recipient sectors of FDI equity inflow, with a share of around 25 percent.

FDI inflows have been consistently rising in the country

over the years. It stood at 62 billion dollars in 2018-19, rose to 74.39 billion dollars during 2019-20, and further increased to 81.97 billion dollars during 2020-21, according to data released by the ministry. — Xinhua

German producer prices rise at record pace amid energy crisis

PRODUCER prices in Germany rose at record pace in April as factory gate prices for industrial products were 33.5 percent higher than a year ago, the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) said on Friday.

Energy prices soared 87.3 percent and continued to be "mainly responsible" for greatest price increases since the Federal Republic of Germany was founded in 1949, Destatis said. Without energy, the overall producer price index would have risen by 16.3 percent only.

The development was impacted by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, according to Destatis, along with the rising factory gate prices. "Inflationary pressure on end-consumers remains very high," said Jens-Oliver Niklasch, expert at Landesbank Baden-Wuerttemberg (LBBW).

Driven by soaring energy and motor fuel prices, inflation in Germany stood at 7.4 percent, a 40-year high, in April. The last time prices increased at comparable speed was

during the Iran-Iraq war that started in 1980. Eurozone inflation was even slightly higher at 7.5 percent.

The German government has recently lowered its 2022 economic growth forecast from 3.6 percent to 2.2 percent, expecting annual inflation to reach 6.1 percent, almost twice as high as previously assumed. "The risks to the economy are significant," Minister for Economic Affairs Robert Habeck said when presenting the outlook in April. — Xinhua

Manufacturers getting to grips with airless tyres



Puncture-proof tyres could one day become a reality. **PHOTO: AFP**

AIRLESS tyres that never go flat or need to be inflated: It's a decades-long dream that manufacturers hope to turn into a reality soon, but for truck drivers first.

The challenges that the technology faces

were put on display at a Goodyear test track in Luxembourg, where a group of journalists put a Tesla equipped with airless tyres through its paces.

Instead of being filled with air, the tyres have a

web of spokes that keep the wheels firm and give them a see-through look.

The thin layer of rubber gripping the asphalt has a gargantuan physical challenge to meet: supporting the weight of the car and absorbing

shocks as well as standard pneumatic tyres for thousands and thousands of kilometres.

That challenge is being overcome: the tyre's rubber and plastic structure resisted the huge stress as the car banked into the track's tight turns.

The ride is smooth but the grip is not as good as on conventional tyres — and they are noisier. The tyres were tested for 120,000 kilometres (75,000 miles) at speeds of up to 160 kph in both scorching temperatures as well as snow, said Michael Rachita, who heads up Goodyear's efforts to develop airless tyres. — AFP

Moldova wine industry's EU focus pays off

IN the small Moldovan village of Pereni, Nicolae Tronciu gazes at his vineyard, with its buds ready to bloom.

The 71-year-old launched his current brand four years ago, selling it to Europe rather than Russia, traditionally his country's biggest customer — a move that is paying off amid the war in Ukraine.

"Most of my production goes to Europe, especially to our Romanian brothers," Tronciu told AFP at his vineyard, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) away from the Ukrainian border.

Moldova — a small former Soviet republic of some 2.6 million people nestled between Ukraine and Romania, and among the world's 20 largest wine producers — has long sought closer ties with Europe.

This has now mitigated the war's impact as the industry struggles with rising prices for raw materials and a lack of Ukrainian consumers.

"The Russian market was our traditional market... In the EU you can charge higher prices for wine, but there the focus is on quality," Tronciu said. —AFP

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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Dated: 23 May 2022

Hyundai to build \$5.5 bn electric vehicle plant in US

SOUTH Korean automaker Hyundai will build a \$5.5 billion electric vehicle and battery plant in the southern US state of Georgia, its governor announced Friday, as President Joe Biden pursued his trip to Seoul. Brian Kemp made

the announcement alongside Hyundai Motor Company president Jay Chang at the future factory site near Savannah, hailing the more than 8,000 jobs the venture is expected to create. "We are proud to welcome Hyundai Motor

Group to Georgia as we forge an innovative future together," Kemp said, according to a statement released by his office. He called the plant "the largest economic development project in our state's history." — AFP

Land-sea train from China to Laos launched with faster clearance



Customs officers inspect a China-Laos cargo train before its departure in Chongqing, 21 May 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

AN international rail-sea freight train left southwest China's Chongqing Municipality Saturday for Vientiane in Laos, with customs clearance faster than ever.

The train loaded with

local food from Chongqing and agricultural machinery is expected to arrive in Vientiane along the China-Laos Railway in four days.

It is the first rail-sea

freight train along the railway to adopt a new clearance mode launched by the General Administration of Customs in recent years, whereby clearance efficiency is much improved, especially for trains carrying containers.

"In the past, after customs declaration and release at the departure, outbound trains had to undergo checks and other procedures, which increased the detention time by one to two days," said You Xiaoyong, a staff member with the transport service's operating company. —Xinhua

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Thousands mark late Yugoslav leader Tito's birth anniversary

SEVERAL thousand fans of former Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito marked the 130th anniversary of his birth on Saturday in the Croatian village where he was born.

Admirers of the late communist leader gathered in front of the house where he was born in 1892, now a museum in Kumrovec, northern Croatia

They had come from all over the former Yugoslav federation to celebrate Tito's achievements, notably leading the partisan fighters who drove out the Nazi German occupying forces in World War II, standing

up to Soviet leader Joseph Stalin and founding the Non-Aligned Movement.

"The reason (for gathering) is the remembrance, not only of the past, but of the time in which we lived both richer and safer," said Jovan Vejnovic, head of an association of Tito supporters.

Many of Tito's admirers waved former Yugoslavia flags and were dressed in T-shirts bearing the former leader's image.

Tito ruled Yugoslavia from the end of WWII until his death in 1980.

A decade later, the feder-



Supporters gather in front of a statue of the late Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito in the village of Kumrovec on Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP**

ation collapsed in a series of bloody wars that claimed more than 100,000 lives.

Under Tito's rule, Yugoslavia remained independent of the then Soviet Union and became

one of the most prosperous communist nations.

Tito remains a controversial figure in the countries that emerged after Yugoslavia's collapse — Bosnia and Herze-

govnia, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia — adored by some but considered a dictator by others. — AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

New military bases in western Russia in response to NATO expansion



Russian servicemen stand guard at a destroyed factory in Ukraine's port city of Mariupol on Wednesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

RUSSIAN Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said on Friday that Moscow would create new

military bases in western Russia in response to the expansion of NATO, AFP reported.

"By the end of the year, 12 military units and divisions will be established in the Western Military District," Shoigu said at a meeting in televised remarks.

The army expects to receive more than two thousand units of military equipment and weapons, Shoigu added. Russian President Vladimir Putin sent troops to pro-Western Ukraine on February 24. Moscow's military campaign shook Sweden and Finland that — after decades of military non-alignment — decided to seek NATO membership despite warnings from the Kremlin. — AFP

Ukraine war, pandemic push to colour WHO international meet

THE war in Ukraine is set to loom large over the World Health Assembly on Sunday.

The Ukraine war looms large as the World Health Organization opens its main annual assembly Sunday, threatening to overshadow efforts on other health crises and a reform push aimed at preventing future pandemics.

The UN health agency will kick off its 75th World Health Assembly Sunday afternoon, con-

vening its 194 member states for their first largely in-person

gathering since Covid-19 surfaced in late 2019. — AFP



The war in Ukraine is set to loom large over the World Health Assembly on Sunday. **PHOTO: AFP**

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

Russia homes in on Lugansk

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu says Moscow is nearing full control of the separatist region of Lugansk in eastern Ukraine.

"The liberation of the Lugansk People's Republic is nearing completion," Shoigu says.

HE adds that 1,908 Ukrainian soldiers have surrendered at the besieged Azovstal steel plant in the port city of Mariupol, which is under Moscow's control. — AFP

Kharkiv digs in against a new Russian assault

NEW trenches, concrete blocks, sandbags and numerous checkpoints appear to be everywhere around Kharkiv, which has pushed back one Russian assault on Ukraine's second city, and is preparing to defend against another. A pink stuffed toy marks the entrance to one freshly dug trench in the regional capital. The cut earth is still soft and black and the soldiers are down to their vests, soaking up the sun. Tensions have eased in this northeastern corner of Ukraine, but Kharkiv, just 50 kilometres (30 miles) from the Russian border, remains under permanent threat, and a second line of defence has been organised behind the first.

"When we were here on the 24th of February there were no positions at all," says "Doctor", a medic with the National Guard, referring to the day the Russian invaded.

"Our warriors were laying by the road behind hills and were shooting, we had fire contacts," he explains. — AFP

Number of Ukrainian evacuees to Japan reaches 1,000

THE number of evacuees from Ukraine to Japan since Russia's invasion of the Eastern European country in late February reached 1,000 on Saturday, immigration authorities said. Japan, which traditionally recognizes only around 1 percent of refugee applications, has so far been accepting evacuees from Ukraine under a special measure, without granting them refugee status. — Kyodo

Biden heads to Japan after warning on North Korea threat

PRESIDENT Joe Biden flies Sunday to Japan for the second leg of a trip intended to reinforce US leadership across Asia in the face of a rising China and dangerously unpredictable, nuclear-armed North Korea.

Biden is leaving South Korea, where he joined newly elected President Yoon Suk-yeol for a series of meetings, including discussing expanded military exercises to counter Kim Jong Un's sabre rattling.

As officials from both countries warned that Kim could raise tensions with a nuclear weapon test while Biden is in

the region, the US president said the democratic allies must deepen ties.

At a joint press conference with Yoon, Biden cited a global "competition between democracies and autocracies" and said the Asia-Pacific region is a key battleground.

"We talked in some length about the need for us to make this larger than just the United States, Japan, and Korea, but the entire Pacific and the South Pacific and Indo-Pacific. I think this is an opportunity," Biden said.

While China is the main US



Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida attends a virtual meeting with the U.S. President Joe Biden at his official residence in Tokyo, Japan 21 January 2022, in this photo released by Japan's Cabinet Public Relations Office via Kyodo. **PHOTO: JAPAN'S CABINET PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE VIA KYODO/FILE**

rival in that struggle, Biden illustrated the acute challenge from Russia when he signed a \$40 billion aid bill late Saturday

to help Ukraine fight the invasion by Moscow's forces.

The bill, passed earlier by Congress, was flown to Seoul

so that Biden could make it law without having to wait for his return to Washington late next Tuesday. — AFP

Man City win Premier League title after epic fightback on final day



Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola caresses the Premier League trophy as he prepares to celebrate their title during the award ceremony after the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Aston Villa at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, on 22 May 2022. **PHOTO: OLI SCARFF / AFP**

MANCHESTER City won the Premier League for the fourth time in five seasons after a pulsating title race reached a dramatic conclusion as the champions staged an incredible comeback from two goals down to beat Aston Villa 3-2 on Sunday.

Pep Guardiola's side were teetering on the brink of blowing the title after falling 2-0 behind midway through the second half at the Etihad Stadium.

But Ilkay Gundogan sparked an astonishing City revival as the German midfielder reduced the deficit before Rodri grabbed the equaliser.

Gundogan turned in City's third goal in the space of five

minutes in the 81st minute, triggering wild celebrations and rendering second placed Liverpool's 3-1 victory against Wolves irrelevant. City finished with 93 points, one ahead of Liverpool as they ended their rivals hopes of winning an unprecedented quadruple.

On a breathtaking final day, Burnley were relegated as Leeds beat the drop, while Tottenham qualified for the Champions League at the expense of their north London rivals Arsenal.

It was City who hogged the spotlight on a day their fans, who spilled onto the pitch in delight, will never forget.

Guardiola's men can rightly

be called a dynasty after joining Manchester United as the only clubs in the Premier League era to have won four titles in five seasons, with Alex Ferguson's teams doing it on three separate occasions.

The eighth league title in City's history is Guardiola's ninth major trophy since arriving at the club in 2016.

"It was an unbelievable game," Gundogan said.

"It was about getting that goal and then the momentum was on our side. These are the days you look back to."

Once again, City saved the best until last as they edged Liverpool out on the final day of the season for the second time after beating them to the finish line in 2019. It was 10 years since Sergio Aguero's famous last-second goal against QPR sealed City's first title since 1968 and this jaw-dropping success was almost as unlikely.

Guardiola had called on City's fans to be "loud, loud, loud" in their bid to retain the crown, but they were stunned into silence in the 37th minute.

Lucas Digne whipped in a cross from the left and Matty Cash got in front of Joao Cancelo to score with a bullet header. —AFP

AC Milan win first Serie A title since 2011

AC Milan won their first Serie A title in 11 years on Sunday after beating Sassuolo 3-0 to snatch the crown from local rivals Inter Milan.

Needing just a point to claim the Scudetto Milan swept their hosts aside thanks to an Olivier Giroud brace and another from Franck Kessie in the first half in front of an army of away fans at the Mapei Stadium. Stefano Pioli's Milan finished two points ahead of Inter, who beat Sampdoria 3-0 in the San Siro.

Fans partied in Milan and poured onto the pitch in Reggio Emilia as the 'Rossoneri' returned to the top of the Italian game after years of poor teams and financial problems since their last league crown in 2011.

Pioli's side were imperious

in winning their sixth match on the bounce and securing a title which for long tracts of the season looked like Inter's to lose.

They were helped by a hat-trick of assists from exciting winger Rafael Leao, who has come of age this season and is reportedly a summer target for Paris Saint-Germain.

Giroud has struck some of the most important goals of Milan's charge to the title and again showed why he is the man for the big occasion in the 17th minute. Milan had already gone close through the France forward, Rafael Leao and Alexis Saelemaekers when Giroud was in the right place at the right time to sweep Leao's low pass through Andrea Consigli's legs and send the massed ranks of Milan fans wild. — AFP



AC Milan's Italian head coach Stefano Pioli (R), AC Milan's French forward Olivier Giroud (Rear L) and teammates celebrate minutes to the end of the Italian Serie A football match between Sassuolo and AC Milan on 22 May 2022 at the Mapei - Citta del Tricolore stadium in Sassuolo. **PHOTO: FILIPPO MONTEFORTE / AFP**

Thousands mark late Yugoslav leader Tito's birth anniversary

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SPORT

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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

3. Social affairs

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



Myanmar Vovinam team wins one gold, one bronze while boxing bags one silver in 31st SEA Games



THE 31st Southeast Asian Games, hosted by Viet Nam, is being held at stadiums in various cities with Myanmar's victory.

Maung Aung Khaing Lin, Maung Yazar Tun, Maung Hein Htet Aung and Maung Kyaw Thu Soe Aung deserved to win the 9th Gold Medal for Myanmar in the Vovinam Male Leg Attack Technique event.

Ma Shwe Thet Htar won the bronze medal in the women's 60-kilo event of the Vovinam and Maung Naing Latt grabbed a silver medal in the men's 57-kilo boxing event at Bac Ninh Gymnasium.

The Deputy Minister and party enjoyed and supported the Myanmar athletes participating in shooting competition at Hanoi National Sport Training Centre in Hanoi, weightlifting competition at Hanoi Sport Training Centre, Boxing event at Bac Ninh Gymnasium,

and Vovinam competition at the Soc Son Gymnasium yesterday.

He encouraged the Myanmar athletes and awarded prizes to the winners.



Yesterday competitions include Shooting, Weightlifting, Judo, Vovinam, and Boxing.

Currently, Myanmar is ranking in seventh of the 31st SEA Games by earning 62 medals: nine gold, 18 silver and 35 bronze medals.—MNA