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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.

Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing delivers address at 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade

CHAIRMAN of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address at the 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade at the Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground yesterday morning.

Officers, other ranks from the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), female military parade company from the Tatmadaw (Army), members of Myanmar Police Force and female police members in the mechanized column led by Brig-Gen Kyaw Swa Tun and in the Anawrahta Column led by Brig-Gen Moe Zaw Tun, the Kyansittha Column by Brig-Gen Zaw Paing

Tun, the Bayintnaung Column by Commodore Thein Htoo, the Aungzeya Column by Brig-Gen Kyi Khaing, the Hsinbyushin Column by Brig-Gen Zaw Win Tun, the Bandoola Column by Brig-Gen Zaw Myint Oo and the Aung San Column by Police Brig-Gen Lu Lu Than under the command of Parade Commander Maj-Gen Ye Kyaw Thu took the positions at the Thittat parade ground.

Along the route they marched, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of the SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army)

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Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing delivers speech at 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade.

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Dinner ceremony held in honour of 77th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day



Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla cordially greet attendees to the dinner to mark 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

THE 77th Anniversary of the Armed Forces Day Reception and Dinner Ceremony 2022 hosted by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla yesterday evening in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the beginning of the dinner, fireworks were launched from the military parade ground and Bayintnaung Villa to mark the 77th Anniversary of the Armed Forces Day.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, SAC members, the Sec-

retary and the Joint-Secretary of the Council, the Union Chief Justice, the Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, the Chairman of the Union Election Commission, Union Ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union, the Auditor-General of the Union, the Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, and the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar and their wives, family members of the thirty comrades, family members of retired Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, retired senior military officers (Army, Navy and Air) and their wives, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) and their wives,

Independence Mawgun Award winners, Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union, Members of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, Members of the UEC and advisers, Deputy Ministers, Retired Military Personnel Ambassadors and their wives, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, parade commander, column commanders and commanding officers, foreign military attaches, representatives of ethnic armed groups that have signed the NCA, political party chairmen, families of winners in Aung San Thuriya title, Thiha Thura and Thura medals and gallantry medals, Members of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization and transformed people's militia and members of the border guard central

advisory board, officials from the Myanmar Police Force, the Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Society, officials from the ministries, military personnel (retired) who served at the respective ministries, artists who starred in the story in honour of Armed Forces Day, winners of military song, poem, short story and novel competitions, invited artistes, officials, students and teachers from the University for Development of National Races, and guests.

The Senior General and wife cordially met with those attended the dinner, and artists from the Myawady Entertainment Troupe entertained the guests with songs before and during the dinner. Afterwards, in commemoration of the 77th Anniver-

sary of the Armed Forces Day, many small drones were used to display the banners of the "77th Armed Forces Day", the map and flag of Myanmar, symbols of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), the saluting of the Senior General and launching of fireworks.

After the dinner, the Senior General and party awarded the military personnel who performed at the ceremony, cordially met with the attendees. Then, fireworks were launched.

The Senior General and the attendees were also entertained with live music performed by the famous national artists at Thabin Hall of Zeyathiri Beikman to the accompaniment of Myawady Entertainment Troupe, and bouquet were awarded.—MNA

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win cordially meets Independence Mawgun award winners at 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day ceremony

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe cordially met with two Independence Mawgun Second Class award winners and three Independence Mawgun Third Class award winners, totalling five who attended the 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade ceremony at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Vice-Senior General and wife also treated the per-

sonnel with a tea party and asked after and gave them edible bird's nests and honorary cash assistance in person.—MNA

Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe cordially meet Independence Mawgun award winners.



What Federalism is

FEDERALISM is a concept to share the authority with regions, states, ethnics and national races in unison, and it is integration as well as sharing of rights. Political parties, including ethnic parties, are representing the people.

(Excerpt from the speech made by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on one-year State responsibilities discharged by the State Administration Council)

Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing delivers address at 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade

FROM PAGE-1

Vice-Senior General Soe Win, wives of the SAC members, union ministers and the senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) garlanded the Tatmadaw members and police members. Likewise, officers, other ranks and families from Nay Pyi Taw Command headquarters and stations, film artistes and local people warmly welcomed the Tatmadaw members and police members with garlands.

The ceremony was also attended by State dignitaries, departmental heads, officials from



Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing inspects parade columns.

The military columns led by Parade Commander Maj-Gen Ye Kyaw Thu marched past the Senior General and left the parade ground.

Meanwhile, aircraft in squadrons from the Tatmadaw (Air) in various formations flew over the parade ground to salute the Senior General.

The Senior General cordially greeted the guests and left the parade ground.

The bronze statues of three kings who established the first, second and third Myanmar empires posted in the Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground and the flaming torch and the emblem to mark the 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day could be seen in the parade ground on a grand scale in addition to hoisting colourful flags representing the Burma Independence Army, the Burma Defence Army, directorates of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), military commands and military divisions as well as regiments and units.—MNA



The 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade in progress.

social organizations, those from different strata and media.

The Senior General took the salute of the Tatmadaw members and police members of the military columns and then he inspected the military columns.

The Senior General and those from military columns took the four-point oath after saluting the State flag and fallen Tatmadaw members.

The Senior General then delivered an address. *(The full text of the speech is reported on page 4.)*



Parade companies are marching in the parade ground to salute the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

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

Comrades,

Our Tatmadaw imbued with the immense prestige etched in the annals of history remained steadfast in its commitment to resuming Independence, safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes, restoring State peace and development, and now is the date of our Tatmadaw to commemorate the 77th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day.

Comrades,

Tatmadaw in collaboration with the people makes a tryst with destiny for Independence under the aggression of the British Imperialists on 4th January 1948.

Since the political dissent and ideological differences amongst our ethnic groups ignited from the spillover effect of the Divide-and-Rule policy of the British Imperialists became feeble, the blaze of civil war spiralling outwards our country has occurred at the very date of Independence. Before hand, the government was ironically denoted as Yangon Government; meanwhile, Tatmadaw initiated the decisive battles with much sacrifice and restored the State's peace and stability. Similarly, Tatmadaw launched the thirty major operations which entailed the Mekong operation and minor ones to protect from foreign intrusion like the Kuomintang invasion from 1950 to 1961.

Furthermore, with the full retention of nationalistic fervour and the upright stance, Tatmadaw was responsible for safeguarding the country in the meantime of State of Emergency as the political crisis in 1958, the potential threats of the Union disintegration in 1962, and the insurrection and devastation of administrative mechanism in 1988.

With much sacrifice of lives, Tatmadaw annihilated the insurgents who violated the sovereignty of the country in the post-1988. Likewise, I am very much honoured that Tatmadaw embraced to uphold Our Three Main National Causes even though it has experienced with different political systems of the successive government bodies in the period of Independence struggle to date.

Comrades,

It is convinced that each political system is very important to change subtly for all over the countries. Political, economic and social infrastructures duly promulgated by Tatmadaw are the salient points of building a Nation since its assumption of State Responsibility in 1988. The Constitution which is quintessential for the democratic system of our country and implementation of the market-oriented economy has been prescribed. In 2010, Tatmadaw has designed to foster the Multi-Party Democracy System desired by people and to lead a smooth democratic transition. I would like to impart that these aforementioned factors are the avowed intention of Tatmadaw to the country and people.

Comrades,

In the tempestuous period, it is unquestionable that only the strategic provocation of some superpower countries to others is no longer hailed in the conventional ways but other unconventional forcible means in terms of politics, economics, social, propaganda and diplomacy. Thus, information and communication technology, electronic and mechanical engineering technology have to be well-practised to win victory in modern warfare.

It is also needed to learn about modern military tactics, strategies and leapfrogging technology. Therefore, the National defence power would be developed by the cohesive forces of the Army, Navy and Air with the high composition of human resources and advanced technology.

Every military personnel has to be competent in

their respective fields and vocational training is also needed to sustain the combat capability and combat power and to ripen into the fully-fledged military personnel. Training is the fundamental task to be efficient in military capabilities and also required to conduct with our military training motto, "Study, Practise, Comply" for individual and communal works.

Comrades,

Since our Tatmadaw is the strongest institution that is responsible for the National defence duty, unity within the organization is pivotal. As the foreign aggressors and a bunch of self-interested political parties in the country are trying to disintegrate the Tatmadaw in an act of internal and external mischiefs, it is always needed to have a strong sense of unity within the organization.

Military personnel, hence, are required to precisely abide by the Codes of Conduct to remain constant unity within the organization and I would like to urge that military personnel and their family members are to live together in pursuit of the right perception, belief and stance in the same manner. Moreover, individuals have set in their hearts family figures with mutual

safeguard the people at the bottom end and Our Three Main National Causes denoted as the National duty at the top either.

Every military personnel has to behave like a good soldier who is proud to be a dignified and soldierly life in the noblest form. Furthermore, it is also needed to heighten an individual's life career through promulgated laws, rules and regulations, good morale and morality, and obedience.

Adhering to the rules and regulations by each military personnel, it is needed to preserve the virtuous tradition of Tatmadaw and to be a well-disciplined Tatmadaw, a well-regulated institution and an organization of quintessential example of discipline. The composition of good soldiers and leaders is required to build up a prestigious institution, Tatmadaw. To become a good soldier, it is needed to be a man of discipline followed by obedience.

Besides, it has to be fully-fledged with knowledge and expertise to become good leaders who are needed to acquire the high composition of experience and rational thought with the sixteen characteristics of leadership. I

Military personnel, hence, are required to precisely abide by the Codes of Conduct to remain constant unity within the organization and I would like to urge that military personnel and their family members are to live together in pursuit of the right perception, belief and stance in the same manner. Moreover, individuals have set in their hearts family figures with mutual understanding and due respect embracing the comradeship spirit.

understanding and due respect embracing the comradeship spirit.

Not only a strong sense of unity within the organization but outside the organization is also important. As our Tatmadaw is the only institution hailed from the ethnic people, it has to safeguard the lives and property of the people and to assist in the daily social life security of the people in all directions.

Concerning the preventive, control and treatment measures of COVID-19 anguished by our country and the globe, the third wave of COVID-19 was successfully overcome by the effective cooperation amongst Tatmadaw, people and relevant organizations in unison. Therefore, the collaborative efforts of Tatmadaw and people are to sustain in the areas of the vaccination process and follow the COVID-19 restrictions to prevent the potential forthcoming wave of COVID-19 to some extent.

As our Tatmadaw is well-organized and always in readiness, the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) process could be accelerated on time without someone's commitment per the statement, "Life Matters Most" while the unacquainted reasons of natural disaster come to us. If so, Tatmadaw and the people will be in harmony and unity outside the organization will be at full strength.

Comrades,

Tatmadaw personnel are obliged to be loyal to the country and people are the ones who are responsible for the duty to defend the Nation, the duty to undergo training and the duty to serve the interests of the people. For the sake of communal contributions, the National defence duty taken by Tatmadaw personnel with their own consent and spiritual conduct means to

would like to say that a prestigious institution, Tatmadaw composed of good soldiers (subordinates) with good discipline and obedience, and good leaders (superiors) with rational thought could serve the National defence duty in full strength as a capable Tatmadaw and well-established institution.

As every military personnel joined the Tatmadaw to defend the country by their own consent and moral virtue, I would like to urge you to be proud of your selfless sacrifice and to be the good soldiers entrusted by the country and Tatmadaw.

Comrades,

Cooperation with the International and regional countries is moving forward to constitute a country more stable and developed. Not only a country but also the globe including regional countries encounter conventional and unconventional security threats via a transnational form.

Therefore, friendly relations in defence and security measures with the International and regional defence forces are going to be promoted. Tatmadaw in a collaboration with the International countries including members of ASEAN countries and ASEAN (Plus) countries is enthusiastically participating in regional Dialogues, Workshops and Conferences to prevent the terrorist acts and terrorism which mainly threatened the world's countries at present.

I would like to impart that cooperation with the International and regional countries will be surely promoted because the capability and defence power can be strengthened.

Comrades,

Back in history, Independence had been restored

with the strength of unity, courage, patriotism, perseverance of all ethnic people. After Independence, the power and strength of sovereignty of the State are feeble because of internal armed conflicts. As a result, the development of the country lagged behind the neighbouring and regional countries.

Tatmadaw makes the annual peace dialogue with Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) to deal with internal armed conflicts which are the major deterrence to State development. It is convinced that some non-signatory ethnic armed organizations are asking for unilateral propositions towards their self-interests while other signatory organizations are heading towards peace dialogue.

After fostering democracy transition in 2010, Tatmadaw extended peace offers in multi-party democracy government term. The 10 Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) had signed in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) with the commitment of peace dialogue made gradually by the representatives.

Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) based on the diversity in politics, ethnicity, and ideology came into existence in the Independence struggle and post-independence whereas some negligent organizations are contrary to democracy in the democratic transition in 2011. Moreover, some armed insurgents also came into being after the 2020 election. It can be seen that some prevailing terrorist acts ignited from some Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs).

Tatmadaw will continue the peace negotiation process with the signatory organizations in Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) for achieving eternal peace apart from terrorist organizations and their supporters, and hold the open-ended peace talks with non-signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs).

The Independence Day restored by the unity and effort of all ethnic people will be the 75th Anniversary on 4th January 2023. For the cessation of internal armed conflicts in the period of Diamond Jubilee Independence Day in advance, Tatmadaw will strive to achieve Independence longevity and State prosperity. Tatmadaw made a unilateral ceasefire for over 4 years from 21st December 2018 to the end of 2022.

I would like to impart that Tatmadaw will conform as much as possible under the statement of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) for eternal peace by offering open-ended peace talks.

Our Tatmadaw has been carrying out counter-insurgency and anti-terrorist operations to nestle the stability of the Nation. I would like to say that Tatmadaw will no longer take into account negotiation with the terrorist groups and their supporters for killing innocent people, the government staff of Health, Education, and Administration without reasons and for threatening the social life security of the people who want to live serenely, and will annihilate them to an end. I would like to highlight that there are no governments or armies worldwide that negotiate with any terrorist groups. Here, I would like to urge Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) to avert from supporting terrorist groups in terror acts and to live within a legal framework.

To build the Union based on Democracy and Federal System, furthermore, the EAOs need to cultivate an attitude in which a Union Spirit regarding the entire Union as one family as well as one home without doing unilateral propositions, and need to partake in the peace process as soon as possible. I would like to mention that 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.

As an election can no longer be free and fair under coercive measures, it is inexorable that a free and fair multi-party democratic election must be pure and clear of the threats and coercions.

Tatmadaw will continue the peace negotiation process with the signatory organizations in Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) for achieving eternal peace apart from terrorist organizations and their supporters, and hold the open-ended peace talks with non-signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs).

Comrades,

It is known that although Tatmadaw repeatedly asked for the instance of voting irregularities in the multiparty general election held in November 2020, they neglected and failed to respond to the requests and resumed the third time of Hluttaw to take over the sovereignty of the Union by wrongful forcible means, therefore, Tatmadaw unavoidably assumed the State responsibility by lawful means according to the Constitution 2008 and established the State Administration Council on 1st February 2021.

The large-scale violence, opposition and public referendum have occurred at the very date of the State Administration Council. Afterwards, terrorist acts, sabotage, looting and slaughter have been committed through peaceful protests. As the economic impact dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic came into being, Tatmadaw, on the other hand, endeavours to uphold the common occurrence for paving the way to democracy by the Constitution 2008.

Comrades,

Ever since Tatmadaw assumes the State's responsibility for a moment, the State Administration Council imbued with the Five-Point Road Map and the Nine-Objective is formed to ensure State Peace and Stability and to develop the Nation in all sectors. To implement the Five-Point Road Map, Tatmadaw scrutinizes steadfastly retained reference to voting and embarks on a nationwide project of issuing National Identity Cards to everybody at the age of suffrage to vote. Preparations on eligible voter lists aimed to be corrected are also underway.

Regarding the new mutation COVID-19, the preventive measures are being carefully accelerated to obviate infection of COVID-19 as the forthcoming wave. As a path to recovery of the impact of education and economic sectors due to the pandemic, Basic Education Schools and Higher Education Schools (Universities) have been reopened to attain the threshold level of education regardless of time-consuming for students at the age of erudition. Besides, any prolific measures in all sectors development in oneness of all regions and states are being implemented to be an equality of opportunity. Therefore, the development stature shall be fulfilled by the country whereas individuals are to take responsibility by themselves in the related regions. Moreover, the administrative bodies have to charge for proper conduct as well.

By that means, it is cautious that the destructive elements are the main hindrances. Only if there is law enforcement and stability, the socio-economic, country and regional development will be promoted. The Two-National Agenda: the prosperous identity of the Nation and food self-sufficiency and the Two-Political Agenda: fostering the disciplined and genuine multi-party democratic system, and building the Union based on Democracy and Federal System are going to be implemented. Similarly, the ongoing process of peace and national sovereignty will be continued. Consequently, I would like to impart that the military personnel are to collaborate with the aforementioned agenda embracing to shoulder the array of responsibilities.

Comrades,

Through the historical context, it can be witnessed that the Kings empowered the administrative authori-

ties to the Governor, Suzerain, Count, and Village Chief in the respective regions and the hierarchy system of administrative mechanism to be loyal to the King has been practised. Responsibility of royal decree for every single administration and judicial authority by the designated ranks has been released since Thalun King of Nyaungyan Dynasty (AD-1637). The King's reign encompassed all aspects of the country with a systematic administrative approach.

After relinquishing Independence, two alternative administrative mechanisms in the frontier area and Burma proper have been practised under the rule of the colony. After Independence, it can be seen that the successive leaders of the country had exercised a variety of administrative mechanisms entailed the Parliament Democracy System and Socialist Democracy System. Based on the geological features of where they belong, our people who are of different races, languages and religions have been nestled in the serene shelter in the past. Our country is a Union that stands tall with a prosperous identity, territorial integrity and sovereign State reality. Through the annals of history, our national races nestled in the Union and Tatmadaw also put an effort into the execution of the word, "Union" by the National Hero, General Aung San.

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

Accordingly, our country is designed to develop the Union based on Democracy and Federal System accompanied by the promulgated State of Emergency with the bedrock of the system. Our country is heading towards a general election which is a free and fair multi-party democracy and is composed of a proportional representative by all National races.

For the sake of the interests of the Nation and its people, I would like to leave a word that Tatmadaw remained steadfast in the national duty stipulated to raise the National Causes-cum-the Nation Building but could no longer muster the polity.

Comrades,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate you to keep on achieving the objectives of the 77th Armed Forces Day as follows:

- To underpin the leading role of the National politics for the emergence of the Union based on Democracy and Federal System while safeguarding the Constitution 2008 of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
- To conduct with the strenuous effort in the National Agenda: the prosperous identity of the Nation and food self-sufficiency by the government
- To entwine with all ethnic people in the National reconciliation and peace process
- To assist in holding a general election which is a free and fair multi-party democracy for the development of the Union based on Democracy and Federal System after the State of Emergency provisions
- To build a strong, capable and modern patriotic Tatmadaw to protect the National interests of the State



Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife, families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) pay respect to retired senior military officers who attended 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

FAMILIES of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) paid respect to retired senior military officers who attended the 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade today at the parlour of Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

It was attended by 25 retired senior military officers and 16 wives. Senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) and their wives led by Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla paid respect to those retired senior military officers and their wives.

On the occasion, the Senior General delivered a speech for paying respects, expressing his delightedness of paying respects to the retired senior military officers at the 77th Anniversary



Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and party pay respect to retired Senior military officers.



Armed Forces Day. The Senior General explained discharging State responsibilities as the national duty in successive eras, handing over of duties to generations, efforts to firmly walking on the path of democracy, endeavours of the Tatmadaw for ensuring non-disintegration of the Union, unavoidably assum-

ing the State responsibilities by the Tatmadaw, and efforts of the State Administration Council for development of the State.

The Senior General and wife, and senior military officers and their wives on behalf of the families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) paid respect to retired senior military officers in line with

the Myanmar traditions.

The Senior General and wife, the Vice-Senior General and wife and senior military officers in person presented gifts to the retired military officers respectfully.

On behalf of the retired senior military officers, Maj-Gen Thura Saw Phyu (Retd) and General Thein Sein (Retd) gave

words of advice.

The Senior General and senior military officers posed for documentary photos together with retired senior military officers and their wives.

The Senior General and wife cordially greeted the retired senior military officers and their wives at the ceremony.—MNA

Artistes honoured in drama, competitions to mark 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day



The ceremony to honour artistes and winners in drama and contests to mark 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day in progress in Nay Pyi Taw.

ARTISTES who performed in the 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day commemorative

drama “From the Northwest to the Clouds” and winners of Tatmadaw song, poems and story

were awarded yesterday.

The awarding ceremony was held at the parlour of Bay-

intnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw and senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, and the commander and officials of Nay Pyi Taw Command attended the event.

First, Chairman of the Armed Forces Day Organizing Leading Committee, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye made a speech.

General Maung Maung Aye presented a certificate of honour to Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein, who composed the military song entitled “Good Soldiers”.

Then, Chairman of the Psychological and Public Relations Committee Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein presented

awards and certificates to artistes in the Armed Forces Day commemorative drama “From the Northwest to the Clouds”.

Chairman of the Armed Forces Day Management Committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Zaw Hein and Director of the Public Relations and Psychological Warfare Chairman of the Manuscript Competition Organizing Committee Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun presented awards to the winners in the military song, marching song, poem and story competition.

After the ceremony, General Maung Maung Aye hosted a tea party for the attendees and cordially greeted them.—MNA

Outstanding parade companies awarded

CHAIRMAN of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Armed Forces Day Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye presented awards to the prize winning parade companies at the 77th Armed Forces Day Parade at the Thittat Parade Ground in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Kyaw Swa Lin presented honorary tro-

phies and cash awards to the relevant parade companies which secured the best awards in flag bearer and military band events

Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein presented honorary trophies and cash awards to relevant parade companies which secured the first, second and third prizes in parade, military songs, and military disciplined events.

General Maung Maung Aye

presented honorary trophies and cash awards for the first model company award to the company representing the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the second to the company representing Directorate of Military Engineers and the third to the company representing the Directorate of Signals respectively.

Later, the General spoke words of honour and the ceremony came to an end.—MNA



Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye presents trophy to an outstanding parade company through an official.

Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing delivers address at 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade

NEWS ON PAGE-1



Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, garlands military personnel who marched in 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade.



Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Vice-Senior General Soe Win, garlands military personnel who marched in 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade.



Military attaché's and those in various strata attend the 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade on 27 March.



Photo depicts part of military columns at the 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade.



Troops of cavalry are marching in the 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade.



Senior military officers are saluting at the 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade.



Armoured vehicles, mechanized troops and tanks participate in 77th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade.

Prevent aquaculture depletion in Myanmar waters in time

MYANMAR'S water sources such as rivers, creeks, lakes and seas are rich in resources of aquaculture such as fish, shrimps and other water living beings. These water creatures can meet the meat and fish demand of the country as well as earn incomes from foreign exchange through exportation.

Currently, fishermen and fishing trawlers in various sizes capture the aquaculture on both manageable and commercial scales. The seized aquacultures are distributed to the domestic market and international ones.

As part of preventing the lessening of aquaculture deposits in the territorial area, the Fisheries Department issues prohibitions to capture the designated sizes of fingerlings and prawns

in rivers, creeks and lakes in the hatching season with some slogans: don't capture hatching fish with eggs for regenerations, and free fingerlings from capturing for non-depletion and regular consumption.

If one captures a fish with eggs before hatching, it will bring hundreds of thousands of fish loss in the deposits. As such, officials from the relevant departments raise public awareness for the conservation of aquaculture species during the fish hatching seasons in order to accumulate marine resources.

Production of marine products is based on various kinds of inland water sources and inshore and offshore waters. Excessive capturing of water creatures may cause environmental degradation. Some fishermen extremely extracted aquaculture from the Myanmar seas, causing the rareness of marine resources within four decades.

There were 1 million tonnes of water resources including fish and shrimps at the Myanmar seas, according to the survey conducted

in 1979, compared with some 160,000 tonnes of those resources in 2008. Such data showed some 80 per cent decline of above marine resources and 60 per cent of underwater resources because of extracting the aquaculture beyond the consumption rate.

The research on the existence of water sources in the Myanmar seas was conducted three times from 1979 to 2008. Based on the results of research, the authorities warned those from the fishery arena not to extract marine products more than the restricted volumes. Indeed, fishermen and businesspersons need to have the awareness to conserve aquaculture under the long-term plan.

That is why it is necessary to carefully and systematically catch aquaculture such as fish and shrimps under the rules of limited volume as part of efforts to conserve the nature of aquaculture for their growth for the prevention of marine sources depletion.

■ ■ ■

Information pollution significantly impacts online debates on COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP and Constella study warns

THE UNITED Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Constella Intelligence on 24 March released a first-of-its-kind joint publication that details some of the key debates that have been unfolding in the online public sphere of Latin America and the Caribbean around COVID-19 and reveals the risks that information pollution poses not only for the effectiveness of the pandemic responses but also for social cohesion and the functioning of governance systems.

The research publication, titled "Exploring COVID-19 online debates and information pollution in Latin America and the Caribbean", found that a significant amount of information pollution is created by repackaging, reframing, and reproducing content produced by mainstream media, and that approximately 1.4% of the reviewed content in the region could be classified as information pollution.

While the proportion may seem small, it corresponds to half a million items over four months, which has an outsized impact on vulnerable audiences.

As part of the analysis, UNDP and Constella Intelligence took a deep dive into the significant

volume of conversations related to COVID-19, revealing the true nature of online discussions during the pandemic to help identify vulnerabilities and inform strategies to counter the most harmful effects of information pollution.

The analysis explores the public digital sphere in Spanish and English languages from October 2020 to February 2021, capturing 37 million results from 4.4 million profiles across all public platforms including Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, media domains, blogs, and other online communities.

The report concludes that most of the information pollution originates outside the Latin American and the Caribbean region.

"UNDP has identified information pollution as a key issue that can affect multiple governance and development issues.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the battle against misinformation was already taking shape before COVID-19 and will likely continue to be a matter of significant concern for a long time to come.

This report offers relevant insights based on new methods of research and analysis and provides actionable recommen-



The research found that approximately 1.4% of the reviewed online content in the region could be classified as information pollution. This corresponds to half a million pieces over four months, which has an outsized impact on vulnerable audiences. PHOTO: UNDP ARGENTINA

dations on how to promote information integrity in the short and long term," said Luis Felipe López-Calva, UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The document recommends that all short and long-term responses to tackle information pollution should be carried out with

human rights at the forefront.

It is important that any solutions do not unfairly stigmatize users for legitimate use of the internet or unduly interfere with users' human rights.

To this effect, UNDP is supporting national partners to promote information integrity by strengthening the capacity of public institutions to promote access

to reliable and accurate information sources; improving media capacity to effectively manage information pollution; increasing public resilience to information pollution; and developing evidence-based, proportionate and rights-based information integrity policies.

"The research conducted by Constella and the UNDP is a

great example of the importance of public-private collaborations delivering insights into global and local trends emerging from the digital public sphere.

That joint work is essential to halting the spread of multi-language information pollution. COVID-19 is just the tip of the iceberg," said Alex Romero, Chief Operating Officer at Constella Intelligence.

The report also urges political leaders, government agencies, media, social media companies, civil society, religious and community leaders, influencers, and personalities to work together to counter information pollution regarding COVID-19, vaccines, and beyond in the region.

"This research is part of a global initiative to improve understanding on disinformation and how it impacts inclusive governance and peacebuilding in the contexts where UNDP operates.

The knowledge we get from the report will be used not only in our regional responses but also to inform global policy discussions on the role of disinformation in the global south, which remains poorly understood", says Arvind Gadgil, Director of UNDP's Oslo Governance Center.

SOURCE: UNDP

Govt may soon allow COVID vaccine booster dose for Indians travelling abroad

Currently, the precaution doses of COVID-19 vaccines are being administered to healthcare and frontline workers and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities in the country.



The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is also learnt to have received representations for allowing administration of precaution dose for those seeking to travel for employment opportunities, educational purpose or for attending official/business commitments, etc. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

THE Central government may soon allow a precaution dose of COVID-19 vaccine for those seeking to travel abroad for education, employment, sports, and for attending official or business commitments, official sources said on Saturday.

It is also under consideration whether overseas-bound travellers opting for booster dose should receive the shot at private vaccination centres and pay for it, PTI quoted the sources as saying.

However, no official directive in this regard has been issued by the Centre as of now.

According to the sources, the Ministry of External Affairs

(MEA) recently brought up the issue of travel restrictions being enforced by certain countries in view of the requirement of a third/booster dose and how that is impacting the necessary travel of Indian travellers.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is also learnt to have received representations for allowing administration of precaution dose for those seeking to travel for employment opportunities, educational purpose or for attending official/business commitments, etc.

"In view of these, the health ministry is actively considering to allow booster/precaution dose of COVID vaccine for those

seeking to travel abroad for jobs, admission in foreign educational institutions, participating in sports tournaments, in bilateral, multilateral meetings as part of India's official delegation or for attending business commitments," an official source said.

The scheduled international passenger flights are all set to resume from Sunday, after more than two years of pandemic-infused ban on air travel in and out of the country.

Currently, the precaution doses of COVID-19 vaccines are being administered to healthcare and frontline workers and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities in the country.

SOURCE: PTI/ANI

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 27 March 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 28 March 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Upper Sagaing, and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Southern Shan and Chin states and isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, and Magway regions and (Northern and Eastern) Shan, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 March 2022: Partly Cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 March 2022: Partly Cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 March 2022: Partly Cloudy.

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Bago Region Chief Minister inspects livestock, agriculture businesses in Thayawady District

BAGO Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win observed the harvesting activity of Sinshwekyia-2 sunflower plantation at U Myo Myint's farm in Kywethat village-tract in Thayawady Township on 26 March.

Next, he inspected the successful production of summer paddy seed in Daw Aye San's farm in Thephyu village, Napier grass cultivation for feed by the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Letpadan Township and broadcasting of fertilizers on the surface of the farm in Gwaytaukgwin village where summer paddy seeds are to be produced. He directed the officials to fulfill the needs.

Later, the region Chief

Minister left for the pig farm owned by U Soe Naing in Thabayaygon village in Okpo Township. After that, he inspected upgrading of the Nattalin railway station and the landfilling activity for the construction of Nattalin new hospital and the compound.

Finally, he arrived at the weaving and vocational school under the SME Development Department in Shwedaung Township and observed the training activities. He instructed the trainers to offer both the intensive and extensive courses to enhance the livelihoods of the local people. He also provided some contributions to the trainers.—MNA



Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win observes the training activities at the weaving and vocational school under the SME Development Department in Shwedaung Township on 26 March.

130 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 27 March, total figure rises to 610,858

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **610,858** after **130** new cases were reported on 27 March 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **568,349** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **19,430** after **1** died.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 26-3-2022, a total of **26,473,700** people have been vaccinated. Of them, **21,803,150** people have been fully vaccinated, **4,670,550** people are yet to get the second shots and **1,039,636** people have been vaccinated booster.—MNA

Illegal timber, consumer goods, motorcycle spare parts, unlicensed vehicles seized



Officials measure illegal sawn teak timber seized in Bago Region on 26 March.

UNDER the supervision of the Anti-illegal Trade Steering Committee, efforts are being made to take effective action under the law.

On 26 March, a combined inspection team on-duty seized

unlicensed oil bowser (estimated value K 70,000,000) coming from Myawady to Phayagyi during the inspection at the Kawkareik (Tadakyo) Combined Checkpoint, and action is being taken at the Kawkareik Township Police

Station.

On the same day, a custom team on-duty conducted inspections under the management of the Anti-illegal Trade Special Task Force at Tawwin Bridge

Checkpoint in Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region. During the inspection, undocumented motorcycle spare parts (estimated value K 1,402,200) were seized under the Customs Law.



An oil bowser was seized at Kawkareik (Tadakyo) Combined Checkpoint on 26 March.

On 27 March, illegal consumer goods (clothes) (estimated value K 22,514,000) in Sagaing Township and 2 unlicensed motorcycles (estimated value K 200,000) in Homalin Township, (total estimated value K 22,714,000) were confiscated under the Export/Import Law.

In addition, combined inspection teams led by the Department of Forestry in Bago Region also seized 6.9750 tonnes of illegal teak (estimated value K 1,319,700) and the action is being taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, a total of 6 arrests (estimated value K 95,435,900) were made on 26 and 27 March, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee.—MNA

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Agricultural export value down by nearly 20 per cent as of 18 March

CROSS-BORDER restrictions between Myanmar and major top importing country China resulted in nearly 20 per cent drop of agricultural export group over the past five and a half months, according to the statistics released by the Customs Department.

The value of agricultural exports shrank to US\$2.17 billion as of 18 March in the current mini-budget period (Oct 2021-March 2022), indicating a significant drop of \$541.3 million as against the year ago period.

The agricultural exports topped \$2.7 billion in the corresponding period of the 2020-2021 FY.

Following the closure of Sino-Myanmar border posts triggered by COVID-19 impacts and changes in China's Customs regulations, the export sees a



Various kinds of crops are thriving in the crop lands. PHOTO: LULAY

drastic drop in agriculture sector this year.

At present, some border posts are operating trade activi-

ties on a trial run.

Myanmar agricultural products are primarily exported to China, Singapore, Malaysia, the

Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka.

The country requires specific export plans for each ag-

ricultural product, as they are currently exported to external markets based upon supply and demand. The G to G pact also ensures the strong market for the farmers. Contract farming systems, involvement of region and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders, and some grower groups, are required in order to meet production targets, the Agriculture Department stated.

The Commerce Ministry is endeavouring to help farmers deal with challenges such as high input costs, procurement of quality seeds, high cultivation costs, and erratic weather conditions.

The agricultural exports jumped to \$4.6 billion last financial year 2020-2021, despite the downward trend in other export groups.—KK/GNLM

Kidney bean price up by K7,000 per basket against last year



Quality kidney bean seeds are displayed as sample. PHOTO: LULAY

THE price of red kidney beans (Phaseolus vulgaris) touched a high of K40,000 per basket in Monywa market, showing a significant increase of K7,000-K8,000 per basket compared to the same corresponding period last year.

"The red beans from Monywa market stood at K40,000 per 19-viss basket (a viss equals to 1.6kg). The quality red beans from Taze area fetch a good price of K41,500-K41,800 per basket. These days, the beans from Kalay and Gangaw townships do not enter Monywa market. There's no steady inflow from those townships. Monywa markets see the maximum inflow of 500 bags per day," said U Tin Ko Ko, Monywa Depot Information and Public Relations officer.

Additionally, the fried bean

businesses are also filling the inventory. There is a steady demand from Mandalay and Pakokku cities. This being so, the price remains high, according to Sagaing Region Department of Consumer Affairs.

The number of kidney bean cultivation increased on alluvial soil along the Chindwin River this year, with the irrigation supply.

The cultivation costs K200,000 per acre. The yield is estimated 18 baskets per acre, reaping profits of K500,000 per acre.

The red beans are cultivated both in monsoon and winter seasons. The cultivation of the beans has been moved to alluvial soil since last four or five years to reap the high yield.—Lu Lay/GNLM

Clay pot businesses in Ngathayauk prepping for toddy sap collection season

TRADITIONAL potters are preparing to ramp up the production of the clay pots for the coming toddy sap collecting season, said U Nay Lin, a clay pot maker in Ngathayauk town, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region.

Taunggon village in Ngathayauk town has been relying on earthen pot making businesses for generations. The villagers execute that business on a commercial scale and send the pots to other regions and states.

The villagers are preparing the necessary raw materials before toddy sap collection season.

Those clay pots from

Ngathayauk town are popular among toddy plant climbers. A climber can carry up to seven pots around his waist, said U Myint Maung, a toddy plant climber.

"A small clay pot is worth K120 in the village. We made approximately 250,000 pots for the toddy palm season. Traders come and buy in Taunggon village," said Daw San Yon, a potter.

"A clay pot can hold three litres of toddy sap. The clay pots for drinking water are also popular. Other pots for flower vase (Buddhist offering) and earthen pots for cooking, earthen toys

and money saving box are sold as well. The clay pots from Ngathayauk town are famous for its quality," she added.

The clay pot brokers from Taungtha, NyaungU, Bagan, Chauk and Kyaukpadaung townships come the village to buy the pots, potters said.

There are three kilns for pottery in Taunggon village and the villagers drew lots to use the kilns.

A household normally makes over 200 pots a day.

The prices of earthen pots vary depending on design, size and quality.—Ko Htein (KPD)/GNLM



Clay pots used in collecting toddy sap are transported by car to the domestic market. PHOTO: KO HTEIN

Japanese energy firms brace for possible supply cut from Russia

JAPANESE gas and energy firms are closely monitoring the developments of Russia's aggression in Ukraine, with some eyeing non-Russia players as alternative suppliers on concerns Moscow may reduce or suspend its natural gas supply in retaliation for Western sanctions on the country.

To prepare for potential supply disruptions from Russia and other emergencies, Hiroshima Gas Co is considering purchasing liquefied natural gas from Malaysia and other producers, while Osaka Gas Co plans to bring forward gas procurement from the United States or Aus-

tralia.

President Vladimir Putin has also surprised Japanese energy companies by saying Russia will seek payment in rubles, not the dollar or euro as commonly used, for gas sales from "unfriendly countries" such as Japan and the United States, which have been imposing sanctions on Moscow.

"We are keeping close attention on new developments including the impact of economic sanctions on Russia," said a Hiroshima Gas public relations official.

"We will continue our efforts to maintain a stable supply as we

cooperate with other companies in collecting information," the official said.

Tom O'Sullivan, founder of Mathyos Global Advisory, a Tokyo-based energy and security consultancy firm, said Putin's announcement was "probably a breach of contract between the buyers and sellers," and that if realized, it would hit hard the European market that relies heavily on Russian resources. In resource-poor Japan, Russia accounted for 3.6 per cent of its crude oil imports and 8.8 per cent of LNG imports in 2021, according to Japan External Trade Organization data. — Kyodo ■



File photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 12 November 2021, shows liquefied natural gas tanks of Tokyo Gas Co in Sodegaura in Chiba Prefecture, eastern Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia restricts flow of funds to "unfriendly" countries, regions

RUSSIA has imposed restrictions on the movement of funds that could be transferred to "unfriendly" countries and regions, its central bank said on Friday.

The measure was taken in response to the freezing of part of Russia's gold and foreign currency reserves in some countries, the central bank said on Telegram.

"A comparable amount" of funds are affected, it said, without specifying the exact sum.

Russia has a total of about 640 billion US dollars of gold and foreign currency reserves, and some 300 billion of them are frozen after Moscow launched a special military operation in Ukraine, Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said earlier this month. — AFP ■

Chinese bank ups loan support for forest carbon sink capacity

CHINA Development Bank, one of the country's primary policy banks, has stepped up its loan issuance to help promote carbon sink capacity in the forestry sector amid the country's push for green development. Loans worth about 114.1 billion yuan (around 17.95 billion US dollars) have been issued over the past five years, promoting key ecological areas such as the national reserve forest construction and forest quality improvements, the bank said.

It has supported the cultivation and maintenance of forests covering nearly 4 million hectares, which are expected to absorb 72 million tonnes of carbon per year after China reaches its planned carbon peak in 2030. — Xinhua ■

Argentina to receive immediate \$9.7 bn under \$44 bn debt deal: IMF

THE IMF executive board on Friday approved a \$44 billion loan for Argentina to help the inflation-wracked country's economy, with \$9.7 billion of the funding available immediately.

THE Washington-based crisis lender said the financing "aims to provide Argentina with balance of payments and budget support" and also "strengthen debt sustainability, tackle high inflation, boost reserves, address the country's social and infrastructure gaps and promote inclusive growth."

THESE arrangements are a "step forward" for the "macroeconomic stabilization" and the "economic recovery" of the country, said Argentine Economy Minister Martin Guzman. — AFP ■

Iran says Saudi-Kuwait agreement on developing joint gas field "illegal"



The Arash gas field or Durra gas field is a natural gas field located on the maritime border Iran, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. It was discovered in 1967. **PHOTO: IFPNEWS/XINHUA**

IRAN said on Saturday that a recent agreement signed between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to develop the Arash/Al-Durra gas field is "illegal," as Iran has a stake in the field and the Saudi-Kuwait agreement has run

contrary to what had been previously negotiated.

According to the website of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said parts of the gas field are located in areas between Iran and

Kuwait whose water boundaries have not been defined.

Any move aimed at extracting or developing the field must be made in coordination with all three countries and through joint cooperation, he noted.

The recent move by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to sign a cooperation document on the development and exploitation of the offshore gas reserve is contrary to the common procedures and earlier negotiations and will not be approved by Iran, Khatibzadeh noted, adding Iran reserves the right to exploit the gas field.

Iran has repeatedly voiced its readiness to enter negotiations with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia on the exploitation of the gas field while also continuing bilateral talks with Kuwait on establishing the offshore reserve's boundaries under the framework of their previous negotiations, he said. — Xinhua ■

In a 'dangerous' land: tourists trickle back to Iraq

AN American tourist poses for a holiday snap in Iraq, in front of the blue-brick Ishtar Gate that was rebuilt at the ancient site of Babylon under dictator Saddam Hussein.

Most foreigners here since Saddam's ouster in a 2003 US-led invasion have worn army fatigues and carried guns — but more recently there has been a trickle of camera-toting travel pioneers.

"Iraq was in my top three countries," said the visitor to Babylon, 50-year-old Californian Ileana Ovalle, who was excited to see the millennia-old Mesopotamian site.

"This is where civilisation started," said the passionate globetrotter with some 40 countries under her belt. "I think too few people understand how important this region is."

Most Western governments still issue travel warnings for all or parts of Iraq, pointing to risks from kidnappings to jihadist bombings and unexploded ordnance from multiple wars.

But for some explorers who are unafraid of the odd military roadblock, Iraq is a hot new destination with multiple World Heritage sites that is slowly reopening to the world. — AFP ■

How Ukraine war left China’s ‘Nickel King’ on hook for billions



A view of a nickel smelter, owned by the Russian mining giant Norilsk Nickel, also known as Normickel, in the Murmansk region on 26 February 2021. PHOTO: KIRILL KUDRYAVTSEV/AFP

THE play by Xiang Guangda, China’s “Nickel King”, was to use his influential market position to short the metal, wait for the price to drop, then soak up the rewards when the value bounced back.

But then Russian President Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine and things got complicated — fast.

Russia is one of the world’s biggest producers of nickel ore, a key component of batteries for electric vehicles.

As concussive Western sanctions over the invasion struck, the price of the silver-white metal rocketed

to a record above \$100,000 per tonne.

That was too high for Xiang and the entire metals sector, forcing the 145-year-old London Metals Exchange (LME) to suspend trading for a week and leaving nickel-reliant manufacturers struggling to digest the spike in costs.

Stuck in its positions — reports estimate it was holding at least 100,000 tonnes — Xiang’s company Tsingshan Holdings Group was suddenly on the hook for billions of dollars.

Tsingshan, the world’s biggest nickel producer, has been forced to buy back

a large number of nickel contracts at higher prices to reduce its exposure. A Bloomberg News report estimates the buy-back has contributed to a loss of \$8 billion, suggesting the firm may need a possible bailout by Chinese authorities.

“Xiang is a shrewd player, but he was caught off guard with the Russian issue,” Li Bin, a nickel trader in Shanghai said. When nickel trading resumed last week prices plunged to about \$37,200 a tonne — still 50 per cent higher than in February — as volatility courses through the market.—AFP ■

NEWS
IN BRIEF

White House to propose new minimum tax on billionaires: media

US President Joe Biden’s administration will include more taxes on the wealthiest Americans in its 2023 budget proposal, due to be released on Monday, US media reported Saturday.

The “Billionaire Minimum Income Tax” would require the 700 or so American households worth more than \$100 million to pay at least 20 per cent on their full income, the Washington Post and other US media reported, citing a White House document.

“This minimum tax would make sure that the wealthiest Americans no longer pay a tax rate lower than teachers and firefighters,” said the document, cited by the Post. — AFP ■

Boeing, Airbus Helicopters partner on H-47 Chinook

BOEING and Airbus Helicopters on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to partner on the H-47 Chinook in support of Germany’s heavy-lift helicopter requirements.

The partnership will draw on the strengths and combined expertise to deliver advanced capability, readiness and innovative solutions as part of the German Chinook industry offering, the announcement said.

“We are pleased that Airbus Helicopters has joined our team of strategic partners on the H-47 Chinook program for Germany,” said Mark Cherry, Boeing vice president and general manager for Vertical Lift programmes. — Xinhua ■

New 7 Fijian dollar note launched to mark achievement at Tokyo Olympics

FIIJ launched on Saturday a new seven Fijian dollar banknote to mark the achievements made by the Fiji national rugby sevens teams at the 2020 Olympic Games held in Japan’s Tokyo. At the games, the rugby sevens men’s team of the Pacific island country won the gold medal and the women’s team got bronze. According to a Fiji Broadcasting Corporation (FBC) report, speaking at the launch ceremony in Suva, capital of Fiji, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said that at one of Fiji’s most trying times in combating COVID-19, the rugby sevens teams brought hope to the Fijian people. — Xinhua ■

Agricultural products exhibition opens in Afghan capital

A three-day agricultural products exhibition opened in Afghanistan’s capital Kabul on Saturday as part of the government’s plan to boost agricultural sector.

“The Islamic Emirate is committed to supporting the farmers and agricultural sectors in Afghanistan,” Mullah Abul Ghani Baradar, acting deputy prime minister of the Afghan Taliban’s caretaker government said at the inauguration ceremony.

After cutting the ribbon by Baradar, local farmers performed sword fighting, and danced standing on shovels.

Farmers and local businesspersons from across the country put on display their products such as saffron, honey, clothes, soap and flowers in more than 240 stalls.

This is the country’s 26th agricultural products exhibition and also the first version held under new administration since Taliban’s takeover of power last year in Afghanistan. Baradar also said that the



Afghan agricultural exporters are gearing up to display their products for overseas buyers once again. A total of 29 Afghan exporters showcased their products at Gulfood Trade Show 2021 in Dubai, UAE. PHOTO: USAID/ AFGHANISTAN/ XINHUA/FILE

exhibition would provide improved seeds and fertilizers to the farmers to bolster their products.—Xinhua ■

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Moe Mynn Thu (LL.B, LL.M, M.Res)
Rouse Myanmar
For The Coca-Cola Company
Email: myanmar@rouse.com
Dated: March 28, 2022

Yemen rebels call truce after wave of attacks on Saudi Arabia

YEMEN'S Huthi rebels announced a three-day truce with the Saudi-led coalition and dangled the prospect of a "permanent" ceasefire on Saturday, the seventh anniversary of a brutal conflict that has left millions on the brink of famine.

A day after a wave of Huthi drone and missile attacks on Saudi targets, including an oil plant that turned into an inferno near the Formula One race in Jeddah, political leader Mahdi al-Mashat put rebel operations on hold.

As thousands of people marched in the rebel-held capital, Sanaa, to mark the anniversary, Mashat appeared on TV

to announce the "suspension of missile and drone strikes and all military actions for a period of three days".

"And we are ready to turn this declaration into a final and permanent commitment in the event that Saudi Arabia commits to ending the siege and stopping its raids on Yemen once and for all," he said.

There was no immediate response from Saudi Arabia, which retaliated to Friday's attacks by launching air strikes against the Iran-backed rebels in Sanaa and Hodeida, and destroying four explosives-laden boats.

UN chief Antonio Guterres on Saturday condemned the re-

bel strikes and reprisals by the Saudi-led coalition, calling on "all parties to exercise maximum restraint" and "urgently reach a negotiated settlement to end the conflict".

Israel, which does not have diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, expressed its "sorrow" over the Huthi attack.

"This attack is further proof that Iran's regional aggression knows no bounds," Prime Minister Naftali Bennett wrote on Twitter in a rare public message to the kingdom. French President Emmanuel Macron also condemned the rebel attack and expressed "solidarity" with Saudi Arabia. — AFP ■



Fire fighters extinguish the last hearths of fire at a Saudi Aramco oil facility in Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coastal city of Jeddah, on 26 March 2022, a day after a Yemeni rebels attack. **PHOTO: AFP**

Bulgarian president says not to allow involvement in conflict in Ukraine



A photo shows a deserted area while smoke rises in the suburbs of Kyiv, on 25 March 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

BULGARIAN President Rumen Radev said here on Saturday that he would not allow his country to be involved in the conflict in Ukraine, according to a press release by his press office.

"As head of state, I will not allow Bulgaria to be involved in this conflict," Radev said while answering a question about Bulgaria's decision, along with Hungary, of not to send weapons

to Ukraine.

He was elected to defend the security of Bulgarians and peace in Bulgaria, Radev said.

"The price of war is paid by the citizens, not the television preachers," Radev said.

"My concern is the people," he added.

According to Bulgarian Constitution, the president is the Supreme Commander in Chief of the country's Armed Forces.

Last November, Radev was elected for the second consecutive five-year term. Bulgarian Prime Minister Kiril Petkov told a joint press conference after talks with visiting US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin last week that they have not discussed any military assistance to Ukraine. — Xinhua ■

Second black box of crashed China Eastern plane recovered: state media

THE second black box has been recovered from a crashed China Eastern passenger plane, state media reported Sunday.

The jet was flying between the cities of Kunming and Guangzhou on Monday when it nosedived into a mountain-side with 132 people on board, all of whom were killed.

The cause of the disaster is not yet known.

"The second black box from China Eastern flight MU5735 was recovered on 27 March," Xinhua news agency reported.

The plane was equipped with two flight recorders: one in the rear passenger cabin tracking flight data, and the other a cockpit voice recorder.

The latter was found on Wednesday and sent to Beijing for analysis, which is expected to take several more days.

The second black box contains data such as speed, altitude and heading.

With both now recovered, investigators should be able to begin to piece together what caused the plane to fall more than 6,000 metres (20,000 feet) in just over a minute.

Hundreds of people, including firefighters, doctors and investigators, remain at the scene of the tragedy recovering human remains and the wreckage of the plane.

The Chinese Civil Aviation Administration (CAAC) said on Saturday evening that all of the people on board the aircraft had died, and that it had confirmed almost all of their identities through DNA testing.

All 123 passengers and nine crew members were Chinese nationals. — AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Biden meets top Ukrainian ministers in Warsaw

JOE Biden on Saturday in Warsaw met two Ukrainian ministers in the first face-to-face talks between the US president and top Kyiv officials since Russia's invasion began.

Biden also called Russian President Vladimir Putin "a butcher" after meeting with Ukrainian refugees and said he was unconvinced by Russia's claim it was scaling down its war aims.

Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba and Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov made a rare trip out of Ukraine in a possible sign of growing confidence in the fightback against Russian forces.

The meeting took place at the Marriott Hotel in the city centre — opposite a Warsaw train station where there has been a constant flow of Ukrainian refugees since the conflict started.

Biden could be seen seated at a long white table between US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, facing Kuleba and Reznikov, an AFP reporter saw.

There were Ukrainian and US flags in the background.

The officials discussed "the United States' unwavering commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity," State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters. — AFP ■

El Salvador's Bukele seeks emergency powers over spike in gang killings

EL Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele on Saturday urged lawmakers to declare a state of emergency after authorities arrested dozens of gang members over a recent wave of bloodshed.

Gang violence has soared in El Salvador in recent days, with police reporting that 62 people were killed on Saturday alone.

Hours earlier, police and the military arrested several leaders of the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang over the spate of killings.

"We will not back down in this war against gangs, we will not rest until the criminals responsible for these acts are captured and brought to justice," the country's National Civil Police posted on Twitter.

In response to killings, Bukele asked the legislature — controlled by his ruling party — to meet to declare a state of emergency, under which certain freedoms are curtailed.

The Salvadoran constitution says that a state of emergency can be put into place "in cases of war, invasion of territory, rebellion, sedition, catastrophe, epidemic or other general calamity, or serious disturbances of public order."

"Since yesterday, we have had a new spike in homicides, something that we had worked so hard to reduce," Bukele said in a statement posted on Twitter by Congress president Ernesto Castro. — AFP ■

EU needs stronger strategic autonomy for more secure future

PRIOR to US President Joe Biden’s visit to Europe, a display of “unity,” the European Union rolled out a “Strategic Compass” as a guide to strengthen the bloc’s security and defense policy.

The plan of action, ratified on Monday, is widely seen as a move for the EU to cut dependence on Washington for defense, and realize strategic autonomy amid a deteriorating security environment, as a conflict has been flaring up between Ukraine and Russia.

“Today I think everybody is convinced that Europe is in danger,” Josep Borrell, the EU’s high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, addressed a recent press conference.

In fact, it is Washington that has dragged Europe into this dangerous quagmire.

The United States, in utter



Residents walk past a damaged building in Mariupol, 25 March 2022. PHOTO: VICTOR/XINHUA

disregard of Russia’s legitimate concerns, drove five waves of NATO expansion eastward all the way to Russia’s doorstep, incessantly squeezed Russia’s security space and challenged the country’s strategic bottom line until a military conflict broke out between Russia and Ukraine.

Following the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Washington has rushed to fan the flames, pushing other Western countries to join it in providing Ukraine with money and weapons, and pound Russia with all-round and indiscriminate sanctions. — Xinhua ■

Canada, EU set joint funds effort for Ukraine refugees



A firefighter works inside a damaged building in Kiev, Ukraine, 23 March 2022. PHOTO: DIEGO HERRERA/XINHUA

CANADA and the European Commission on Saturday announced plans to launch a joint fund-raising effort to help Ukrainian refugees, with the

effort culminating in an April 9 donors conference.

The “Stand Up for Ukraine” campaign, conducted in partnership with the NGO Global

Citizen, will seek “to mobilize governments, institutions, artists, companies and individuals to direct funding to support humanitarian efforts in Ukraine and in neighboring countries,” said a joint statement.

The statement was co-signed by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission. The two will co-host the donors conference.

They said they were responding to a call from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who has promoted an online “Stand Up for Ukraine” rally for April 9. “I’m inviting everybody: musicians, actors, athletes, businessmen, politicians, everybody,” Zelensky said earlier. —AFP ■

No Moscow-Kiev deal with Russian concerns unaddressed: negotiator

AN agreement between Moscow and Kiev can only be reached if all of Russia’s major concerns are addressed, head of Russia’s negotiation team Vladimir Medinsky said Friday.

“We insist on a comprehensive treaty. In addition to the neutral status of Ukraine and

guarantees of its security, the pact should include a number of positions vital for our country,” he told reporters.

Otherwise, the conclusion of an agreement is unlikely, said Medinsky, Russian presidential aide and head of the Russian delegation.

According to the official, the Ukrainian side is primarily concerned about obtaining security guarantees from third parties in the event that Ukraine does not join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which is “a completely understandable position.” — Xinhua ■

NEWS DIGEST

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

Russian army is preparing for active hostilities by mobilizing its forces and personnel: Ukraine

Ukrainian Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Maliar said that the Russian army is preparing for active hostilities by mobilizing its forces and personnel, the Ukrainian government-run Ukrinform news agency reported on Saturday.

“As of now, the intensity of the enemy’s offensive operations has been reduced, but in reality, they are preparing to continue these actions,” Maliar said.

Separately, Dmytro Zhyvtskyi, head of the Regional Military Administration in the northeastern Sumy region, said that fierce fighting is underway in three districts of the region.

The current crisis is worse than it was during the Cold War

The current crisis is worse than it was during the Cold War, Deputy Chairman of the Russian Security Council Dmitry Medvedev said Saturday.

“At that time, Russia’s counterparts were not trying to bring the situation to the boiling point, they did not impose sanctions on industries, agriculture and individuals,” Medvedev told Russia’s RIA Novosti news agency in an interview.

“But western sanctions are not fatal difficulties for Russia,” he said.

Kiev insists on creating a system of security guarantees for Ukraine

Mykhailo Podolyak, a member of the Ukrainian delegation to the peace negotiations with Russia, said that at the talks, Kiev insists on creating a system of security guarantees for Ukraine, the Ukrainian presidential press service reported Saturday.

“Ukraine insists on a system of security guarantees, which will include countries that are ready to provide these guarantees, including in the military sense,” Podolyak said.

He stressed that such a system should involve the United States as a guarantor of Ukraine’s security.

Moscow ready to hold talks on equal terms with Washington

Moscow is ready to hold talks on equal terms with Washington, while the United States is doing everything to further complicate the work of Russian diplomats, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said Saturday.

“We do not dodge dialogue and are ready to hold talks but only on equal terms, on condition there is a reciprocal movement, which cannot be seen in Washington even under a magnifying glass,” Zakharova said.

“The US is doing everything to further hamper the performance of Russian diplomatic missions in the United States while at the same time engaging in hypocritical speculations on the need to preserve a diplomatic presence,” she added, urging Washington to think of the repercussions.

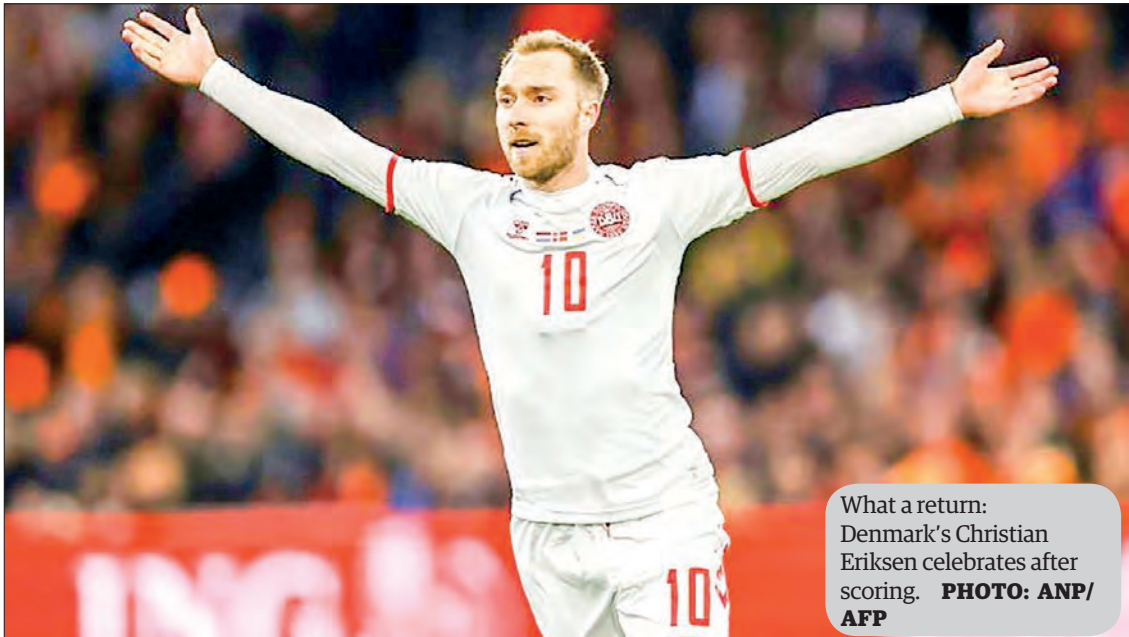
Five people injured in missile attacks on Lviv

At least five people were injured in missile attacks on Ukraine’s western city of Lviv on Saturday, head of the Lviv Regional Military Administration Maksym Kozytskyi said on Facebook.

Two missile strikes hit the city at about 4:30 pm local time (1430 GMT), and residential buildings were not affected, Kozytskyi said, adding that the threat of new attacks on the city persists.

SOURCE: AFP

Eriksen scores on Denmark return as England, Germany, Spain win



What a return: Denmark's Christian Eriksen celebrates after scoring. **PHOTO: ANP/AFP**

DENMARK'S Christian Eriksen made an emotional goal-scoring return to international football on Saturday as England, Germany and Spain carved out friendly victories.

Eriksen found the net two minutes after coming on with a powerful drive in a 4-2 defeat against fellow World Cup qualifiers Netherlands in Amsterdam.

It was his first national team appearance since suffering a cardiac arrest in Denmark's opening game of the European Championships against Finland

in Copenhagen last June.

On Saturday, to the resounding applause of fans and even Dutch manager Louis van Gaal, the 30-year-old came off the bench and raised his hands to the sky in thanks.

His goal was 37th in 110 appearances. It was fitting he scored in the Amsterdam Arena, the home of Ajax.

Eriksen came through the ranks at the Dutch side, making 162 appearances for the club and winning five trophies, including three consecutive league titles

between 2011 and 2013.

Meanwhile, Harry Kane converted a late penalty to close in on the all-time England goal-scoring record and secure a 2-1 win over Switzerland who will also be at the World Cup in Qatar in November.

Kane netted from the spot to reach 49 England goals, moving him ahead of Gary Lineker and into a second place tie with Bobby Charlton.

Only Wayne Rooney, with 53 goals, has scored more times for England. — AFP ■

Chelsea's Werner, Havertz score as Germany see off Israel



Chelsea pair Kai Havertz and Timo Werner both hit the net Saturday as Germany eased past Israel with a 2-0 friendly win in Sinsheim. **PHOTO: AFP**

CHELSEA pair Kai Havertz and Timo Werner both hit the net Saturday as Germany eased past Israel with a 2-0 friendly win in Sinsheim.

After the Premier League pair scored first-half goals, Germany's stand-in captain Thomas Mueller and Israel sub Yonatan Cohen both failed to convert late

penalty attempts.

Germany head coach Hansi Flick has now won his first eight internationals to extend his record start.

With 19-year-old Bayern Munich star Jamal Musiala in the attacking midfield role, an experimental German side had few problems taking a 2-0 lead

at half-time.

Three days before the Germans play the Netherlands in their next friendly in Amsterdam, the hosts dominated the first-half, but sat back after the break.

Both goals came from dead-ball situations. Havertz made amends after squandering an earlier chance by finally breaking the deadlock with a header from a corner.

Werner then produced a superb finish to steer a free-kick just inside the near post just before the half-time whistle.

He has now scored six goals in his last six appearances for Germany. Israel, who failed to qualify for the World Cup, rarely ventured into the German half.

Flick tinkered with his line up for the second half, Kevin Trapp replacing Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen between the posts.— AFP ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

An's closing disaster leaves Dane Madsen with LPGA lead



Denmark's Nanna Koerstz Madsen fired a three-under par 69 on Saturday to seize a three-stroke lead at the LPGA JTBC Classic. **PHOTO: AFP**

DENMARK'S Nanna Koerstz Madsen seized a three-stroke lead after Saturday's third round of the LPGA JTBC Classic after South Korea's An Na-rin closed with a triple bogey disaster.

The 27-year-old Dane, who won her first LPGA title two weeks ago in Thailand in her 93rd career start, fired a three-under par 69 to stand on 14-under 202 after 54 holes at Aviara Golf Club in Carlsbad, California.

Back-to-back titles would bring a huge confidence boost if she can manage the feat, Madsen said.

"That would be really cool," she said. "It will tell me that I belong here, I belong in the winner's circle. It wasn't just one time. So it will give me a lot mentally."

An was second on 205 after shooting 69 as well but she had shared the lead with Madsen until the final hole after a back-nine battle for the lead.

Madsen was the first Danish player to capture an LPGA crown when she eagled the second playoff hole to beat China's Xiyu Lin for the Honda LPGA Thailand title on 13 March.— AFP ■