

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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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.

University education is training for youths to have both learning education and experiences: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the SAC meeting 3/2022 in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 March 2022.

MEDICAL and technical universities will give priority to outstanding applicants for studying respective subjects in the coming academic years, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the SAC Meeting 3/2022 at the Office of SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In highlighting the health and healthcare services, the

Senior General analyzed the infection rates of COVID-19 in the first, second, third and fourth waves from 23 March 2020 to 28 March 2022. He noted that vaccination of COVID-19 is administered across the nation accounting for 51 per cent till December 2021 compared with more than 70 per cent at present. But, there remain some people to be vaccinated in Chin and Kayah States and Sagaing Region. Hence, the Senior General urged officials

need to strive for vaccination of the local people from the regions and states at full time. Regarding the education sector, the Senior General said the basic education schools were reopened on 1 June 2021 but closed on 8 August due to the impacts of the third wave of the pandemic. The schools were reopened again on 1 November with attendance of more than 4.16 million students, accounting for more than 78 per cent.

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Statement to appreciate teachers' efforts

TEACHERS are honoured as part of the Five Infinite Venerables, and the manner of paying respect to the teachers can be only seen in Myanmar as a tradition. The teachers teach their pupils based on their goodwill like their own children and dutifully serve a teacher's duties. They must train their pupils and students in the best discipline. They see that they grasp their lessons well. They instruct them in the arts and sciences, they provide for their safety in every quarter, and they introduce them to their friends and associates.

As the COVID-19 infection rate is controlled to a certain extent, the basic education high, middle and primary schools under the Department of Basic Education have reopened across nation for the 2021-2022 academic year starting 1 June.

Those who want to seek good sake of one party, political extremist NLD members and supporters, NUG, CRPH and PDF committed arson attacks at the schools using mines, homemade bombs and grenades to fail the teaching processes, and threatened the teachers in addition to the incitements, social punishment and threats against education staff to join CDM while the officials made preparations for the reopening of schools and during the current teaching period. Their doings left some casualties, and the State Administration Council has expressed its deepest condolences and sympathy to the victims' families.

The SAC also appreciates the concerted efforts of teachers, who understand two virtues, Hiri — shame at doing evil —and Otappa—fear of the results of doing evil —for teaching the new generations of the country amid such difficulties and challenges.

The security forces will take extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of teachers who are making efforts in the academic sector for the next generations in order to promote the education qualification. The people should keep security awareness and cooperate with the security members in community peace and peaceful learning of children.

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

Myanmar Music Association (Central) Statement

13th Waning of Taboung 1383 ME
29 March 2022

THE State Administration Council is escorting a group of artistes to significant landmarks in the country with the purpose of boosting domestic tourism which was affected during the COVID-19 period. The group visited the Gokteik viaduct by riding two upper class carriages, one ordinary class carriage and a brake led by locomotive DF-2078 (No DDUEZ 12370) from the PyinOoLwin station yesterday morning. After the artistes had taken photos and videos, the train returned back at around 2:05 pm, and when it arrived between Gangaw village and Sinlansu village at around 2,200 metres north-west of Banbwe village at around 3:45 pm, it was attacked by a remote-controlled bomb perpetrated by terrorist PDFs.

Although the artistes, security personnel and the railway staff were not affected by the attack, the floor of the second upper class carriage was reportedly damaged. It is announced that the Myanmar Music Association (Central) strongly condemns this act of vandalism.

Myanmar Music Association (Central)

Kyaukse Maha Shwetheindaw Pagoda crowded with students, pilgrims

AS the matriculation exam is approaching, Maha Shwetheindaw Pagoda in Kyaukse Township of Mandalay Region is crowded with students, pilgrims and prayers.

The Sutaungpyae Maha Shwetheindaw Pagoda is located in Thintaung Village north of Kyaukse near the Yangon-Mandalay Highway. Although Maha Shwetheindaw Pagoda is crowded with pilgrims regularly, days before the matriculation exam are more crowded with students and prayers to make vows and prayers with baskets of green bananas and coconut.

“There is special parking for motorbikes and vehicles for pilgrims. Security guards are avail-

able to call for help if needed,” said U Kyaw Swe, chairman of the Shwetheindaw Pagoda board of trustees.

The Maha Shwetheindaw Pagoda is a famous pagoda full of prayers for socio-economic development by making vows and prayers with baskets of green bananas and coconut.

A student from the Myitta Private High School in Kyaukse said that she is ready for the exam and she has come to pray for having a smooth and successful exam. —Thet Maung (Kyaukse)/GNLM

Students take the group photo at the Maha Shwetheindaw Pagoda.



254 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 29 March, total figure rises to 611,275

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **611,275** after **254** new cases were reported on 29 March 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **588,670** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **19,430** without casualties.

The right of citizens can only be claimed if there is no destructive elements

- Individual human rights include respect for each other; Appreciation is the most important thing. Citizens can also claim their rights if they have a country.
- Despite the destruction of the country, there is no example in the world that protects the rights of individual citizens. The right of citizens can only be claimed if there is no destructive elements.

(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)

University education is training for youths to have both ...

FROM PAGE-1

With respect to education policy, the Senior General said: “Our country is very weak in the education sector. More than five million students of over nine million enrolled in the previous academic year. Of them, some 60 per cent enrolled and attended the school but some four million students did not attend school. Among more than five million students, some 20 per cent of students were absent. So, it is very dangerous for the education sector. According to the interim census in 2019, a total of 18.263 million people among 25.169 million population above 25 have knowledge of middle school education. They are at the middle school level. There are more than two million educated persons and over 500,000 graduates and diploma holders. Some 100,000 people have completed the THS and TVED. These are actual situations in our country. Most of them are residing in

meaningful. The development of the nation needs educated persons. Hence, the education sector is crucial not only for the development of the nation but for democracy. It is necessary to implement the education policy. So, I gave guidance in the previous meetings to implement the KG+9 education system—five years for primary level, four years for middle school level and three years for high school level, totalling 12 years. In holding meetings with relevant ministries, we found a result that anyone must pass middle school education to attend vocational training. They have to pass the middle school education to join THS, vocational or agricultural training. Hence, it can be accepted that all citizens need to have passed middle school education on a basic stage. Our government implements the KG+9 scheme in our time. Among regions and states, priority is given to students from states and those from remote areas of regions.

Research is being conducted for the improvement of the traditional medicine arena with a plan to organize the traditional medicine practitioners’ conference. Arrangements are being made to facilitate security and health personnel with housing. Self-Administered Zones will be added with district-level departmental organizations.

antee to them. So I arrange a chance for them to do different reforms in the education sector. I accept we need to give necessary facilities to teachers. So, council members need to discuss it. I will focus on the implementation of a KG+9 scheme for education officials to adopt the policies on how to give chance to the teachers. I’d like to know the opinion of council members on that.”

University education is training for youths to have both learning education and experiences in social relations. In the coming academic year, the students learning at Universities of Medicines, Universities of Dental Medicine and Universities of Nursing who will discharge the duty for the State will be allowed learning education free of charge. Those who will not discharge duty for the State must pay deserved charges for learning. Medical and technical universities will give priority to outstanding applicants for studying respective subjects in the coming academic years.

With regard to operating the regular tasks during the COVID-10 period, some students have taken examinations at the basic education schools but the matriculation examination will finish in the first week of April. Travels of local and foreign visitors will

be allowed as of the Myanmar New Year Day, 17 April under the prescribed restrictions. As of coming mid-May, classes of all university education will be reopened as usual.

Honorary titles for performances in political, social, economic, technological and fine arts for the State will be honoured on the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day in January 2023.

Wind power and tidal speed should be considered in the energy policy. If the country can apply renewable energy, it will overcome the problems and reduce the import volume of fuel. If electric trains and cars can be used, the use of fuel can be saved. Fuel is imported in the transport sector, accounting for 72 per cent, industrial sector 26 per cent and generating electricity one per cent. If electricity can be used for public transportation, it will much benefit the State.

Depending on the current situation, festivities will be allowed in the Maha Thingyan period to some extent but it is necessary to consider the outbreak of COVID-19 and the political situation.

The council members discussed scrutiny to grant pardons for deserved persons, drawing good security plans for peace and stability of the State, holding a

conference with the participation of experts, scholars and student representatives to adopt the education policies.

Vice-Chairman of SAC Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win discussed systematic allowing the foreign applicants for permanent residents.

In his concluding speech, the Senior General said that punishment will not be reduced for those sentenced persons for their terror acts. Some ethnic armed organizations are involved in the terror acts but the government focuses on future prospects based on perpetual peace. Priority will be given to the use of renewable energy for generating electricity and coal will be used for generating heat energy only.

Only when terrorist organizations can be combatted can a free and fair election be held without coercion and threats. Hence, it is necessary to wipe off the terrorists. Research is being conducted for the improvement of the traditional medicine arena with a plan to organize the traditional medicine practitioners’ conference. Arrangements are being made to facilitate security and health personnel with housing. Self-Administered Zones will be added with district-level departmental organizations. — MNA

In the coming academic year, the students learning at Universities of Medicines, Universities of Dental Medicine and Universities of Nursing who will discharge the duty for the State will be allowed learning education free of charge.

the states. Some urban people are graduates, accounting for 78/80 per cent but 20 per cent in rural regions. So, we need to repair and encourage education matters without fail. So we must adopt the vows. Only when the future State has abundant educated persons in the democratization we expect will the democracy be

We have to enhance education standards. This year, we will upgrade the education standard by spending a large sum of the budget. On the other hand, we need to create good environs for those discharging duty in the education sector. We have to create the chances for teachers to teach students. The first one is to give a guar-

MoFA Union Minister participates in 18th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting via videoconference

U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, participated in the 18th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting via videoconference from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw which was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in hybrid mode at 10:25 am on 29 March 2022.

The meeting was chaired by Professor Gamini Lakshman Peiris, Foreign Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and also attended by Ministers of Foreign Affairs/ External Affairs of the other BIMSTEC Member States, which are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Thailand, and the Secretary-General of BIMSTEC.

At the meeting, the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka made a welcome statement and BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers delivered their statements respectively.

In his statement, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin stated that BIMSTEC has set its silver jubilee on 6 June of this year in promoting deeper cooperation among the Member States for their common goal of regional sustainable develop-



MoFA Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin joins the 18th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting virtually.

ment. He stressed that natural disasters, climate change, the pandemic and population growth have been negatively attributing food security in the region, and reaffirmed that Myanmar, the Lead Country in the Agriculture and Food Security sector under the BIMSTEC framework, to enhance close cooperation among the Member States in the agriculture, fisheries and livestock sectors in facilitating enhance

the production of healthy and nutritious food in the region. He highlighted that connectivity among the Member States plays a vital role in regional socio-economic development and also that the BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity, to be adopted at the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit, will strengthen not only regional integration but also promote intra-regional trade and investment.

The Union minister also underscored that unity and close cooperation will be a great strength in suppressing terrorism and transnational crimes in the region. He mentioned that the BIMSTEC region is prone to natural disasters and appreciated India for offering training and hosting exercises like PANEX-21 for the advancement of disaster response and management skills of the Member States. He

suggested that collective efforts should be double-up for the enhancement of the People-to-People Contact among the Member States which will nurture mutual understanding of different religions, cultures and customs.

He also reiterated Myanmar's firm commitments to active cooperation adhering to the principles enshrined in the BIMSTEC Charter such as sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful co-existence, mutual respect and consensus.

At the meeting, the ministers discussed the status of important documents envisaged to be adopted/signed at the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit and adopted the Report of the 18th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting by consensus.

Then, Professor Gamini Lakshman Peiris, Foreign Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka handed over the chairmanship of the BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting to Mr Don Pramudwinai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand. — MNA

Myanmar Press Council Statement (1/2022)

1. It is a time when the State, the Tatmadaw, and the people are working together for peace and stability in the country to achieve lasting peace and to build a Union based on a genuine and disciplined multiparty democracy.
2. At this time, for the development of the country in all aspects, it is learned that the leaders of the country are raising the mental strength of the people by letting a group of artistes perform in landmark places in the country.
3. This group was attacked by a remote-controlled bomb committed by terrorists while going to PyinOoLwin by train at around 3:45 pm on 29 March 2022.
4. It is reported that no one was injured due to the incident.
5. As these acts of terrorism are destructive activities that do not contribute to the stability, development, the attainment of enduring peace and the establishment of a Union based on genuine and disciplined democracy, we strongly condemn all kinds of terrorist acts, including this act.

Myanmar Press Council

Myanmar Comedians Association Statement

13th Waning of Taboung 1383 ME
29 March 2022

ON the evening of 29 March, the terrorists detonated a mine on the train carrying artistes, who returned after filming a TV programme to promote domestic and foreign tourism in Myanmar, near Nawngkhio Township in the northern Shan State.

Myanmar Comedians Association strongly condemns such terrorist attacks against the artistes.

Myanmar Comedians Association

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Ethnic representatives’ meeting (forum) continues its second day



MoEA Union Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint talks on the peacemaking processes at the second-day forum.

THE second day of ethnic representatives’ meeting (forum) aiming to strengthen the ethnic solidarity and Union spirit was organized in Nay Pyi Taw according to the COVID-19 health

rules yesterday.

During the forum, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing discussed the social harmony in peace processes, rehabilitation, repatriation, relocation and reconciliation under the topic of peace processes, including examples, showing that national interests and national security are prioritized in international countries.

Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Saw Tun Aung Myint focused on the peacemaking processes phase (2) of UPDJC pointing out the need to build trust with the ethnic people, conduct the peace processes step by step and grab the chances by applying the resources of the ministry as it plays a key role in peace processes.

Deputy Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung then discussed the review on ethnic affairs and NCA phase (2) and State Administration Council Advisory board member Dr Salai Andrew Ngun Cung Lian coordinated the discussion with the major supportive points for peace.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint said the forum received the proper experience than expected and it was the first drive of the ministry. He also appreciated the efforts of Guest Speakers and pledged to negotiate with the Ministry of Education to resolve the salary payment difficulties of ethnic language teachers (LT)/teacher assistants (TA) in ethnic areas.

— MNA

Terrorist PDFs bomb train carrying artistes working to boost domestic tourism

A train carrying a group of artistes working to boost domestic tourism was bombed by PDF terrorists between Gangaw and Sinlamsu villages in Shan State yesterday afternoon.

The group of artistes was escorted by the State Administration Council to the significant landmarks in the country with the aim of boosting domestic tourism which was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Terrorists perpetrated a remote-controlled bomb attack at around 3:45 pm when the train was back from the Gokteik Viaduct to PyinOoLwin after the artistes had taken photos and videos.

Although security personnel, Myanmar Railways staff and the artistes were not affected by the bomb attack, the floor of a carriage was damaged.

While the government is working hand in hand with the people to develop the country in all aspects, the people who want stability and peace are condemning PDF terrorists who are committing various acts of sabotage

in different ways.

People are urged to work together to prevent these acts of vandalism and to arrest those involved in the crime as soon as possible by reporting any information and movement related to them, in the interests of the stability and security of the townships and villages. Worthy awards will be granted to whistleblowers, it is reported. — MNA

Ravages of train cabin in the aftermath of mine blast.



Tatmadaw copter with exam papers, department staff aboard accidentally crashes in Chin State

THE government works together with Tatmadaw and departmental staff to hold the matriculation examination on 31 March 2021 and Tatmadaw planes and helicopters were also used in the transport sector to remote areas across the nation.

A Tatmadaw helicopter carrying exam papers, transferred education workers and departmental staff accidentally crashed in the strong wind while landing in the local battalion of Haka township yesterday morning.

Despite the accident, the question-and-answer papers were transported to respective exam centres in time. Three civilian staff and two security members on board were slightly injured and taken to the local public hospital. — MNA

ASEAN to hold Youth Photo Competition 2022

THE ASEAN Youth Photo Competition 2022 supervised by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Cambodia will be held with the theme named “Integrating Mutual Benefits”.

The photo contest will be held from March to June 2022.

Young photographers who want to participate in the competition can submit their online applications by 10 April 2022.

According to the rules, the contestants must be between 18-35 years old and an ASEAN citizen.

Photos of the contest entries must be taken in the ASEAN region and must not have been won in a previous photo contest.

The contest photo format must be JPG (or) JPEG Resolution and should be within 150 - 300 DPI.

File size must be 3-5 MB in size. Slightly cropping the photo and adjusting the colour is also allowed.

But, frames, watermarks and time marks are not allowed in the photo.

Contestants must submit only one photo and the title should not be more than 10 words in English. The caption should not exceed 30 words.

The explanation must be written in English, not more than 100 words.

The competition will be held at the ASEAN level. The award will be presented at two regional levels, with the first five shortlisted photos from the respective ASEAN countries, and the second stage will be a panel of nine local evaluators.

Three best prizes in the competition, one most popular Photo Award and ten special prizes will be awarded and the total value of the prizes will be USD 7,300.

Enthusiasts can register for these competitions by clicking on the link <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzG-mvLZmRbmrXinCGWpBgXWx-qGCP?projector=1&message-PartId=0.91https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzG-mvLZmRbmrXinCGWpBgXWx-qGCP?Projector=1&message-PartId=0.10> Link, according to the competition organising committee. — MNA

Announcement of Online e-Visa Reopening

1. The Ministry of Immigration and Population launched the e-Visa Website (evisa.moip.gov.mm) on 1 September 2014. In light of the evolving COVID-19 situation and rapid increase of COVID-19 cases around the globe, there has been a temporary suspension for all new e-Visa applications since 20 March 2020, 23:59 Myanmar Standard Time (GMT + 6:30).
2. At present, the COVID-19 diagnosis confirmed rate and infection rate have dropped. In support of the economic development of the State, the Online e-Visa system will reopen on 1 April 2022 for business visa applications in accordance with the COVID-19 rules and regulations of the Ministry of Health.
3. Requirements for the application for Online e-Visa (Business) will be available at the Ministry's website <https://evisa.moip.gov.mm>.

Ministry of Immigration and Population

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

THE Ministry of Commerce is currently facilitating the importation of essential medical supplies plus anti-COVID devices that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, through trading posts, international airports and seaports.

Two vehicles carrying 17.51 tonnes of masks were imported by one company via the Chinshwehaw trading zone yesterday.

Officials from relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the



standard operating procedures for the import process.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments

and treatment of COVID-19 as well as contact persons for inquiries can be reached through the Ministry's Website — www.commerce.gov.mm. — MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal food items, equipment, unregistered vehicles seized



SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, efforts are being made to take effective action against illegal trades under the law in regions

and states.

On 25 March, combined teams led by the Kachin State Minister for Natural Resources conducted inspections ac-

cording to a report. During the inspection, 28 water-pumping motors and equipment used in gold mining (estimated value of K4,450,000), along with illegal gold mining activities, were confiscated along the bank of the Ayeyawady River.

During the inspection at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint in Mon State, an unregistered truck (estimated value of K20,000,000) was confiscated under the Customs Law.

On 28 March, a combined inspection team on duty conducted inspections at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined

Checkpoint in Kayin State and seized a vehicle together with two undocumented used diesel generators (estimated value of K66,500,000) under the Customs Law.

In addition, 12 bags (592 kilogrammes) containing what is believed to be metal (estimated value of K5,920,000) were confiscated during a field inspection near Sanlaung village near the Yepu Permanent Checkpoint, and action is taken under the Customs Law.

Similarly, construction materials (estimated value of K49,154,418) were seized in excess of what was stated in the

import declaration (ID) at the Myanmar Industrial Port Customs Checkpoint and action is taken under the Customs Law.

Yesterday, an inspection team led by the Myanmar Police Force conducted inspections in Shwebo District and seized a Toyota Land Cruiser vehicle and a motorcycle (estimated value of K6,100,000) and action is taken under the Export/Import Law.

Therefore, a total of 11 arrests (estimated value of K166,624,418) were made on 25, 26, 28, and 29 March, the Anti-illegal Trade Steering Committee stated.— MNA

Forest Dept seizes illegal timbers across regions and states

THE Forest Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation implements the Community Monitoring and Reporting System (CMRS) to curb illegal timbers and forest products.

According to the data collected between 21 to 27 March,

the department seized a total of 248.0846 tonnes of illegal timbers — 60.8820 tonnes of teak, 53.4678 tonnes of hardwood and 133.7348 tonnes of others in regions/states including Nay Pyi Taw and arrested 39 suspects with 17 vehicles, the department stated. — MNA



K198 million worth of heroin seized in Shan State (North)

POLICE seized 13.2 kilogrammes of heroin worth K198 million in Nawnghkio Township, Shan State (North).

On a tip-off, a combined team comprising members of the Anti-Drug Squad searched an Isuzu container-box truck driven by Myo Min, aged 40, from Kyaukme to Mandalay, near the Oriental tollgate on the Lashio-Mandalay Road in Nawnghkio Township, Shan State (North), and seized 13.2 kilogrammes of heroin worth K198 million.

After the interrogation of the suspect, the heroin was being carried from Shan State (North) to Mandalay Region.



The police have filed a case against the suspect. The police are investigating to

arrest the rest in connexion with the case, it is learnt. — MNA

Myanmar maritime trade up by \$2.27 bln as of 18 March

THE value of Myanmar's maritime trade between 1 October and 18 March in the current mini-budget period of 2021-2022 soared to US\$11.59 billion, reflecting a significant increase of \$2.275 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Sea trade rose from \$9.3 billion during the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

While maritime exports were valued at \$5.17 billion, imports registered at \$6.416 billion. Both exports and imports have risen as against the year-ago period.

Myanmar's sea trade generated \$19.8 billion out of an

overall trade value of \$29.5 billion in the previous FY2020-2021, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials.

The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade and includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port. — KK/GNLM



The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade and includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port.

New policy changes unlikely to affect corn exports



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

THE new policy on corn export will not have a huge impact on corn exports, said U Min Khaing, chair of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association said.

Those items including maize, starch, popcorn, seed, maize corn flour, cereal grains, millets, cereal groats, meal and pellets, buckwheat and canary seeds have been notified to seek export licence starting from 1 April 2022, according to a notification released by the Ministry of Commerce on 9 March 2022.

"The policy changes will not adversely influence the exports. One more procedure is added for the exporters. Earlier, the corns were exempt from the export

licence. They can proceed with Form-D. It might cause some delay if some are not used to that procedure," U Min Khaing elaborated.

That action aims to ensure food security and national security and measure environmental impacts. Therefore, traders have to seek export licences whatever trade routes (maritime, border or air) they use starting from 1 April, in line with the export rules and regulations.

At present, the corn FOB price stands at US\$320-340 per tonne while the corns fetch approximately K1,020-1,040 per viss depending on the corn

quality in the Yangon market, according to Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung).

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

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons — winter, summer and monsoon. The country yearly produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn. — NN/GNLM

Irrigation network to cover 1,800 acres of pre-monsoon long-staple cotton in Thazi Tsp

THE Department of Agriculture in Thazi Township, Mandalay Region has planned to grow 1,800 acres of long-staple cotton for the pre-monsoon season with the irrigation water supply and that project is being undertaken, said Daw Moe Moe Ngwe, an officer of the department said.

Those cotton acres are being implemented with water supply by the irrigation network starting from 20 February 2022 and over 900 acres have been cultivated. The remaining is slated to complete by the end of March.

"Cotton is one of the major crops in Central Myanmar. It's a lucrative crop due to market stability and high price. It can produce up to over 550 visses of cotton (a viss equals 1.6 kilograms) per acre. For monsoon and late monsoon seasons, the yield is estimated at over

340 visses per acre. Every cotton grower aims to meet a yield target of over 500 visses an acre. The prices of cotton range between K1,500 and K2,200 per viss. At present, it's offered K1,700 per viss in the domestic market. The growers in Thazi Township commonly choose cotton crops and they endeavour to maintain quality standards and crop development," Daw Moe Moe Ngwe was quoted as saying.

Additionally, the department is striving to carry out seed farms for the pre-monsoon season. Those seeds will fulfil the requirements of cotton seeds for the 2022-2023 late monsoon season. The cotton is cultivated throughout the monsoon, pre-monsoon and late monsoon season. Last year, over 7,000 acres of long-staple cotton were cultivated in the monsoon and late monsoon periods. — Maung Aye Chan/GNLM



Those cotton acres are being implemented with water supply by the irrigation network starting from 20 February 2022 and over 900 acres have been cultivated. The remaining is slated to complete by the end of March.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Pass happy society on to new generations

A HAPPY life defines the satisfaction of somebody over own life and the daily life based on happiness but the life of wealth, the life of graduate, the life with higher ranks and the life with associates.

Having happiness for somebody fully endowed with physical wealth is not adequate. Only when someone can gain physical and mental well-being and social delightedness will they build a happy life.

Finland has been standing as the happiest country across the world for five consecutive years, followed by Denmark, Island, Switzerland and the Netherlands among more than 150 countries, according to the global happiness report of the United Nations issued on 18 March 2022. Across the world, Afghanistan has been the lowest happy country, followed by Lebanon, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and

Only then, will the countries fulfil the mental and physical well-being of the citizens with constructive attitudes over life free from conflicts and full prevalence of the law and order. If so, the people from those countries will have to foster a constructive attitude and those countries will be free from internal conflicts and full prevalence of the law and order. Such a situation will be a paradise for the people as well as a drive for passing the happy society on to new generations.

Only then, will the countries fulfil the mental and physical well-being of the citizens with constructive attitudes over life free from conflicts and full prevalence of the law and order. If so, the people from those countries will have to foster a constructive attitude and those countries will be free from internal conflicts and full prevalence of the law and order. Such a situation will be a paradise for the people as well as a drive for passing the happy society on to new generations.

■ ■ ■

Botswana. Moreover, Ukraine stood in the 98th position, and Russia, the 80th on the chart of happiness.

Such data collected by the World Health Organization estimates that some 300 million of the global population are currently encountering depression while the rest number of the population is facing unhappiness based on unidentified diseases and frets. It is because a large number of people cannot emphasize well-being due to the accumulation of various pressures in the globalization process.

The majority of the residents from the countries with low happiness lose their confidence in various kinds of internal conflicts and wars and packs back the burden of poverty, lack of rule of law, growing drug problems, the hardship of basic needs for their lives and misses the chance to enjoy the basic rights.

It is necessary to consider that the happiness of the people depends on democracy and human rights, freedom of faith, social safety and giving a helping hand to each other in addition to basic factors to the socio-economic life. Only when the global people possess the aforesaid factors will they enjoy the fruits of happiness in their lives.

Good government and clean governance

By U Khin Maung (A retired diplomat)

1. First and foremost, let me present my own views of the two catchphrases; good government and clean governance. These two catchphrases, in my view, are closely related to each other. When there is good government, there is clean governance or vice versa. In this connection, I believe that we should make a study on the essential ingredients of “good government and clean governance” so that we can understand them better.

2. The essential ingredients of “good government and clean governance”. I think, may contain the following attributes or qualities.
(1) Accountability
(2) Transparency
(3) The Rule of Law
(4) The Independence of the judiciary
(5) People’s participation and
(6) Democracy
3. Now, please allow me to elaborate on each essential ingredient as follows;
Accountability means being accountable. And accountable means responsible, answerable for a person’s or an organization’s actions or decisions and is expected to explain to them when asked or necessary. The government is an organization, representing the people and as such, the government is entrusted to carry out and manage the state’s mission and responsibilities for the benefit and for welfare of the people it represents. In other words, the elected government or the government representing the people is accountable, answerable and responsible for its actions or decisions and it is expected to explain when necessary.

4. Transparency means being transparent, being obvious and being not opaque. Or, in another sense, transparency means openness. Except for national security reasons, everything carried out and every action taken by a good government should be transparent. And the people, to whom a good government owes its administrative powers and existence, should have the right to have access to information.
5. The Rule of Law means the condition in which the members of society including the government accept the authority of law. Under this doctrine, the government, the citizens, the ruler and the ruled, must respect the rule of law. This doctrine also means “equality before the law, fair play, uniformity of laws for all private citizens and the public officials alike”. It also means that “disputes and differences that are amenable to legal settlement will be taken to the courts and peacefully settled, and that they will not lead to violence”. And where there is no rule of law, there comes lawlessness, chaos and unrest. Therefore, “law and order are often equated with the rule of law”. Whenever there is a conflict, whenever there is a clash, minor or serious, civil or criminal, the rule of law must prevail, justice must prevail.

6. The Independence of the judiciary
The judiciary is the branch of government, responsible for interpreting the laws and administering justice. As such, “the independence of the judiciary is not merely a window-dressing, but a vital necessity” for a good government and clean governance. In simple language, the independence of the judiciary means that “the courts can freely decide, without considering the wishes of the government, but only considering the demands of justice according to the law”. From another point of view, the independence of the judiciary means the courts can independently administer justice, strictly following the stipulations of laws without non-interference of non-intervention of the government or any other institution.
7. People’s participation
A government is simply an organization formed with the people’s representatives. A government needs not only the people’s support, but it also needs the people’s participation in its mission and nation-building task. The greater the number of people participating is there in the government’s tasks and duties, the brighter and more

brilliant success the government will achieve. People and power, people and government are interdependent. We have an old saying “if a tremendous task cannot be achieved single-handedly, it can be achieved by many hands”. There is an English old saying which goes. “Many hands make light work.” In view of this, “a good government and clean governance” needs people’s participation. The greater the number of people who participate, the better the government.
8. Democracy, a good government is the government democratically elected. In this sense, a good government can also be defined as “the government of the people, by the people, for the people.” This being so, I think we can also define good government as a government, that is free from corruption, a government that implements people’s hopes and aspirations with might and main, with equality and justice but without one iota of nepotism, or cronyism. In other words, a good government

can also be defined as “the people’s government made for the people, made by the people and answerable to the people”. And where there is a good government, there will surely be clean governance. And “care of human life and happiness. and not their destruction, is the first and only legitimate object of good government.”
9. This write-up is the result of an arduous attempt of mine, to express my humble opinions about the topic. If you have any comments, criticism, any addition, any amendment or any alteration to make, you are warmly and respectfully welcome. Thank you.

Reference:

- 1) Law and Custom in Burma and the Burmese Family by Dr Maung Maung
- 2) A book of essential quotations Edited by Eric Partridge
- 3) Black’s Law Dictionary (Second Pocket Edition)

■ ■ ■

UN analysis shows link between lack of vaccine equity and widening poverty gap

NEW analyses released by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), show that only a tiny proportion of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in developing countries, leading to a widening gap between rich and poor.

In September 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) set an ambitious global target. The UN health agency called for 70 per cent of the global population to be vaccinated by mid-2022.

At that point, just over three per cent of people in low-income countries had been vaccinated with at least one dose, compared to 60.18 per cent in high-income countries.

Six months on, the world is nowhere near reaching that target.

The overall number of vaccines administered has risen dramatically, but so has the inequality of the distribution: of the 10.7 billion doses given out worldwide, only one per cent have been administered in low-income countries.

This means that 2.8 billion people around the world are still waiting to get their first shot.

Vaccine inequity jeopardizes the safety of everyone, and contributes to growing inequalities between — and within — countries. Not only does this state of affairs risk prolonging the pandemic, but the lack of equity has many other impacts, slowing the economic recovery of entire countries, global labour markets, public debt payments, and countries’ ability to invest in other priorities.

Recovery harder than ever

Two years on from the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, poorer countries are finding it harder than ever to recover economically, labour markets are suffering, public debt remains stubbornly high, and there is little left in the coffers to invest in other priorities.

New analysis by UNDP shows that most of the vulnerable countries are found in Sub-Saharan



UNDP is supporting Sudanese farmers whose incomes and crop yields have been impacted by COVID-19 lockdowns. PHOTO: UNDP/AHMED ALSAMANI

Africa, including Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Chad, where less than one per cent of the populations are fully vaccinated. Outside of Africa, Haiti and Yemen are still to reach two per cent coverage.

The studies show that, if the low-income countries had the same vaccination rate as high-income

countries in September last year (around 54 per cent) they would have increased their GDP by US\$16.27 billion in 2021.

The countries calculated to have lost most potential income during the pandemic, due to vaccine inequity, are Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda.

This lost income could have been used to address other pressing development challenge in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that make up the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the organization’s blueprint for a future that is fair for people and the planet.

In South Sudan, for example,

the costs associated with COVID-19 vaccinations could have covered all social assistance programmes and education expenditure in the country, whilst in Burundi, the costs could have provided healthcare for some 4.7 million people. Whilst the protracted lockdowns put in place worldwide hurt workers everywhere, those in developing countries were, again, disproportionately affected. Richer countries softened the blow by boosting economic support to both formal and informal workers, while in low-income countries, support declined between 2020 and 2021.

Where do we go from here?

Urgent access to vaccines and financing — such as the grants and concessions proposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) — is, according to the analysis, essential for the poorest countries, alongside support that is tailored to the situation faced by each individual nation.

SOURCE: UN

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 29 March 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 30 March 2022: Weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions. Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, (Southern and Eastern) Shan States, scattered in Lower Sagaing Region and Northern Shan, Chin States and isolated in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 March 2022: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 March 2022: Partly Cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 March 2022: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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With the hearts of lions, firefighters protect the lives, property and heritage of the State and the people

BY NyaungU Phee



Firefighters are seen making rescue efforts for the people in the face of natural disasters. **PHOTOS: OKTHA**

IN a bid to protect the lives, property and heritage of the State and the people, fire safety measures and natural disaster response programmes are undertaken. Such an effort can minimize the hazards triggered by disaster and fire. Being the unpredictable nature of the disaster, fires can threaten lives and property in the State and hinder the country's development. This being so, to keep abreast of the development activities and keep connected with other countries, implementation of those programmes can help bring towards effective disaster risk management. Every citizen must conserve the natural resources of the country. Most importantly, the firefighters across

the globe are protecting the lives and property of the people and sometimes, making a bold resolution to save the people. Myanmar has been experiencing fire hazards and natural disasters and the Myanmar fire brigade has been providing fire prevention, fire suppression and rescue activities together with the related troops. They always emphasize fire hazard mitigation. They extinguished the hazardous fire by risking their lives and made heroic deeds. As a result of this, they are honoured as the ones with the hearts of lions.

Myanmar Fire Brigade is continuously taking fire safety measures. The hot season is vulnerable to fire outbreaks. The automatic fire sprinkler sys-



Firemen are contributing their rescue efforts in one of the incidents of natural disasters.



Fire Brigade members are in brave action in one of the rescue efforts.



Fire Brigade members are seen giving their helping hands to the people during the fire incident in Yangon.

tem, fire alarm system, smoke detectors and emergency preparedness activities have been implemented. Firefighters stay alert for emergency notification service and rush to the scene for mitigation. Similarly, they are always on standby for any nature

of disasters. Fire can start and spread rapidly in seconds. This being so, real-time emergency response, fire suppression and mitigation of damages and losses are the goals of the fire service crew at the scene.

Ukrainian firefighters were seen battling with a huge blaze during the Ukraine-Russia conflict. Firefighters never leave the fire incidents for rescue and migration. Every country has different patterns of politics, economics, education and health. Nonetheless, every firefighter across the globe is ready to serve the lives of the people, all of them perform the same and they are committed to the job. Maltese Cross is known around the world as the symbol of fire

service. It can be found on fire engines, fire service department uniforms and firefighters' badges. If a fireman sees this Maltese Cross with axes, he can associate with another fireman wherever he goes regardless of different nationalities and continents such as Asia, Europe and Africa. They proudly told people that I am a fireman. Firefighters across the world share knowledge and exchange practices on fire prevention and rescue activities, establish mutual respect and maintain close contacts among the states. They have the hearts of lions who are willing to help despite their skin colour, nationalities, race, religion, poor or rich.

Myanmar is also facing fire hazards like other regional countries. There were 222 outbreaks of fire in January 2021, incurring K215.6 million losses, while 150 fires were reported in January 2022, with estimated losses of K447.6 million. This year, the number of fires dropped compared to the same corresponding period of last year. However, the losses incurred in fires increased by K232 million.

Moreover, there were 237 fires, with estimated losses of K296 million in February 2021. A total of 254 fires broke out, causing K972 million losses in February 2022, showing the increase of 17 fires and K675 million as against the year-ago period. It is a massive loss for the country and the people. Approximately 1,300 fires were recorded in the past 34 years (1988-2021), having extreme losses of K6,387 million, according to Myanmar Fire Brigade.

Yangon is the commercial hub of the country and fire outbreaks can cause a significant loss in the city. It took so long to put out the major urban conflagrations such as herbal warehouse fire in Mingala Taungnyunt in Yangon Region on 29 December 2011, teak and



Fire Brigade members are extinguishing the fires in one of the industrial zones to minimize the loss of property.



Firefighters are aiming their firehoses at the houses to protect the property of the people.

coal fire inside Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa in Kyauktan Township on 26 March 2012, Aung Moe Khaing cold storage fire in Kyauktan on 11 January 2013, Coca Cola factory fire on 24 September 2015, fire on the 22-floor of the hotel is under construction on Parami Road, Mayangon Township on 17 November 2015, Mingala market fire on 9 January 2016, fire outbreak of a tanker carrying jet fuel in Dagon Myothit (South) on 6 August 2017, Kandawgyi Palace hotel fire on 19 October 2017, YPI garment factory fire

in Thingyangyun Township on 12 December 2017. Firefighters battled to control and successfully put out the fire amid the exposure to the toxic chemicals, explosion, risks and losses as they served their duties with their selflessness, acts of bravery, perseverance, fast decision making and compassion.

There were two cases of destructive fires which claimed the lives of firemen and people in Yangon city. Five hero firemen and 14 people died in the fire in 2011, with 37 firemen and eight people injured. The massive fire

at Kandawgyi Palace hotel in the early hour on 19 October 2017 was a tragedy. Director-general, directors, officers and fire crew of Myanmar Fire Brigade managed to put out that massive fire. They had to stop the fire sparks not to spreading to Yangon Zoo. At this incident, officer U Kyaw Swar Lin from Shwepyitha Fire Station sustained a head injury after a burnt wooden beam with 6 inches circumference fell on him. He passed away after the treatment of over three months with loss of consciousness. Other firemen also got seriously injured. The firemen received bravery awards from the State. They are in a deed belonging to the heart of a lion with selfless and heroic deeds.

Myanmar fire brigade protects the lives and property of the people in the state and performs fire prevention, safety and rescue and service for environmental hazards with 24-hour service and mitigation measures. They ensure readiness for fire service as most of the fire outbreaks occur in summer. They also conducted public fire safety awareness activities.

Myanmar Fire Brigade en-

hanced its capacity and tried to meet the needs, with a fleet of fire trucks and equipment as it connected to the international firefighters and exchanged technology and practices. The massive fire showed the strong capacity with advanced fire engines and equipment, intra-departmental cooperation and good performance in harmony.

There were 1,187 fires in 1988, 1,394 in 1989, 1,519 in 1990, 1,815 in 1991, 1,620 in 1992, 1,464 in 1993, 1,272 in 1994, 1,177 in 1995, 902 in 1996, 1,007 in 1997, 1,098 in 1998, 847 in 1999, 876 in 2000, 868 in 2001, 843 in 2002, 760 in 2003, 956 in 2004, 835 in 2005, 833 in 2006, 944 in 2007, 799 in 2008, 714 in 2009, 920 in 2010, 923 in 2011, 1,219 in 2012, 1,673 in 2013, 1,629 in 2014, 1,708 in 2015, 1,847 in 2016, 1,832 in 2017, 1,739 in 2018, 2,155 in 2019, 2,139 in 2020 and 2,107 in 2021 respectively, totalling 43,621 fires with an estimated losses of K217,166 million. The losses are mounting year over year depending on commodity prices.

Those fire losses negatively impacted the road infrastructure, border development activities, health and education sectors.

Along with the modern lifestyle and the rapidly changing world, contemporary fire hazards are evolving, especially in the hot and dry season and people must take fire safety measures. The brigade conducts firefighting, search and rescue activities with the four duties and functions; fire precaution & fire prevention, fire extinction, search and rescue services and social humanitarian services. Firefighters are proudly honoured as fighters with lions' hearts.

Translated



Firemen makes the extinguishing efforts amid the flames of fire in the industrial zone.



Firemen are seen helping flood victims.

NEWS
IN BRIEFPressure mounts
for Swiss to freeze
Russian assets

MOST Swiss want their country to freeze more Russian assets over the war in Ukraine, according to a new poll published Monday, as Switzerland's second-largest bank swore off new business in Russia.

A full 57 per cent of Swiss people surveyed last week backed freezing assets belonging to high-ranking Russians and Kremlin allies, said the survey by the Link institute.

In the poll of more than 1,200 people, 56 per cent of those questioned favoured cutting ties between Switzerland's famous banks and their Russian counterparts.

And the same percentage backed tighter Swiss sanctions against Russia, even if it hit energy provision and led to significantly higher energy prices.

The poll was conducted between 17 and 21 March.

Switzerland is not in the EU and has a long-standing tradition of neutrality on matters of war. It has nevertheless been aligning itself with the waves of EU sanctions imposed following Russia's 24 February invasion of Ukraine. — AFP ■

Oil prices drop amid
demand concerns,
optimism about
Russia-Ukraine talks

OIL prices sank on Monday as traders weighed demand outlook while awaiting a fresh round of Russia-Ukraine peace talks.

The West Texas Intermediate for May delivery lost 7.94 US dollars, or 7 per cent, to settle at 105.96 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude for May delivery decreased 8.17 dollars, or 6.8 per cent, to close at 112.48 dollars a barrel on the London ICE Futures Exchange.

The pullback came as investors continued to assess the impact of COVID-19 on fuel demand.

Elsewhere, "hopes that the peace negotiations between Ukraine and Russia could lead to rapprochement" also contributed to the price slide, Carsten Fritsch, energy analyst at Commerzbank Research, said Monday in a note. — AFP ■

China conducts central bank bills swap



THE People's Bank of China, or the central bank, conducted this year's third central bank bills swap (CBS) operation on Tuesday to improve the liquidity of perpetual bonds issued by commercial banks.

The CBS, valued at 5 billion yuan (about 785.67 million US dollars), is open to primary dealers for bidding at a fixed rate of 0.1 per cent, the central bank said in a statement.

The swap will be due on 29

June 2022, said the statement.

The CBS scheme allows dealers to swap the perpetual bonds they hold for central bank bills, which will boost market demand for perpetual bonds but have a neutral impact on liquidity in the banking system.

Perpetual bonds are fixed-income securities with no maturity date and are not redeemable but pay a steady stream of interest in perpetuity.

— Xinhua ■

A woman shows banknotes and coins included in the 2019 edition of the fifth series of the renminbi. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

New Zealand dairy exporters optimistic about China
market potentials as RCEP came into effect

NEW Zealand dairy companies Yashili and Fonterra are optimistic about China's market potential after the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the world's largest trade deal, came into effect on 1 January 2022.

Wei Song, CEO of Yashili New Zealand Dairy Co., Ltd, told Xinhua: "China is a big consumer of dairy products and has strong market potential. New Zealand is recognized as a golden milk source and one of the largest dairy exporters in the world."

"After RCEP came into effect, the certification and customs

procedures are simplified and more convenient. The customs clearance time is shortened. It is more conducive to the circulation of goods between China and New Zealand, which greatly reduces the cost of enterprises," Song said. "On the other hand, consumers can also receive high-quality products faster."

Song said that the past years witnessed continued revenue growth for the company despite the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting the supply chain severely, raising the input costs and squeezing the margin of most New Zealand exporters.



File photo shows the exhibition booth of New Zealand at the third China International Import Expo in Shanghai, east China. **PHOTO: NEW ZEALAND TRADE AND ENTERPRISE / HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

Dairy export has been playing a crucial role in New Zealand's economy, especially in the past three years. — Xinhua ■

As Ukraine sowing season starts, fuel shortages threaten food supply

IN an endless field in southwest Ukraine, farmers began to plant sunflower seeds at the start of the sowing season, but a fuel shortage threatens production in the war-torn country, whose land feeds millions around the world.

The world's top producer of sunflower oil and a major exporter of wheat is a breadbasket of the world under threat from the Russian invasion.

This means the fate of global food security depends on Ukrainian farms, such as the fertile grounds of Alexander Petkov's land in Bahate, near the Romanian border.

"The season starts here, in the areas not hit by war," Petkov, 47, said. The regions torn by the conflict such as the southern cities of Kherson and Mykolaiv further to the east will not be able to begin planting as usual.

Mykolaiv is facing a daily barrage of Russian shelling



Ukraine is the world's top producer of sunflower oil and a major exporter of wheat, a breadbasket of the world under threat from the Russian invasion. **PHOTO: BULENT KILIC / AFP**

while Ukrainian forces have launched a counter-offensive to retake Kherson.

Last year, Petkov's farming business, spread across five villages, yielded 30,000 tonnes of barley, 27,000 tonnes of wheat and 5,500 tonnes of sunflower.

Petkov points to the blackened sunflower seeds and wheat piling up in his barns as there is nowhere to take them. There is concern too over the risk that fuel needed for the sowing season will quickly run out.

"All the ports are closed be-

cause of the presence of Russian warships in the Black Sea," the farmer said.

The Ukrainian government has suggested exporting agricultural products via the Romanian port of Constanta, but there has been no progress in the plan, Petkov said.

"We're currently using the remaining fuel we had before the war, but there is no new supply," he said, adding that he could run out within five days.

Millions affected

In a report last week, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization warned that Ukraine depends heavily on fuel imports, with about 70 per cent of imports of petrol and diesel coming from Russia and its ally Belarus. "A key bottleneck to the spring planting season, where it is possible due to the war, is fuel availability," the FAO said. — AFP ■

Ukraine war saps German consumer confidence



Shoppers walk out of a shopping mall in Berlin on 3 March. PHOTO: JOHN MACDOUGALL / AFP

THE mood of consumers in Germany has darkened significantly as the Russian invasion of Ukraine dimmed the outlook for Europe's largest economy, according to a key survey published Tuesday.

Pollster GfK's forward-looking barometer fell to minus 15.5 per cent for April from a revised minus 8.5 per cent in March.

Hopes that the lifting of coronavirus-related

health restrictions would propel an economic recovery had "evaporated" with the Russian invasion of Ukraine at the end of February, GfK consumer expert Rolf Buerkl said. The shock was felt particularly hard by income expectations, which fell by 25 points to minus 22.1 in March, its lowest level since January 2009 in the midst of the financial crisis.

The conflict has given

a new push to already high inflation, sending the cost for oil and gas rocketing amid fears that supplies from Russia could be severely curtailed. Rising fuel bills means "consumers see their purchasing power melting away", the GfK said in a statement. Consumer prices rose at a rate of 5.1 per cent in February, with new figures for March set to be published Wednesday. Germany's reliance on

imports of Russian gas to heat its homes and power its industry meant the country was particularly vulnerable to the economic impact of the war. The GfK survey of some 2,000 people found that Germans were significantly more pessimistic about the state of the economy, with the indicator falling 33 points to minus 8.9 in March, having risen in the last two months. — AFP ■

Boeing announces senior leadership updates

BOEING on Monday announced Ted Colbert as president and chief executive officer of its Defence, Space and Security business succeeding Leanne Caret. Stephanie Pope has been appointed as president and CEO of Boeing Global Services (BGS), succeeding Colbert.

As president and CEO of Boeing Defence, Space and Security (BDS), Colbert will oversee all aspects of the company's business unit that

provides technology, products and solutions for defence, government, space, intelligence, and security customers. BDS had 2021 revenue of 26 billion US dollars, the company said.

As president and CEO of Boeing Global Services, Pope, who is currently Boeing Commercial Airplanes (BCA) chief financial officer, will lead the company's business unit that provides aerospace services for commercial, government and aviation industry cus-

tomers. BGS had 2021 revenue of 16 billion dollars. Before her assignment as BCA CFO, Pope was chief financial officer of BGS.

Colbert and Pope's new assignments will be effective on 1 April. Until her retirement later this year, Caret will serve as executive vice-president and senior advisor to the CEO, reporting to Calhoun, to support the leadership transition, business continuity, according to the announcement. — Xinhua ■



The Boeing 787 Dreamliner sits on the assembly line 13 June, 2012 at the Boeing Factory in Everett, Washington. PHOTO: STEPHEN BRASHEAR/AFP/FILE

Japan, US to closely communicate on currency movement

JAPAN and the United States agreed Tuesday to closely communicate on currency movements, a senior Finance Ministry official said a day after the yen tumbled to its lowest level against the US dollar in more than six years.

In a meeting in To-

kyo, Masato Kanda, vice-finance minister for international affairs, and Andy Baukol, acting Treasury undersecretary for international affairs, also affirmed close coordination in enforcing financial sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

Kanda said he and Baukol took "a fair amount of time" to discuss the movements in the currency market, where the dollar on Monday surged above the 125 yen threshold for the first time since August 2015. — Kyodo ■

In the matter of the Financial Institution Law, 2016
In the matter of uab bank Limited
[Under Paragraph 34 of the Directive on External Auditors of Banks of the Central Bank of Myanmar (10/2019)]

Public Notice regarding Publication and Exhibition of Financial Statements

Pursuant to Paragraph 34 of the CBM Directive (10/2019), notice is hereby given that the Audited Financial Statements of the uab bank Limited for the Financial Year ending 30th September 2021 and the External Auditors' Report had been published on the website of the bank at

https://www.uab.com.mm/Financial_Statements_2021.pdf

on the date of March 29, 2022.

Sd/- Nyein Sanda Kyaw
Head, Legal & Secretariat
uab bank Limited

Map Pacific Company Limited (In Members' Voluntary Winding-up)

[Under Section 211 (a) of Insolvency Law & Rule 9 of Insolvency Rules]

Notice is hereby given that the Final General Meeting of the above Company will be convened on 5th April, 2022 at 2:00 p.m via virtual meeting under Section 211 (a) of the Insolvency Law of Myanmar for the purpose of laying an account of the winding-up and giving an explanation of it.

Daw Hnin Su Mon, Liquidator
B.Com (Q), C.P.A, D.B.L, ACCA,
Member of Myanmar Association of Insolvency Practitioners Inc.
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1st Floor, Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Pazundaung Township,
Yangon Region, Myanmar.

Ads

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PHUC THAI VOY.NO. (2219S/2220N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PHUC THAI VOY.NO. (2219S/2220N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-3-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Armenia denies reports of transferring warplanes to Russia for military operations in Ukraine

The Armenian defense ministry on Monday denied the alleged transfer of its warplanes to Russia for military operations in Ukraine.

The ministry said in a statement on its website that the reports from some foreign media which claimed that Armenia had transferred four SU-30 aircraft to Russia for military operations in Ukraine were false.

"This information is a total lie," said the ministry, adding that all aircraft of Armenia's armed forces, with their personnel, are stationed in their locations.—Xinhua ■

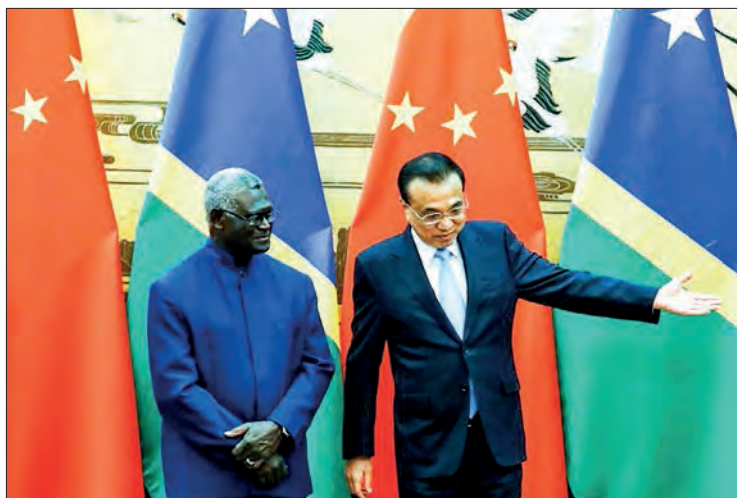
Brazil education minister resigns amid funding scandal

Brazil's education minister resigned Monday after coming under investigation over allegations he inappropriately channelled federal funds to political allies of two influential Evangelical pastors at President Jair Bolsonaro's request.

The ex-minister, Milton Ribeiro, had been in the hot seat since last week, when newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo revealed an audio recording of him saying he gave priority in deciding school-funding requests to municipalities governed by "friends" of the two pastors, at the far-right president's request.

"I have decided to ask the president to relieve me of my post, in order to ensure no doubt hangs over my conduct or that of the federal government," Ribeiro wrote in his resignation letter, published in the Brazilian media.—AFP ■

Solomon Islands PM says China security deal 'ready for signing'



Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare (L) has rebuffed fears that a leaked security pact with China would "destabilize" the region. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE**

THE Solomon Islands' prime minister said Tuesday that a contentious security agreement with Beijing was "ready for signing", denying reports that his country had been pressured to allow a Chinese naval base to be built in the Pacific island nation.

In an impassioned speech to parliament, Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare offered little detail on the shape of the final deal beyond saying that there

was "no intention whatsoever... to ask China to build a military base in the Solomon Islands".

He dismissed reports in the Australian media that his country was being "pressured by the People's Republic of China to build a military base in Solomon Islands".

"Where does that nonsense come from? The security treaty... is pursued at the request of the Solomon Islands' government,"

he said.

"We are not pressured. We are not pressured in any way by our new friends."

A draft version of the agreement, leaked last week, sent shockwaves through Canberra because it included proposals that would allow Chinese security and naval deployments to the Pacific island nation.

Asked in parliament about the status of the deal, Sogavare said: "We will finalise and finish now. The document is ready for signing."

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison this week said reports of the deal were "a reminder of the constant pressure and threats that present in our region to our own national security".

Morrison said he had been in contact with New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who this week called the draft deal "gravely concerning" and said there was "very little reason in terms of the Pacific security for such a need and such a presence".—AFP ■



Visitors take photos at the booth of China Shipbuilding Trading Co., Ltd. at Defense Services Asia 2022 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 28 March 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHU WEI**

Malaysia kicks off defence and weaponry show

DEFENCE Services Asia 2022, a biennial defence and weaponry show, opened Monday in the Malaysian capital city Kuala Lumpur. The 2020 edition of the show had been canceled following the pandemic and this year's edition marks the first large-scale event in the country since the pandemic began, with more than 25,000 visitors from more than 50 countries and regions participating in the event from March 28-31. About 1,170 companies showcased their products which include military hardware, electronics, cyber security, border

protection, recognition and identification, artificial intelligence, battlefield healthcare, training and simulation systems and police equipment, in 20 country pavilions. Among these are more than 20 Chinese defence companies who are displaying the latest products and solutions in their respective fields.

The event also played host to a trilateral ministerial-level meeting between Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines as well as the Putrajaya Forum 2022 with the theme "Shared Regional Responsibility".—Xinhua

How Germany, shaken by Ukraine, plans to rebuild its military

OUTDATED equipment, woe-ful bureaucracy, demotivated soldiers: Germany has quite a task ahead to modernize its army, which it has vowed to do in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Three days after the attack began, Chancellor Olaf Scholz in a landmark speech pledged a special budget of 100 billion euros for the military, as well as annual spending of more than two per cent of output on defence.

The armaments industry has since been buzzing about the looming spending spree.

AFP looks at the state of the Bundeswehr and examines how it is going to deploy its financial bazooka as Europe's biggest economy looks to re-arm itself in a historical policy about-turn.

Can Germany defend itself?

In the first hours of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the chief of Germany's land army Alfons Mais sent shockwaves across the country by declaring that "the options we can offer to politicians to support (NATO) are extremely

limited".

The Bundeswehr was "more or less bare", he wrote on social network LinkedIn.

Defence commissioner Eva Hoegl declared the army was in an "alarming" state in her latest annual report on the Bundeswehr.

Right now, it would not even be capable of fulfilling its basic function of defending Germany in the event of an attack, according to Marcus Faber, a defence specialist and MP for the liberal

FDP.

The army, founded in 1955, has been worn down by austerity measures over the years.

Fewer than 30 per cent of German naval ships are "fully operational" according to a report published December on the state of the army. Many of the country's fighter aircraft are unfit to fly.

And as for ground equipments, out of 350 Puma combat vehicles, only 40 are considered "fit for war".—AFP ■



After the Russian attack on Ukraine began, Scholz pledged a special budget of 100 billion euros for the military. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

UN chief launches initiative for humanitarian ceasefire in Ukraine



Humanitarian aid supplies sent by the Red Cross Society of China to the Ukrainian Red Cross Society are transported in Warsaw, Poland, 15 March 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/CHEN CHEN

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday launched an initiative for a humanitarian ceasefire in Ukraine.

“Today I am announcing that in the exercise of my good offices, I have asked Martin Griffiths, the coordinator of our humanitarian work worldwide, immediately to explore with the parties involved the possible agreements and arrangements for a humanitarian ceasefire in Ukraine,” he told reporters.

The one-month-old conflict

between Ukraine and Russia has led to the senseless loss of thousands of lives, the displacement of 10 million people, the systematic destruction of essential infrastructure, and skyrocketing food and energy prices worldwide. This must stop, said Guterres.

He stressed that there must be a political solution.

“The solution to this humanitarian tragedy is not humanitarian. It is political. I am, therefore, appealing for an immediate

humanitarian ceasefire to allow for progress in serious political negotiations, aimed at reaching a peace agreement based on the principles of the United Nations Charter,” he said.

A cessation of hostilities will allow essential humanitarian aid to be delivered and enable civilians to move around safely. It will save lives, prevent suffering, and protect civilians, he said. “I hope a ceasefire will also help to address the global consequences of this war, which risk compounding the deep hunger crisis in many developing countries that already lack fiscal space to invest in their recovery from the pandemic, and now face soaring food and energy costs.”

Guterres made a strong appeal to the parties to the conflict and the international community as a whole to work with the United Nations for peace in Ukraine.

UN humanitarian agencies and partners have reached nearly 900,000 people, mainly in eastern Ukraine, with food, shelter, blankets, medicine, bottled water, and hygiene supplies in the past month, he said.—Xinhua ■

Slovenia reopens embassy in Ukraine

SLOVENIA reopened its embassy in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv on Monday, after it evacuated all its diplomats from Ukraine on 26 February following the start of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

The embassy was reopened by temporary charge d’affaires Bostjan Lesjak, while Slovenian ambassador to Ukraine Tomaz Mencin continues to work from the Polish city of Rzeszow which lies close to the Ukrainian border, the Slovenian Foreign Ministry said on its website.

“Upon arriving in Kyiv, Lesjak said that he can hear alarms and detonations in the distance



A Ukrainian serviceman walks along a trench on the frontline of the northern part of Kyiv region on Monday. PHOTO: AFP

but that the life of the people who remained in Kyiv continues as normal,” the ministry said.—AFP ■

Russia’s airstrike hits oil depot in Ukraine’s northwest

RUSSIA’S airstrike hit an oil depot in Ukraine’s northwestern Rivne region on Monday, the head of the regional military administration Vitaliy Koval said.

Experts of the State Service for Emergencies and chemical laboratories are working on the site of the explosions, Koval wrote on Telegram.

There were no reports on casualties in the attack.

On Sunday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky told Russian media that Russian forces attacked fuel depots in Ukraine at the time when Ukraine is carrying out the spring sowing campaign. —Xinhua ■

NEWS DIGEST

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

Fierce fighting around Kyiv

RUSSIAN attacks near Kyiv cut power to more than 80,000 homes, officials say, underscoring the peril facing the capital despite an apparent retreat in Moscow’s war aims to focus on eastern Ukraine.

“The enemy is trying to break through the corridor around Kyiv and block transport routes,” Ukraine’s deputy defence minister Ganna Malyar says.

5,000 dead in Mariupol

A senior Ukrainian official says at least 5,000 people have been buried in the besieged southern city of Mariupol since the invasion began, but that bodies have gone uncollected for the past 10 days amid continuing Russian shelling.

The foreign ministry describes the humanitarian situation in the city as “catastrophic”.

Poisoning report

Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich and Ukrainian negotiators were targets of a suspected poison attack, potentially by Moscow hardliners seeking to sabotage peace talks, the Wall Street Journal reports, citing people familiar with the matter.

\$565 billion hit

THE Ukrainian government estimates the economic damages from the Russian invasion at nearly \$565 billion.

Economy Minister Yulia Svyrydenko says on Facebook that the \$564.9-billion (515.8-billion-euro) estimate includes immediate damage plus expected losses in trade and economic activity.

Top newspaper silenced

RUSSIA’S top independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta, whose chief editor was last year awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, suspends publication until the end of the war in Ukraine. The paper, which has fallen foul of Russian censors for its reporting on the war, says it took the decision “to save us for each other”.

Ukraine recaptures village

UKRAINIAN soldiers finish clearing Russian troops from the village of Mala Rogan on the outskirts of second-largest city Kharkiv, as Kyiv’s forces mount counterattacks against a stalling Russian invasion.

‘Unfriendly’ states

RUSSIA says it is preparing to restrict entry to the country for nationals of “unfriendly” countries, including Britain, EU members and the United States, in retaliation for Western sanctions on the country.

Heineken, Carlsberg leave Russia

RIVAL brewers Heineken and Carlsberg become the latest Western firms to pull out of Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, following in the footsteps of Coca-Cola, McDonald’s and other multinationals.

Kadyrov in Mariupol

CHECHEN leader Ramzan Kadyrov has arrived in Mariupol to raise morale among fighters, Russian media reports say.

SOURCE: AFP



Myanmar futsal players pose for a group photo during a match in Thailand Invitational Cup. **PHOTO: FUTSAL THAILAND**

MFF to release final player list for ASEAN Futsal Championship

THE Myanmar national futsal team will announce the final list for the 2022 ASEAN Futsal Championship in the coming days, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The ASEAN Futsal Championship will be held from 2 to 10 April in Bangkok, Thailand.

The final squad will be released before the tourney due to the COVID-19 situation.

The Myanmar Futsal team will bring 22 players to Thailand and select the final player

based on the number of players determined by the tournament organizers.

Normally, only 14 players will be selected, but due to the COVID-19 condition, up to 18 players have been nominated and have not yet been approved by the ASEAN Football Federation.

The Myanmar Futsal squad competed in the invitational tournament held in Thailand from 15 to 20 March in preparation for the ASEAN

Championship and finished fourth.

The team Myanmar is still training in Thailand after the tournament, officials said.

A total of nine teams will compete in the ASEAN Futsal Championship.

Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, and Brunei Darussalam are placed in Group A while Myanmar, Viet Nam, Timor-Leste and Australia are falling in Group B. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Southgate's penalty plan part of World Cup dream



GARETH Southgate has told his England stars to place extra focus on penalty practice as he sets his sights on winning the World Cup.

Southgate's side were beaten on penalties by Italy in the European Championship final last year.

Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka all

missed from the spot in the painful defeat at Wembley.

Southgate, who missed the key spot-kick in the Euro 96 semi-final shoot-out loss to Germany, believes the key to penalty success is skill learned by repeated practice.

Speaking ahead of Tuesday's friendly against Ivory Coast at Wembley, the England

boss made it clear that small details will be decisive when the World Cup gets underway in Qatar in November.

"We have gone into various details with the players of where we can improve upon to be world champions," Southgate told reporters.

"We didn't have a chance to do that in such detail in the autumn as we had to get straight on to the focus of qualifying, so we felt this camp was a good time to start that. Penalties has been part of that.

"What is apparent, in terms of regular penalty takers for their club, we really only have Harry Kane, James Ward-Prowse.

"When we played Italy, their top five had taken more than 40 penalties in competitive matches. Kane is at that level and Rashford is next at 20. —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.

Osaka into quarters, Swiatek cruises



NAOMI Osaka will face American Danielle Collins for a place in the semi-finals of the Miami Open after the Japanese star beat Alison Riske 6-3, 6-4 on Monday.

Osaka has responded strongly in Florida, advancing to the quarter-finals after leaving Indian Wells in tears earlier this month after being heckled by a fan. The four-time Grand Slam champion, who received a walk-over in the previous round, is yet to drop a set and remains one of the favorites to land the title.

"I am definitely happy," Osaka said afterwards.

"Last year I got to the quarters in Miami after winning in Australia and I am winning matches here this year too but I feel more grateful — this is one of the funnest times of my life."

"There were a lot of things running through my mind last year," added Osaka who was able to stay firmly on the front foot against American Riske while saving seven of eight break points faced.

"Maybe it was trying to return to number one or other things which aren't that important but at the time was so heavy in my head. —AFP ■