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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.

Waste Clean-up Campaign launched at MraukU Ancient Cultrural Heritage Zone

A collective garbage clean-up campaign was held at MraukU Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone in Rakhine State at 7 am on 2 April.

The work process was launched for the MraukU Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone in Rakhine State to be enlisted into the list of a World Heritage Site in 2017, officials said.

The Technical Evaluation Team of the International Council on Monuments and Sites-ICOMOS will inspect the activities included in the Nomination Dossier, which was submitted to the World Heritage Committee in December, 2021 in the upcoming September.

Heavy machinery is being used in waste clean-up campaign at MraukU Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone in Rakhine State on 2 April.

After such inspection, the world heritage nomination will be discussed at the nearest session of World Heritage Committee in June 2023, and is an important part of the management process included in the nomination dossier for the MraukU Ancient Cultural Heritage Site to be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

A total of 500 local people and district and township departmental staff participated in the Clean-up Campaign, which is part of the Management Plan included in the nomination dossier around the MraukU Ancient Cultural Heritage Area to Shitthaung Stupa Area and Yadanarbon Ground Area.

Deputy Director General U Nyo Myint Tun from the Department of Archeology and National Museum, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, members of MraukU District Administration Body, district and township department officials led activities of the campaign.—MNA

Departmental personnel participate in waste clean-up campaign in MraukU area on 2 April.

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State Administration Council
Press Release
Re-invitation to Myanmar citizens who reside in various regions for many reasons

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

Information Team
State Administration Council

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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Central Bank of Myanmar
Notification No. 12/2022

3rd Waxing of Tagu, 1383 ME
3 April 2022

1. The Central Bank of Myanmar has issued this notification in exercise of the authority conferred under sub-section (b) of Section 49 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law.
2. According to the provisions of Section 11, Section 12 and Section 13 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, the foreign exchange earnings of the locals must be sent back to Myanmar to the foreign currency account opened at the Foreign Exchange Trading (AD) licensed banks and exchange for Myanmar Kyats within one working day.
3. In case of exemption in carrying out in accordance with paragraph (2), it shall be issued separately.
4. Transferring foreign currency abroad must be carried out through the AD licensed banks with the permission of the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee.
5. Foreign currency in various foreign currency accounts that have entered Myanmar before the date of issuance of this notification shall also be made in accordance with paragraph (2) of this notification.
6. The Central Bank of Myanmar revokes Notification No. 35/2021 issued on 3-10-2021 with this notification.
7. This notice shall take effect from the date of issue.
8. Failure to comply with this notice will result in legal action under the Foreign Exchange Management Law.

Than Nyein
Governor

Daily newspapers in circulation on New Year holidays alternatively

DAILY newspapers of the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information will be in circulation in rotation during the official holidays of the Myanmar New Year.

The Myanma Alinn Daily will be published from 9 to 12 April whereas the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar dailies will take holidays.

The Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar dailies will be in circulation from 13 to 17 April, while the Myanma Alinn daily will take a break.

Likewise, the Shwipyi Rakhine Image supplement published every Wednesday by the Sub-Printing House (Sittway) will take a holiday on 13 April, the Ethnic Sector supplement in the Shan Language published every Thursday by the Sub-Printing House (Taunggyi) on 14 April, the Ethnic Sector supplement in Mon, Sakaw Kayin, Poe Kayin and Pa-O Languages published every Sunday by the Sub-Printing House (Mawlamyine) on 10 and 17 April. After the Thingyan holidays, all dailies will be published regularly.

Advertisements will be accepted without any holiday during alternative holidays of daily newspapers. As of 18 April, all newspapers will be in circulation as usual.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

66 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 3 April, total figure rises to 611,875

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **611,875** after **66** new cases were reported on 3 April 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **589,991** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reached **19,433** 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 2-4-2022, a total of **27,030,964** people have been vaccinated. Of them, **21,934,436** people have been fully vaccinated, **5,096,528** people are yet to get the second shots and **1,107,370** people have been vaccinated booster.—MNA

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

The military members discharge defence duties for the sakes of people with our own wishes

THE defence services of the country mean to protect the public at the lowest level and three-main national causes at the highest level. We, the military members, discharge defence duties for the sakes of people with our own wishes but not for private intentions.

(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)

Systematic reclamation of farmlands during construction of feeder canals more beneficial for farmers

Union Minister for MoALI U Tin Htut Oo instructs officials to encouragement of turning out skilled human resources in Meiktila on 2 April.

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo made a tour of inspection in Mandalay Region on 2 April.

During the visit at the Central Agricultural Mechanization Training School in Meiktila, the Union Minister said that many skilled human resources are needed for smoothly transforming the manual to the mechanized farming, and that it is necessary to provide effective training on the equipment to be used from plowing and threshing according to the crops the trainees practice.

The Central Agricultural Mechanization Training School has been conducting farming machinery trainings. To date a total of 472 courses have been conducted. The school has also planned to expand one-year courses for those who have completed basic education or high school or technical high schools. It is also learned that those qualified for the course will be able to transfer to GTI.

Afterwards, the Union Minister inspected the construction of Sauk-in river water pumping project near Sauk-in village in Singaing Township, Kyaukse District. He met with the project officers and the locals living around the project area, and discussed formation of water user groups (WUGs), the systematic reclamation of farmlands during the construction of feeder canals more beneficial for farmers though cooperation among the people and with departmental officials.

The project involves pumping water from the Dokhtawady River, which as a 25-foot difference in river level, by alternately using the main power line and renewable solar power system to pump up the water onto the 50-foot-high main pumping station. The irrigation will be provided to agricultural lands through one main canal, four feeder canals and 226 canal structures. The project started in the 2021-2022 FY and will be completed in the 2024-2025 FY. The triple cropping can be implemented on 1,000 acres of land to increase per-acre yield of crops, as well as improve the living standards of local people.

There are nine river pumping stations in Singaing Township and four in Amarapura Township. Upon completion, the South-in river water pumping project will benefit more than 9,000 acres of farmland.

The Union minister also visited Natyekan fishery camp in Amarapura Township and Htonbo pig farms in Patheingyi Township.—MNA

Only then can teachers trained by degree colleges educate the students to be disciplined, polite and patriotic

UNION Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe inspected at the Myitkyina Education Degree College and inspected buildings of the degree college yesterday morning.

During the meeting with the principal, faculty members and staff of the degree college, the Union Minister urged them not only to teach literacy to aspiring students but also to educate them to be disciplined, patriotic, and to be polite, only then can the teachers trained by the degree colleges educate the students to be disciplined, polite and patriotic.

The Union Minister also called on the teachers to teach knowledge and skills to the students so that they can become better teachers and to constantly study literary knowledge in order to be good teachers.

He also added the need to have a clean and tidy environment so that the students can study with peace of mind. He also urged the teachers to work in concert for the educational development of the state and to reopen the education degree colleges on 12 May.

Afterwards, the Union Minister attended to the needs of those present.

He also inspected No. 11 Basic Education Primary School, No. 5 BEHS, No. 7 BEMS, No. 3 BEHS, and No. 8 BEHS, and fulfilled the needs.—MNA

Union Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe views round Myitkyina Education Degree College on 3 April.

MoI discusses implementations in 2021-2022 mini budget year, plans for 2022-2023 FY

Union Industry Minister Dr Charlie Than attends the meeting to discuss implementation of projects in 2021-22 financial year on 2 April.

THE Ministry of Industry held a meeting to discuss the implementation of iron and steel mills in the 2021-2022 mini budget year and further implementation in the 2022-2023 financial year, on 2 April in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Charlie Than said the Ministry of Industry has 107 factories, 55 of which are leased to the private sector and 52 remaining factories are still under the government. The products manufactured by the Ministry can be divided into four groups: iron and steel production, cement and ceramics production, textile and garment production, and pharmaceutical and consumer goods. No. 1 Steel Mill (Mingyan) and No. 2 Steel Mill (Pinpat) were established in 2004 to implement projects. These projects were ordered to be suspended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 15 March 2017, he said.

As the Prime Minister has given instructions to support the re-operating of factories/workshops that are non-privatized and that are under the management of the government to find ways to generate income for the economic development of the country, plans are underway to continue to operate these two steel mills, he continued.

He called for taking serious measures to prevent any damage to the equipment that has been in the factories for a long time after the suspension. He also urged all to work for the benefits of the State and the people without corruption.

Afterwards, mill managers of the two steel mills reported on progress of works and future plans, and Deputy Minister U Yin Maung Nyunt, and the managing director of the No. 1 Heavy Industris Enterprise explained the status of the completion of projects and further processes in detail.—MNA

Deputy Information Minister meets staff in Myitkyina

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint together with Kachin State Economic Minister U Myo Swe and Natural Resources Affairs Minister U Taint Saung visited Myanma Radio and Television Retransmission Station in Myitkyina, Kachin State yesterday.

The Deputy Minister and party viewed round process of the broadcasting of ethnic language programme during their visit.

In the afternoon, they visited the community-based centre of the Myitkyina District Information and Public Relations Department and inspected the departmental activities, Community Centre activities, and library services. The Deputy Minister also inspected the provision of sports training equipment at the Multipurpose Youth Development Centre.

Next, the Deputy Minister met State Director of the Information and Public Relations Department, officers and staff from Myitkyina District Office, Waingmaw Township Office, Tanai Township Office, Chipwe township and Sadon town offices, zonal manager of MRTV re-transmission stations, factory managers from Mogaung, Sadon and Kanpaiti, and officers from the Motion Picture Division and Myitkyina news bureau for ethnic channel.

During the meeting, the Deputy Minister urged the staffs to have a clear understanding of the real situation in their country and to fulfill their responsibilities in a non-partisan manner in accordance with the Civil Service Code of Conduct, to encourage and educate young people to have the right mindset, call on employees to read the literature themselves and share their thoughts and ideas.

Deputy Information Minister U Ye Tint views machinery at Myitkyina MRTV Retransmission Station on 3 April.

Next, the Deputy Minister met officials and fulfilled needs of staff.—State IPRD/GNLM

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

The following telephone numbers, fax and email address can be reached to safely report information in connection with illegal trade.

Auto telephone number - 067 409 883
Mobile phone - 09 404339969
Fax - 067 409 886
Email address - antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

Regarding the "request for money from departmental organizations in conducting trade", the following numbers can be reached to safely report such information.

Auto telephone number - 067 409 881
Mobile phone - 09 699611116
Fax - 067 409 887
Email address - antiillegaltradeoffice@gmail.com

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

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Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm** with your name and title.

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.

Myeik District needs processing factory for oil palm fruits

THE oil palm cultivation is flourishing in Myeik and Kawthoung districts, Taninthayi Region, however, there is lack of processing factory in Myeik District, according to Myeik District Agriculture Department.

Both domestic and foreign companies put investment in oil palm cultivation in Taninthayi Region. Oil palm cultivation across Taninthayi Region has exceeded 400,000 acres.

Oil palm plantation project was developed 30 years ago in Taninthayi Region, covering a total of over 400,000 acres mostly in Myeik and Kawthoung districts. There are two crude palm oil mills in Kawthoung District.

An aerial view catches thriving oil palm plants in Taninthayi Region. **PHOTO : MYINT OO (MYEIK)**

"The mills in Myeik area has capacity limit and cannot mill all the oil palm fruits produced in the district. Therefore, they are delivered to processing factory in Bokpyin, Kawthoung District and Yuzana mill in Kawthoung city. It can generate income of K310,000 per tonne of oil palm fruits," said Daw Ingyin Khaing, head of Myeik District Agriculture Department.

There are over 20 incorporations engaged in oil palm plantation in Myeik District and about 40 private farm owners. They send their fruits to the factories in Kawthoung city.

"The oil palm fruits are commercially valued. Yet, the growers cost more transportation charges as there is no factory in Myeik District. Only if there is an own factory in Myeik District can the farm owners reap more profit," a grower from Myeik District shared his opinion.

Oil palm cultivation can be found only in Taninthayi Region. The local growers are expecting to have processing factory in each district.—Myint Oo (Myeik)/ GNLM

3,200 companies struck off register due to absence of AR as of 25 March: DICA

The photo shows building of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration in Yangon.

A total of 3,200 companies has been struck off the register as of 25 March 2022 since July 2021 as they failed to submit annual return (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA has notified any registered company which fails to submit its AR on MyCO are to be suspended, under Section 430 (F) of Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

All registered companies need to file AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

According to Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously.

All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, as per Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, more than 16,000 companies were suspended for failure to submit AR forms within the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017. The number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, totalled 2,100 in the past two months (Jan-Feb) 2022, the statistics released by the DICA stated.

At present, 100 per cent of the applicants are using the online registration platform, according to data provided by the DICA.—GNLM

Myawady border trade value up by over $570 mln in mini-budget period

THE value of border trade through Myawady between Myanmar and Thailand dramatically soared to US$1.256 billion between 1 October and 25 March in the past mini-budget period 2021-2022, indicating a sharp increase of $573 million as against a-year ago period, according to the statistics released by the Customs Department.

The trade through Myawady border stood at over $682.97 million in the corresponding period of last FY2020-2021.

At present, the recent changes in import policy inflated the commodity prices. Starting from the 1 May of the current financial year 2022-2023, the food products and commodity prices are no longer exempt from import licence. Additionally, the appreciation of Thai baht is another reason of the price rise, said a trader involved in Myawady cross-border trade.

Myanmar ships tonnes of corns to Thailand through Myawady border. Thailand gives green light to corn imports through Mae Sot under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. Myanmar exported approximately 1.6 million tonnes of corn were delivered to Thailand in the FY 2020-2021. There are seven border posts between Myanmar and Thailand, Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Htikhee, Myeik, Mawtaung and Meisei. Majority of the border trade with Thailand is conducted via Myawady border post.

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

Cargo truck is heading to Myawady Border Trade Centre. **PHOTO : HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

MoALI Deputy Minister inspects development activities in livestock sector

DEPUTY Minister Dr Aung Gyi for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation observed the net-cage fish culture for Tilapia on surface water in Paunglaung Dam in southern Shan State on 2 April 2022.

Next, the deputy minister inspected the capture of silver carp and dace of Thailand's origin. Then, he urged them not to have social and environmental impact and exploitation of fish resources.

After that, the deputy minister visited private farms in Kangyi livestock zone, goat farm owned by U Than Htay and layer farm in Tatkon Township. Finally, he directed the breeders and the officials concerned to strive for value addition of meat in livestock sector, improve production of the livestock products that are suitable for the regions to enhance the livelihood of the local residents and strictly undertake the preventive measures for biosecurity to control the viral disease of animals in order to protect the economic benefits of the breeders.—MNA

Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi views net-cage fish culture for Talapia in Paunglaung Dam on 2 April.

Officials make filed visit to expand summer paddy cultivation in Bago

CHAIRMAN of the Bago Township Administration Body U Tun Aung Kyaw and township agricultural officials team made a field visit to irrigated farmlands along the Bago River bank and the irrigation canal on 1 April 2022.

During the visit, they discussed expansion of the summer paddy sown acreage with local farmers in Kinchaung village, Letpankhon village-tract, and inspected the places that can be irrigated.

Kinchaung village was able to cultivate only 200 acres of summer paddy in 2021-2022, and it is learned that the cultivation can be expanded to 480 acres by 2022-2023 cultivation season if the necessary irrigation canals can be developed.

Officials also met with local farmers in Khontaing, Shwetan, Awine, Mokkala and Htongyi villages, and the discussions focused on the development of agricultural, livestock and manufacturing measures. They also inspected summer paddy fields to coordinate the needs on submissions of farmers.

In Bago Township, 13,052 acres of summer paddy were cultivated in the 2021-2022 FY and plans are underway to expand the summer paddy cultivation up to 14,252 acres. If repair works are done for necessary irrigation facilities and develops small dams, the cultivation of summer paddy can expand to 1,200 acres, it is reported.—Tin Soe (Bago)/GNLM

Officials of Bago Township inspect improvement of feeder canal in Bago Township 1 April.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal teak, home appliances, vehicle parts seized

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

On 1 April, the Customs Department in charge of the airport warehouse at the Yangon International Airport conducted an inspection under the management of the Customs Department.

Illegal business equipment not mentioned in the import declaration (ID), home appliances and vehicle spare parts (estimated at K2.382 million) were seized and action is being taken in accordance with the customs law.

Similarly, the port duty customs team inspected at the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Inspection Station under the management of the Customs Department.

Illegal home appliances that do not comply with the import declaration (ID), vehicle windshields and clothing (estimated at K151.9 million) were seized and action is being taken in accordance with the customs law.

Customs officials check seized items.

Similarly, an inspection team led by the Region Forest Department made a surprise check under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force in Sagaing Region on 3 April.

A total of 2.4118 tonnes of illegal teak sawn timber (estimated at K723,300) were seized in Bamauk Township, and action is being taken in accordance with the forest law.

In addition, a combined Team led by Region Forest Department and Anti-Trafficking Task Force made inspections in Bago Region.

A total of 43.1160 tonnes of illegal teak (estimated at K5,929,600) were seized in Minhla Township, Thayawady District and action is being taken in accordance with the forest law.

Thus, a total of 10 arrests (approximately K160,934,900) were made, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee.—MNA

Nancho protected public forest part-2 set in Pyinmana

THE authority conferred under Sub-section (e) of Section (6) of the Forest Law promulgated in September 2018, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has designated the area of 7,927 acres in Pyinmana Township, Dekkhina District, Nay Pyi Taw, as "Protected Public Forest Part-2" as of 1 April 2022, under Notification No 63/2022.

The Protected Public Forest Part-2 is intended to conserve the watershed area of the Nancho Hydropower Project and that of the Paunglaung Hydropower Project, to mitigate climate change, to conserve biodiversity and to ensure soil conservation.

The Nancho Protected Public Forest Part-2 is not only a place where valuable trees such as teak, ironwood and gum-kino grow but also a habitat for wild animals such as wild boar, barking deer, samba deer, monkey, goat antelope, rabbit, owl, eagle, pangolin, and cobra. As it is necessary to manage forest resources systematically, and it is also a watershed area of Paunglaung Dam, the area is declared as a forest reserve.

Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

A scenic beauty with flora and fauna is seen in Nancho protected public forest in Pyinmana Township.

Myanmar nationals return home through Myawady, Kayin state

Myanmar returnees are seen in a queue at border point of Myawady to enter Myanmar on 2 April.

MYANMAR citizens from Thailand who came back through the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge 2 in Myawady are welcomed back starting from 1 August 2021. A total of 314 Myanmar nationals from Thailand—226 men and 88 women—arrived back home through Myawady, Kayin State on 2 April.

Those Myanmar nationals were welcomed back by Myawady district officials. Then, the officials and staff from the relevant departments are providing a COVID-19 awareness talk, collecting the information of the returnees, sending them to the quarantine centres in Myawady and Mawlamyine and detecting the COVD-19 test in the health department.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)/GNLM

IDPs in Pauktaw Township receive 2nd dose vaccines of COVID-19

HEALTHCARE officials gave the seven batch of second dose of Covaxin vaccines to people from three separate IDP camps in Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State on 2 April. The vaccination programme was also assisted by Township General Administration Department staff and village volunteers.

Before the vaccination, healthcare staff and officials made records for the vaccinated people. Next, volunteers and healthcare workers measured the body temperature, blood pressure and oxygen level before the vaccination.

Healthcare staff jabbed vaccines systematically to the local people, and only those with normal conditions are vaccinated by health staff.

The COVID-19 vaccines were given to a total of 451 people — 221 people from Hsintetmaw IDP Camp, 47 people from Anaukye IDP Camp, and 183 people from Kyeinnipyin IDP camp respectively. —Township IPRD/GNLM

People receive COVID-19 vaccines in Taunggyi

HEALTH officials gave COVID-19 vaccines to people in Taunggyi, Shan State starting at 9:30 am yesterday to reduce the pandemic infection.

Local people from the Chantha Ward, Taunggyi Township, Pantin Village-tract, Nyaungshwe Township, Kyaukni Village-tract of Ayethaya, and Ward 10, Athondaw Village-tract, Kyauktalonggyi Town received the vaccination.

Staff from the public health department provided medical check-ups and vaccinations were given only if the health condition of the people was normal.

The vaccination will last until 7 April. After the Thingyan holiday, from 18 to 28 April, health officials will give vaccinations to the people from the rest of the wards in Taunggyi Township.—Zaw Naing Lin/GNLM

COVID vaccines given to people above 18 in Twantay

TO be able to control COVID-19 outbreaks in Twantay Township, Yangon Region, health officials gave first dose of COVID-19 vaccine to the 18-year-old population, who has not yet been vaccinated against the pandemic.

The 100 per cent vaccination is being provided to the people in the wards and villages through a mobile programme.

People received the COVISHEILD vaccines in Kungyan Ward, Yangon Region from 9 am to 3 pm.

People aged 18 years and older who have not been vaccinated received the vaccines in Takahle Village, Shantalin Village and Kayinchaung Village in order to control the incidence of COVID-19 disease and Omicron virus in the area.—Twantay Thar/GNLM

Health officials vaccinate local people above 18 in Twantay on 3 April.

4 APRIL 2022
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Choose the best ways to lead the youths

THE group of youths is a category of the society, gradually growing up their maturity to become adults. As youths are immature not only in terms of their physical and mental strengths but also in knowledge accumulation, all adults in society should control those youths by paving the best way for their future life.

Indeed, the youths are standing as a linkage age between childhood and adulthood. They are in the age of life for seeking the best knowledge and techniques to be applied in life in the long run. But they need leaders and trainers for marching toward the goal without derailment from their ways. That is why parents and teachers from the schools play a crucial role in controlling the life of youths.

Those parents and teachers are responsible for management to give training to those youths to have practices of ethical moral and physical behaviours, how they need to do activities in society, how to contact the elder ones with politeness and how to exercise social ethics practically. These ethical morals are not difficult but very important. If the youths have the knowledge about thorough practices of ethical morals, they will see the best gateway of the society how to enter and how to manage their daily moves without leadership in the society. They need to know how to apply a self-reliant basis in all things.

Different qualifications of the youths will be a basic factor for their future life. It will be a drive for deploying them in the positions of society. It will be their fate. It cannot be repaired because their fate has adopted decisions for them on what positions they should take. These diverse positions will be beautiful for society.

The youths need to take leadership and follow the directives of leaders. Hence, parents and teachers should guide them in their learning period. They can learn everything from their parents and teachers as much as they can. Depending on the capacity of accumulating knowledge from parents and teachers, the value of those youths will be different. Consequently, the qualification of the youths will be in diversity.

Different qualifications of the youths will be a basic factor for their future life. It will be a drive for deploying them in the positions of society. It will be their fate. It cannot be repaired because their fate has adopted decisions for them on what positions they should take. These diverse positions will be beautiful for society.

Everybody needs to understand that a good start will be the best end. Hence, all adults must pave the excellent way for the youths to be able to walk along it to secure the best goal in their life.

■ ■ ■

No impact on efficacy and safety of Covaxin: Bharat Biotech after WHO suspension

HYDERABAD-BASED Bharat Biotech on Sunday issued a clarification that there is "no impact on efficacy and safety of the COVID-19 vaccine COVAXIN" after the World Health Organisation suspended it from its Covax facility. "For the millions who have received COVAXIN, the vaccine certificates issued still stand valid as there is no impact on efficacy and safety of the vaccine," read the statement issued by Bharat Biotech on suspension from WHO. The vaccine manufacturer has further said that the company is slowing down the production of Covaxin for facility optimization. "For the coming period the company will focus on pending facility maintenance, process and facility optimization activities," the statement read.

To meet the public health emergency of COVID-19

"As all existing facilities were repurposed for the manufacture of COVAXIN, with continuous production during the past year, to meet the public health emergency of COVID-19, these upgrades were due. Certain highly sophisticated equipment which was required to enhance the process stringency was unavailable during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It has to be stressed that the quality of COVAXIN was never compromised at any point in time," it added. The company also mentioned that they are working to further improvements and upgrades to ensure that the production of COVAXIN continues to meet the increasing global regulatory requirements.

"Notwithstanding this excellent safety and efficacy record, Bharat Biotech is diligently working to further improvements and upgrades to ensure that the production of COVAXIN continues to meet ever-increasing global regulatory requirements. Since patient safety is the primary consideration for any new vaccine, there can be no compromises in meeting operational excellence objectives," it said. The Bharat Biotech's COVID-19 vaccine, COVAXIN has been suspended by World Health Organization (WHO) from its Covax facility, announced the UN health body on Saturday attributing it to deficiencies in manufacturing practices. "WHO confirms the suspension of supply of COVAXIN produced by Bharat (Biotech), through UN procurement agencies and recommending to countries that received the vaccine to take actions as appropriate," reads the WHO in a statement.

No issues related to the safety and efficacy of a vaccine

However, the UN body clarified that there will be no issues related to the safety and efficacy of a vaccine. "The risk assessment to date does not indicate a change in the risk-benefit ratio. The data available to WHO, indicate the vaccine is effective and no safety concern exists.

For continuation of vaccination with alternative sources of COVID19 vaccines countries should refer to the respective SAGE recommendation," it read. On inspection by WHO, Bharat biotech said, "During the recent WHO post-EUL inspection, Bharat Biotech agreed with the WHO team on the scope of the planned improvement activities and indicated that they will be executed as soon as practical."

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech on Sunday issued a clarification that there is "no impact on efficacy and safety of the COVID-19 vaccine COVAXIN" after the World Health Organisation suspended it from its Covax facility. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI**

"It does not indicate a change in the risk-benefit ratio (for COVAXIN) and the data, available to WHO, indicates the vaccine is effective and no safety concern exists," it said. This suspension has been done after the WHO post-emergency use listing inspection that was conducted between 14-22 March. After the suspension, there will be an interruption of supply of Covaxin production for export.

SOURCE: ANI

Japan aims to accelerate vaccine R&D through new gov't body

JAPAN aims to accelerate its vaccine research and development under a new government body after lagging behind other advanced countries in making vaccines available during the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Strategic Centre of Biomedical Advanced Vaccine Research and Development for Preparedness and Response was established in late March within the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development to promptly deliver safe and effective vaccines against infectious diseases on the government's priority list.

By making the vaccines produced in Japan available abroad

The government also aims to contribute to the international community by making the vaccines produced in Japan available abroad.

Japan has set an ambitious target of having safe and effective diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines ready to deploy within the first 100 days of a future pandemic threat. A senior citizen getting a Covid-19 vaccination shot at a large-scale inoculation centre in Osaka, Japan, on 24 May 2021. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The organization, SCARDA, will provide stable long-term support for research by institutions and companies during non-pandemic times, while providing funding speedily and flexibly during public health emergencies.

"We will accumulate data and evidence in normal times and make the most of them in a health emergency," a SCARDA official said. SCARDA is expected to play a similar role to the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority and the National Institutes of Health in the United States in the development of COVID-19 vaccines, according to the official.

SCARDA shares with the US institutions a commitment to collaborating in public-private partnerships and early investments and engagement, the official said.

"Our primary focus is especially how we can shorten the time and make vaccines available quickly after a breakout in line with the '100 Days Mission' of the G-7," the official said, without elaborating on a set timeframe.

The Group of Seven industrialized nations, including Japan, has set an ambitious target of having safe and effective diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines ready to deploy within the first 100 days of a future pandemic threat being identified by harnessing scientific innovation through public-private collaboration. The Group of 20 economies also supports the mission, with their leaders agreeing to shorten the cycle for developing diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines from 300 to 100 days following the identification of future pandemic threats.

Development of vaccines against infectious diseases

However, the development of vaccines against infectious diseases is considered a high-risk project for a company because it is almost impossible to predict when and in what magnitude a virus will emerge. Most vaccine candidates do not make it to licensure, and the costs of failed products must also be absorbed, the US Department of Health and Human Services says.

As part of efforts to hedge capital investment risks, production facilities of vaccines for contingencies will serve as production facilities of other biological drug products during regular times, according to the Japanese government's plan. With the establishment of SCARDA, the government will directly support private vaccine development by covering research and development costs. At the same time, the official said it has not ruled out the possibility of committing in advance to purchase a successful vaccine.

The government plans to spend 51.5 billion yen ($420 million) for preparing major development sites and allocate 150.4 billion yen for research and development of vaccines against communicable diseases on its primary list and new technologies associated with them.

SOURCE: Kyodo

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 3 April 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 4 April 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi regions and Shan, Chin, Kayin and Mon states and isolated in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong easterly winds may reach (30-35) mph. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and (4-7) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Kachin State and scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Shan State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 April 2022: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 April 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 April 2022: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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NASA begins critical final test on mega Moon rocket

NASA on Friday began a critical two-day-long test of its giant Space Launch System (SLS) rocket complete with a simulated countdown, as the agency gears up to return humans to the Moon.

Known as the "wet dress rehearsal," it is the final major test before the Artemis-1 mission this summer: an uncrewed lunar flight that will eventually be followed by boots on the ground, likely no sooner than 2026.

"The countdown is now underway," NASA said in its Artemis blog at 5:00 pm Eastern Time (2100 GMT), confirming members of the launch control team had been issued their "call to stations."

This handout illustration courtesy of Nasa released on 22 October 2020, shows Nasa's new rocket, the Space Launch System (SLS), in its Block 1 crew vehicle configuration that will send astronauts to the Moon on the Artemis missions. **PHOTO: NASA/AFP**

Data from the test, which ends Sunday mid-afternoon, will be used to finalize a launch date for Artemis 1. NASA had said May could be the first window, but later now seems likely.

It is called a "wet" dress rehearsal because supercooled liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen will be loaded into SLS from ground systems, just as they would be in a real launch.

The 322-foot (98-meter) rocket — expected to be the most powerful in history at the time it is operational — was rolled out to Launch Complex 39B at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida around two weeks ago.

Teams are now filling up a sound suppression system with water that is used to dampen acoustic energy during lift-off. They will continue to practice every operation that would be carried out in a real launch.

Come Sunday morning, with the SLS rocket and Orion crew capsule fixed atop both powered on, they will load up 700,000 gallons (2.6 million litres) of propellant.

They won't actually ignite the rocket's RS-25 engines, which were tested previously. Instead they will halt the countdown about 10 seconds before liftoff, in order to simulate a "scrub," when launch is aborted due to technical or weather related issues. — AFP ■

Turkey launches horticulture expo showcasing green cities

TURKEY inaugurated on Friday an international horticultural expo in its southern province of Hatay, a place of cultural heritage, highlighting green development in cities across the world.

Being postponed for one year because of the COVID-19, the Horticulture Expo 2021 is hosted across two sites in Antakya and Iskenderun.

The main theme of this year's event is "Garden of Civilizations," and Hatay was home to many ancient civilizations during past centuries.

It is Turkey's gateway to the Middle East, and the Middle East's gateway to Anatolia, the Mediterranean and Europe, Murat Bayram, the head of the parks and recreation department at Hatay Municipality, told Xinhua.

"In this land of diversity, we want to promote green development for cities such as ours and interact with other metropolises of the world," Hatay Metropolitan Mayor Lutfu Savas said during an inaugural speech.

This event has attracted cooperatives, universities, private companies, and non-governmental organisations from Turkey and abroad.

It will enable cooperation and information sharing on issues like healthy lifestyles, green cities, sustainable living, education, and innovation, according to the mayor.

Filiz Katipoglu, the landscape architect who installed the "Garden of Civilizations," said that they strived to find a common ground for the plants from different countries and climates to "live in harmony." — Xinhua ■

Scientists risk arrest to sound climate alarm

A loosely federated network of scientists in more than two dozen countries plan acts of civil disobedience starting this week to highlight the climate crisis, members of Scientist Rebellion told AFP.

Their non-violent actions are timed to the release Monday of a landmark report from the UN's climate science advisory panel laying out options for slashing carbon pollution and controversial schemes for extracting CO2 from the air, they said in interviews.

Scientist Rebellion targets universities, research institutes and major scientific journals, prodding them and their staff to speak out more forcefully on what they describe as the existential threat of global warming.

"Scientists are particularly powerful messengers, and we have a responsibility to show leadership," said Charlie Gardner, a conservation scientist at the University of Kent specialised in tropical biodiversity.

The COP26 climate summit in Glasgow last year saw a score of the group's members arrested. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

"We are failing in that responsibility. If we say it's an emergency, we have to act like it is."

Starting Monday, the group hopes to see "high levels of disobedience" with more than 1,000 scientists worldwide taking part in direct non-violent action against government and academic institutions.

The world has seen a crescendo of deadly extreme weather amplified by rising temperatures — heatwaves, wildfires, flooding, storms engorged by rising seas -- and a torrent of recent climate science projects worse to come. Much of that research is distilled in periodic reports from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel On Climate Change (IPCC). — AFP ■

China-Europe cooperation gains steam by embracing green partnership

Photo taken on 16 September 2020 shows the lifting operation at the construction site of the Senj Wind Farm project in Senj, Croatia. **PHOTO: XINHUA/GAO LEI**

OFFSHORE construction of a wind farm is complicated. It is often described as a "moon landing" mission. That is even more so in the Mediterranean, one of the world's busiest waterways.

Yet the Italians' determination coupled with Chinese expertise are starting to turn the Southern European nation's dream for clean electricity into reality.

WIND OF COOPERATION

A massive wind turbine installation vessel is on standby 24 hours a day off Taranto port in southern Italy, where engineers are about to witness the birth of the Mediterranean's first offshore wind farm. When fully operational, Beleolico could power 18,500 households.

With Chinese expertise, the construction of the wind farm is nearing completion. It is ready to tell a story of how the tie-up of Chinese renewable technology and Europe's ambitious green targets can make a difference.

And when the wind blows across turbine rotor blades off the Puglia coast — the "heel" of Italy's boot — the wind farm can generate zero-emissions electricity to power tens of thousands of local families.

Italy is not the only European country that is working with China to generate power through wind. In a dense mountain forest in western Croatia, the country's largest wind farm, built by a Chinese company, has begun operation. It promotes greener, local growth and could persuade more environmentally-oriented young people to stay behind and develop their hometowns.

That wind of renewable energy cooperation is impressively valuable and essential as the headwinds of protectionism and confrontation are swirling hard. — Xinhua ■

China reports 13,000 Covid cases, most since end of Wuhan's first wave

CHINA reported 13,000 Covid cases on Sunday, the most since the peak of the first pandemic wave over two years ago, as health officials said they have found a suspected new subtype of the Omicron variant in the Shanghai area.

Until March, China had successfully kept the daily caseload down to double or triple digits, with hard, localised lockdowns, mass testing and travel restrictions.

But cases have surged over recent weeks to thousands each day, especially in the outbreak epicentre of Shanghai, where streets were eerily empty on Sunday as 25 million people stayed in under lockdown orders.

Officials in Suzhou, a city 30 minutes west of Shanghai, have detected a mutation of the Omicron variant not found in local or international databases, state media reported on Sunday.

"This means a new variant of Omicron has been discovered locally," Xinhua said, citing health official Zhang Jun, deputy director of the Suzhou Centre for Disease Control and Prevention.

The current outbreak is also testing the patience of the Chinese towards tough restrictions, at a time when much of the world has re-opened. On Sunday, the 1.5 million residents of Baicheng in northeast China joined the ranks of tens of millions of other Chinese who have endured some form of lockdown over the last month, disrupting work and damaging the economy.

A medical worker takes a swab sample from a woman for nucleic acid test in Changning District of east China's Shanghai, 1 April 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/JIN LIWANG**

China recorded 13,146 cases on Sunday, the National Health Commission said in a statement, with "no new deaths" reported.

It is the country's highest daily infection tally since mid-February 2020. Nearly 70 per cent of the national caseload was found in Shanghai, the commission said, after mass testing the metropolis' 25 million residents.

City authorities have conceded they are struggling to contain the outbreak, with thousands now in state quarantine and reports circulating of health workers being stretched. Vice Premier Sun Chunlan urged "resolute and swift moves" to snuff out the outbreak after a visit to Shanghai, Xinhua reported Sunday. — AFP ■

US COVID-19 funding inaction threatens fragile progress on racial, economic disparities: report

People were tested for coronavirus in Dearborn, Michigan. Early data from the state show that Black people represent 40 per cent of coronavirus-related deaths, though they represent only 14 per cent of the population. **PHOTO: JEFF KOWALSKY/AFP**

RACIAL and ethnic disparities in COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations and deaths are likely to worsen if the US Congress does not approve billions in new pandemic funding soon, major news portal Politico has reported.

Due to a lack of support from Congress, the White House has no choice but to scale back or suspend programs that provide free testing, treatments and vaccinations, which will disproportionately affect the tens of millions of uninsured Americans, a majority of whom are people of colour, said the report based on its interviews with public health experts, lawmakers and health officials.

In the early days of the pandemic, the federal government decided to make COVID-19 interventions available to everyone free of charge, which temporarily helped level the playing field in a nation where access to health care is usually tied to employment and income and often correlated with race.

However, the current congressional stalemate threatens to upend the fragile progress, according to the report. — Xinhua ■

Ecuador detects 3 more Omicron subvariant BA.2 cases

ECUADOR detected three more cases of the BA2 sub-lineage of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, bringing the total number to eight, Public Health Minister Ximena Garzon said Friday.

The South American country announced the first five BA2 cases on 16 March in the coastal city of Guayaquil.

During a press conference, Garzon said that although it is more contagious, the subvariant has not created changes in the epidemiological scenario in the country, as it continues to see a downward trend in the number of COVID-19 infections.

Garzon's epidemiological report showed that in the last weeks the number of infections and deaths due to the virus registered a sustained decrease, along with a decline in bed occupancy in public hospitals nationwide. The official pointed out that the improvement in the indicators is due to the "good effect" of vaccination against COVID-19 among the target population aged five and older, which includes 16.1 million people. — Xinhua ■

A health worker inoculates a child with the Covid-19 vaccine in Quito, Ecuador, on 18 October 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Latest count of confirmed COVID-19 cases worldwide at 0000 GMT, 3 April

THE following are the latest updates on the COVID-19 global confirmed cases in hardest-hit countries by the Centre for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University at 0000 GMT, 3 April.

Country	Confirmed Cases
World	490,314,225
US	80,150,804
India	43,027,035
Brazil	29,995,575
France	26,084,340
Germany	21,591,147
Britain	21,379,545
Russia	17,619,521
Turkey	14,885,710
Italy	14,790,806

— Xinhua ■

COVID-19 vaccination bill reaches 120 bln yuan in China

CHINA has spent more than 120 billion yuan (around 18.9 billion US dollars) on COVID-19 vaccination, an expenditure within the limits of the country's medical insurance funds, said the National Healthcare Security Administration.

So far, 3.2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered on the Chinese mainland, according to the administration.

China launched free programs to vaccinate its population against COVID-19 in February 2021. The cost of vaccine procurement and inoculation is mostly covered by the country's medical insurance funds and government budget. — Xinhua ■

Nigeria relaxes rules on mask wearing

NIGERIAN authorities on Friday said the rules on the use of face masks have been relaxed nationwide, noting that people are not required to wear masks in outdoor places following the continuous downward trend of COVID-19 cases in the country.

Face masks are still recommended for indoor activities or other high-risk settings, Ifedayo Adetifa, head of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, told reporters. He said Nigeria had implemented a four-tier consolidation phase of the COVID-19 pandemic response, which focused on continued surveillance, genomic sequencing, surge testing and vaccination, stressing that masks remain a significant public health safety measure. — Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt seeks France's support to mitigate Russia-Ukraine conflict's economic repercussions

EGYPTIAN Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry on Saturday called on France, which holds the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union, to "provide economic and political support to Egypt" to deal with the repercussions of the Ukraine crisis, according to a statement of Egypt's Foreign Ministry.

Sameh Shoukry made the remarks during a phone conversation with his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian, during which they discussed bilateral relations and economic cooperation amid the global impacts of the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian conflict, Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmed Hafez said in the statement.

The conversation came just days after French Economy and Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire paid a visit to Cairo, during which he affirmed his country's full support for Egypt and its willingness to provide the Middle Eastern country with wheat supplies during the crisis. – Xinhua ■

Crisis-hit Sri Lanka blocks social media to contain protests

SRI Lanka blocked access to social media platforms on Sunday after authorities imposed a weekend nationwide curfew to contain protests over a worsening economic crisis.

The South Asian nation is facing severe shortages of food, fuel and other essentials, along with sharp price rises and crippling power cuts, in its most painful downturn since independence from Britain in 1948.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa imposed a state of emergency on Friday, the day after a crowd attempted to storm his home in the capital Colombo, and a nationwide curfew is in effect until Monday morning. Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram and WhatsApp were among the platforms shut down by internet service providers on the orders of defence authorities, the pro-government Ada Derana news channel said. — AFP ■

India, Nepal ink energy, railway pacts

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepal's Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba inaugurated a cross-border railway between Jaynagar (India) and Kurtha (Nepal) to improve ties between the two nations. **PHOTO: TWITTER/XINHUA**

INDIA and Nepal signed four agreements in various fields on Saturday, including solar power, railway and petroleum products, and launched various new projects during a visit of Nepali Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba.

The 35-km crossborder rail link from Jaynagar in India's state of Bihar to Kurtha in Nepal was launched, and the 90-km 132 KV Solu Corridor transmission line built with India's Line of Credit at a cost of 2 billion Indian rupees (around 26.3 million U.S. dollars) was inaugurated, said a statement issued by India's Ministry of External Affairs.

Besides, India's RuPay card was also launched in Nepal on the occasion. RuPay is an Indian multinational financial services and payment service system conceived and launched by the National Payments Corporation of India. Nepal joined the India-initiated International Solar Alliance framework agreement, while both sides exchanged a memorandum of understanding on enhancing technical cooperation in the railway sector and signed two agreements for supplying petroleum products and sharing of technical expertise.

The signing of agreements took place in the presence of visiting Nepali prime minister and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi. — Xinhua ■

US defence contractors see longer term benefits from war in Ukraine

US arms manufacturers are not cashing in directly from the thousands of missiles, drones and other weapons being sent to Ukraine, but they do stand to profit big-time over the long run by supplying countries eager to boost their defences against Russia.

Like other Western countries, the United States has turned to its own stocks to furnish Ukraine with shoulder-fired Stinger and Javelin missiles, for instance. These weapons from Lockheed-Martin and Raytheon Technologies were paid for some time ago.

So these companies' first quarter results, due to be released in coming weeks, should not be especially fatter because of the rush to arm Ukraine as it fights off the Russian invasion.

But those US military weapons stockpiles being tapped for Kyiv will need to be replenished.

The Pentagon plans to use $3.5 billion earmarked for this purpose in a spending bill approved in mid-March, a Defence Department spokesman told AFP.

The Javelin anti-tank missile is made by a joint venture between Lockheed and Raytheon. The latter's Stinger anti-aircraft missile had ceased to be produced until the Pentagon ordered $340 million of them last summer.

"We are exploring options to more quickly replenish US inventories and backfill depleted stocks of allies and partners," the spokesman said.

A Lockheed Martin F-35 aircraft. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/WIKI/AFP/FILE**

"It will take time to revive the industrial base — at the prime and at sub-tier suppliers — to enable production to resume," he added. The profits that the companies make from these missiles, known for being simple to use, will not exactly be staggering, defence industry experts told AFP. — AFP ■

Former Japan PM calls for supplementary budget to stimulate economy

Ishinomaki Fish Market is the largest fish market in Japan, acting as a conduit for the Minami-sanriku coastal region. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

JAPAN cannot avoid crafting a supplementary budget for fiscal 2022 as part of measures to mitigate the impact of rising prices on the economy, former Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said Sunday.

"It's very important to take action aimed at invigorating the economy," Suga said on a Fuji TV program, without specifying when an extra budget should be formed. His successor, Fumio Kishida, is reluctant to compile an additional budget at an early date as the new fiscal year just started this month.

While his ruling Liberal Democratic Party's coalition partner, Komeito, has been calling for the enactment of such a budget during the ongoing 150-day ordinary parliament session, Kishida has said the government should prioritize using reserve funds in order to respond speedily to a possible economic slowdown. The government has reserve funds totalling 5.5 trillion yen ($45 billion) in the initial budget for this fiscal year. The funds include those set aside for the COVID-19 response.

Government sources said last week that Japan is considering spending over 1 trillion yen on a new economic package in a bid to cushion the impact of rising energy and grain prices, which have become even higher since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February. — Kyodo ■

1st batch of Thai fruits shipped to China by China-Laos Railway

A container of fruits from Thailand is transported from China-Laos Railway cargo train to a truck at Nateuy Station in Luang Namtha province, Laos, 1 April 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

FRUITS from Thailand have been shipped to southwest China's Yunnan Province by the China-Laos Railway for the first time from the Lao capital Vientiane.

This batch of Thai fruits, 40 tons of durians and 20 tons of coconuts, which arrived in Vientiane from Thailand days ago, departed from the Vientiane South Station of the China-Laos Railway and reached the Nateuy Station in Luang Namtha Province on Friday, which borders China's Yunnan Province.

The fruits were transited to trucks in Nateuy Station, some 360 km north of Vientiane, and crossed border to China by road.

This is the first time that Thai agricultural products have been transported to China by the China-Laos Railway.

The Laos-China Railway Co. Ltd., a joint venture based in Vientiane responsible for the operation of the Lao section of the China-Laos Railway, expects that more high-quality produce from Thailand will be delivered to China and even Europe through the cross-border railway in the future, which further highlights the importance of the China-Laos Railway in driving regional economic development. — Xinhua ■

55% of Japan firms based overseas impacted by Ukraine crisis: poll

The most cited impact among the 43.2 per cent was soaring costs of raw materials including oil, chemicals and metals. This was followed by rising logistics costs and energy prices. **PHOTO: KYODO**

FIFTY-FIVE per cent of Japanese companies based overseas have had their business operations impacted, or foresee they will be impacted, by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a recent survey by a Japanese staffing firm showed.

The online survey of 699 Japanese entities across 10 economies, conducted by Pasona Group Inc. in mid-March, found that firms based in France were by far the most affected with 92.3 per cent responding they had been impacted in some way.

As the only European country included in the survey, this was followed by Malaysia at 72.0 per cent and Singapore at 66.7 per cent.

Of the 55 per cent of the overseas-based firms, 43.2 per cent said they already feel the effects of the conflict, while 22.7 per cent said they expect to do so within a month and 26.8 per cent within three months. The most cited impact among the 43.2 percent was soaring costs of raw materials including oil, chemicals and metals. This was followed by rising logistics costs and energy prices.

Those in the retail and wholesale sector also cited delays in delivery of packaging, while a trading firm said Western countries' economic sanctions on Russia over the invasion created issues in collecting accounts receivable.

Only 34.6 per cent of the Japanese firms surveyed said they have taken countermeasures. As for concrete steps, 54.3 per cent of those companies cited information gathering in a multiple-choice question, followed by securing inventories at 32.5 per cent and choosing suppliers at 23.5 per cent.

Specific actions carried out by manufacturing firms in India included starting negotiations to raise prices on products, while a trading firm in Hong Kong said it is reviewing conditions for transactions with Russian clients. The economies covered by the March 11 to 16 survey were the United States, France, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and India.

The manufacturing sector made up the biggest group of companies at 43.6 per cent, followed by trading houses at 20.7 per cent and retailers and wholesalers at 9.9 per cent. — Kyodo ■

Algeria's energy giant Sonatrach earmarks 40 bln USD in investment over 5 years

THE CEO of Algeria's state-owned energy giant Sonatrach said on Friday the company plans to invest 40 billion U.S. dollars in oil and gas exploration and production between 2022 and 2026.

The year 2022 "bears promising prospect for Sonatrach's oil exploration and production," the Algeria Press Service quoted Toufik Hakkar as saying.

The company discovered three new oil fields in the first three months of this year, including a large discovery in the southeastern region of Touggourt with estimated reserves of 1 billion barrels of oil.

Although gas and oil prices have soared after the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Algeria has decided to maintain "relatively appropriate" contractual prices with all of its customers, according to Hakkar.

However, Hakkar did not rule out "recalculating the gas price" destined to Spain, without providing further details. — Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australia, India agree on free trade deal

THE Australian government reached an agreement on a trade agreement with India on Saturday.
The Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (AI ECTA) was hailed by Prime Minister Scott Morrison as a major economic boon.
The deal will remove tariffs on 85 per cent of Australian exports to India, rising to 91 per cent within 10 years.
India was Australia's seventh-largest trading partner in 2020, with two-way trade valued at 24.3 billion Australian dollars (18.2 billion US dollars).
The federal government previously said it plans for India to be a top-three trade market by 2035. — Xinhua ■

China's central bank conducts 10 bln yuan of reverse repos

CHINA'S central bank Saturday conducted 10 billion yuan (1.57 billion U.S. dollars) of reverse repos to maintain liquidity in the banking system.
The interest rate for the seven-day reverse repos was set at 2.1 per cent, according to the People's Bank of China.
The move aims to keep liquidity in the banking system reasonably stable, the central bank said. — Xinhua ■

Nigeria launches special operation to tackle oil theft

THE Nigerian Navy on Friday launched a special operation to stop oil thieves from further sabotaging the nation's oil and gas installations.
Awwal Gambo, the country's chief of naval staff, who spoke at the launch of the operation, blamed the nation's economic downturn on attacks on oil and gas facilities by saboteurs.
He said about 40 warships, 200 gunboats, five helicopters, the Special Boat Service, and several other units would take part in the three-month operation.
"We will identify where the problem (breach on pipelines) is," he said, adding that they will track the oil thieves and secure the pipelines for the economic prosperity of the country. — Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kim Jong Un's sister slams S Korea's remarks on military ability

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un's younger sister on Sunday condemned South Korea for escalating military tensions, after the South's defence minister made remarks about its ability to strike against the North.

Calling the minister, Suh Wook, a "senseless and scum-like guy," Kim Yo Jong said in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency that his "rhetoric about the 'preemptive strike' has further worsened the inter-Korean relations."

"South Korea may face a serious threat owing to the reckless remarks," said Kim, vice department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. – Kyodo ■

US panel arrives in China to assist with plane crash probe

A working group sent by the US National Transportation Safety Board arrived in China on Saturday to help investigate last month's crash of a China Eastern Airlines aircraft, said the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), reported Xinhua.

The seven-member panel, consisting of authorized representatives and technical advisors, will participate in the investigation organized by the CAAC. The group's main responsibility is to provide technical support in investigating and analyzing the cause of the accident from the perspective of aircraft design and manufacture. – Xinhua ■

Pakistan PM faces dismissal as parliament sits for no-confidence vote

Security personnel walk past a banner featuring an image of Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan near Parliament House building in Islamabad. **PHOTO: AFP**

PAKISTAN Prime Minister Imran Khan looked likely to be booted out of office later Sunday as parliament gathered to vote on a no-confidence motion following weeks of political turmoil.

No premier of Pakistan has ever completed a full term, and Khan faces the biggest challenge to his rule since being elected in 2018, with opponents accusing him of economic mismanagement and bungling foreign policy.

Sunday's newspapers splashed foreboding headlines for Khan's political fate, with the country's biggest English-language daily The News calling it a "Final countdown".

"A new chapter in the history of Pakistani democracy may be written today," wrote the influential Dawn newspaper.

Authorities have installed a ring of steel around the National Assembly in the capital, using shipping containers to block roads after Khan on Saturday called for supporters to take to the streets.

His Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party (PTI) effectively lost its majority in the 342-member assembly last week when a coalition partner said its seven lawmakers would vote with the opposition.

More than a dozen PTI lawmakers have also indicated they will cross the floor.

The opposition needs 172 votes for the motion to succeed, but in the past parties have resorted to physically preventing lawmakers from taking part by blocking access to the national assembly, leading to cat-and-mouse chases and even accusations of kidnapping. — AFP ■

Macron calls for 'mobilization' at election rally as French polls tighten

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron called on tens of thousands of cheering but increasingly nervous supporters to help him win a second term as he held his first election campaign rally just a week from the start of voting.

According to polls, far-right rival Marine Le Pen is gathering momentum and threatening what once seemed an almost unassailable position of strength for Macron, a pro-business centrist elected in 2017.

"The mobilization is now, the battle is now!" Macron concluded a two-and-a-half hour speech at a stadium west of the capital. "It's a battle between progress and turning back, a battle between patriotism and Europe, and nationalism."

The 44-year-old drew an estimated 30,000 people for a gathering styled on sports events that saw Macron enter the room to pumping music and fireworks before taking to a stage set up like a boxing ring in the middle of the floor. The centrist only declared his intention to run again at the last possible moment last month and has been distracted by the war in Ukraine.

Le Pen lost to Macron in the 2017 polls. **PHOTO: AFP**

Le Pen meanwhile has been working on a low-key grassroots campaign focused on concerns about rising prices that have dented household incomes.

"Despite the crises, we never gave up. Despite the crises we honoured our promises," Macron said during the first part of a speech that defended his achievements.

He listed them as lowering unemployment to "its lowest level in 15 years", cutting taxes to boost incomes, along with investments in public services. To shouts of "Macron, President!" he also detailed his programme for a second term that would include benefits reform and a rise in the retirement age to 65.

Slow campaign

Among those present, most expressed confidence that Macron would prevail despite the final-week dynamic that appears to be favouring Le Pen.

Two new polls published Saturday suggested Macron and Le Pen would finish top in the first round on 10 April with Macron triumphing in the run-off on 24 April by 53-47 per cent. — AFP ■

US ends public health order limiting asylum at border

The US government is ending a public health order that has limited asylum at the border, which was introduced after the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

THE US government is ending a public health order that has limited asylum at the border, which was introduced after the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, reported Xinhua.

A termination of the policy — known as Title 42 — will be implemented on 23 May 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced in a statement on Friday.

"After considering current public health conditions and an increased availability of tools to fight COVID-19," CDC Director Rochelle Walensky "has determined that an order suspending the right to introduce migrants into the United States is no longer necessary."

The White House has stated that most of those who cross the border will not be able to remain in the United States, even with the lifting of Title 42.

"To be clear, most individuals who crossed the border without legal authorization will be promptly placed into removal proceedings and if they are unable to establish a legal basis to remain in the United States, they'll be expeditiously removed," White House communications director Kate Bedingfield told reporters on Thursday. — Xinhua ■

China supports diplomacy, de-escalation for Russia-Ukraine conflict — expert

Ukraine People line up to withdraw money at a cash dispenser in Kyiv in the morning of 24 February 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

CHINA is calling for a de-escalation of tensions between Russia and Ukraine to minimize losses, Gao Zhikai, vice president of the Centre for China and Globalization, a Beijing-based non-governmental think tank, has said.

"China has been very consistent in its position. China is calling for the de-escalation of the conflict and bringing it to an end as soon as possible through negotiation, with the aim of minimizing civilian losses," Gao told Xinhua in an interview last week.

In early March, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Wang Wenbin said China has always supported and encouraged all diplomatic efforts that are conducive to the peaceful settlement of the Ukraine crisis, and welcomes the launch of peace talks between Russia and Ukraine.

Russia and Ukraine held their latest round of face-to-face talks in Turkey's Istanbul on Tuesday, which lasted for about three hours. According to local media, they finally clinched some progress in exploring possible ways out of the tensions.

"China's policy does not have any vested interest of China in the outcome of this conflict. China's position is purely for the sake of saving as many civilian lives in Ukraine as possible, and preventing the conflict from escalation into a greater disaster," Gao noted.

The ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict has entered its second month, and Washington has been "fanning the flames" with weapon assistance, sanctions and threats.– Xinhua ■

Draft documents ready for discussion by presidents: Ukrainian chief negotiator

THE draft agreements that were discussed during the meeting in Istanbul this week are now ready for discussion by the presidents of Ukraine and Russia, head of the Ukrainian delegation David Arakhamia said Saturday.

The draft has been "developed enough to conduct direct consultations between the two leaders of the countries," Arakhamia was quoted by Interfax-Ukraine news agency as saying.

"Our task is to prepare the final stage not of the document itself, but of those issues that we touched upon, and to prepare the future meeting of the presidents," he said. Ukraine's government-run Ukrinform news agency confirmed on Friday that the two sides have started the next round of peace talks via video, citing a member of the Ukrainian delegation Mykhailo Podolyak. – Xinhua ■

QUICK SUMMARY

HERE are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

Pope urges 'shared response' on refugees

The number of refugees fleeing Ukraine has passed 4.1 million, the United Nations says.

Pope Francis calls for "a broad-based and shared response" to "the growing migration emergency", saying "some countries cannot respond to the entire problem, while others remain indifferent onlookers".

He adds that he is still considering a visit to Kyiv.

Ukraine claims control of 'whole Kyiv region

Ukraine has regained control of "the whole Kyiv region" after invading Russian forces retreated from some key towns near the Ukrainian capital, deputy defence minister Ganna Maliar says.

As it withdraws from northern areas, "Russia is prioritising a different tactic: falling back on the east and south," according to Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhaylo Podolyak.

Baltic states stop Russian gas imports

The head of Latvia's natural gas storage operator says the Baltic states are no longer importing Russian natural gas.

Ukraine says Russia agrees to Kyiv proposals

Ukraine's top negotiator in peace talks with Russia says that Moscow had "verbally" agreed to key Ukrainian proposals, raising hopes that talks to end fighting are moving forward.

Ukraine accuses Russia of firing on protesters

Ukraine's human rights ombudsman Lyudmyla Denisova accuses Russian forces of opening fire on peaceful demonstrators, injuring four with "severe burns", in the southern city of Enerhodar occupied by Moscow's forces.

Russian protesters detained

Russian police detain 211 people in various cities around the country at protests against Moscow's military operation in Ukraine, according to OVD-Info, an NGO.

In the Swiss capital Bern, thousands of people brave a surprise spring snowstorm to protest the war.

SOURCE: AFP

Air strikes hit Ukraine's strategic port Odessa

AIR strikes rocked Ukraine's strategic Black Sea port Odessa early Sunday morning, according to an interior ministry official, after Kyiv had warned that Russia was trying to consolidate its troops in the south.

"Odessa was attacked from the air," Anton Herashchenko, adviser to the interior minister, wrote on his Telegram account.

"Fires were reported in some areas. Some of the missiles were shot down by air defence."

An AFP reporter heard explosions in the southwestern city at around 6:00 am (0300 GMT).

The blasts sent up at least three columns of black smoke with flames visible apparently in an industrial area.

A soldier near the site of one of the strikes said it was likely a rocket or a missile.

The attack comes as Russian forces appeared to be withdrawing from the country's north. On Friday, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky warned Russia was consolidating and preparing "powerful strikes" in the south, joining a chorus of Western assessments that Moscow's troops were regrouping.

Odessa, a historic city of around one million people, is Ukraine's largest Black Sea port. – AFP ■

Ukraine spends 10 bln USD a month on conflict with Russia

Tamara Osypchuk, 72, is helped out of an ambulance after fleeing her home in Irpin, in the suburbs of Kyiv. **PHOTO: AFP**

UKRAINE spends about 10 billion US dollars per month on the conflict with Russia, the presidential press service said Saturday.

"The Ukrainian state spends about 10 billion dollars a month on hostilities," said a statement on the Ukrainian presidential website, citing data from the Ministry of Finance.

Among Ukraine's sources of expenditure financing, the statement named the country's own tax revenues and assistance from Ukraine's international partners.

The military conflict between Ukraine and Russia started on 24 February . – Xinhua ■

Myanmar national futsal team poses for a group photo at an international tournament. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar to play Viet Nam today in ASEAN Futsal Championship

THE group matches of the 2022 ASEAN Futsal Championship will continue today and Myanmar team will play against Viet Nam.

Group matches started on 2 April, but only Group A matches were played and Group B matches involving Myanmar team will be held from 4 April.

Team Myanmar is falling in the Group B with Viet Nam, Australia, and Timor-Leste.

Myanmar will take on Viet Nam on 4 April, Australia on 5 April, and Timor-Leste on 6 April respectively.

In the Group A, futsal powerhouse Thailand is facing Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and Cambodia.

Myanmar Futsal Team has selected 14 players for the 2022 ASEAN Futsal Championship.

The Myanmar head coach Boonlert Charoenwong released the final list on 3 April and reduced the number of preliminary players from 22 to eight.

"This is a difficult group because it includes teams like Australia, and Viet Nam. Vietnam will be harder to play than Australia. We believe that our team will move better and win the tournament," said Coach Boonlert Charoenwong.

In this competition, the first placed, second placed and third placed teams will advance to the 2022 Asian Cup Futsal Championship.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

(a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.

(b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

(c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

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

(b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.

(c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

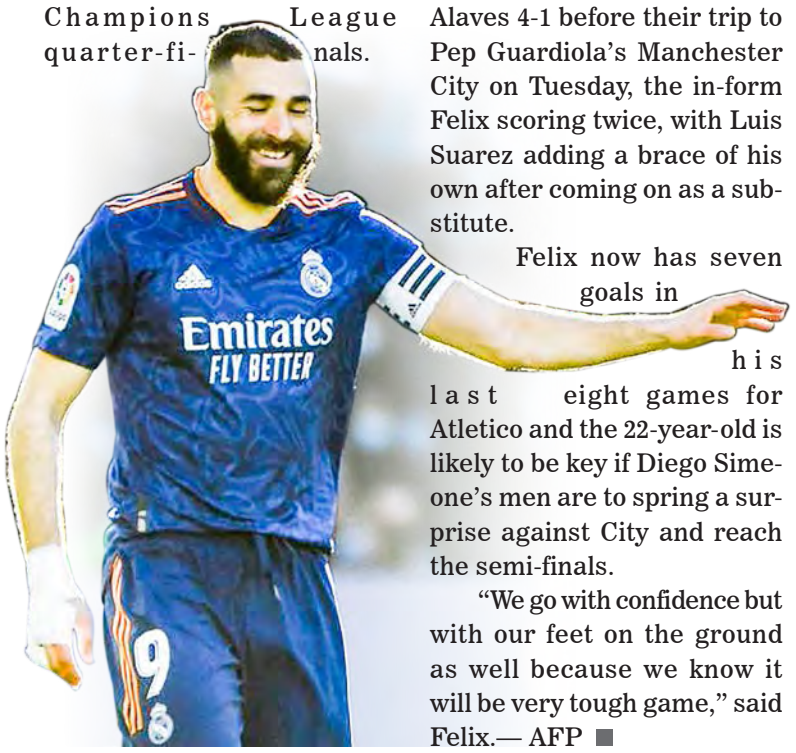
(a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.

(b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.

(c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Benzema and Felix shine as Real Madrid and Atletico get set for Champions League tests

KARIM Benzema and Joao Felix ensured Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid claimed morale-boosting victories in La Liga on Saturday before facing the Premier League's heavyweights next week in the Champions League quarter-finals.



Benzema missed one penalty but scored two as Real Madrid defeated Celta Vigo 2-1 to get back to winning ways ahead of Wednesday's crunch meeting with Chelsea. And Atletico Madrid sailed past Alaves 4-1 before their trip to Pep Guardiola's Manchester City on Tuesday, the in-form Felix scoring twice, with Luis Suarez adding a brace of his own after coming on as a substitute.

Felix now has seven goals in his last eight games for Atletico and the 22-year-old is likely to be key if Diego Simeone's men are to spring a surprise against City and reach the semi-finals.

"We go with confidence but with our feet on the ground as well because we know it will be very tough game," said Felix.— AFP ■

Man Utd drop more points in race for top four

Manchester United dropped more valuable points as they drew 1-1 at home to Leicester on Saturday, slipping further off the pace in the battle to secure Champions League football for next season. **PHOTO: AFP**

MANCHESTER United dropped more valuable points as they drew 1-1 at home to Leicester on Saturday, slipping further off the pace in the battle to secure Champions League football for next season.

The draw at Old Trafford leaves Ralf Rangnik's misfiring side three points behind the fourth-placed Gunners, who have two games in hand.

United, missing top-scorer Cristiano Ronaldo through illness, looked anaemic in attack for most of the first half as they struggled to establish any attacking rhythm.

Bruno Fernandes, who signed a new deal at United this week, was put through by Fred in the 27th minute but the Portuguese playmaker failed to make good contact and Kasper Schmeichel saved with his outstretched left foot.

Minutes later Leicester had a chance to take the lead but Kelechi Iheanacho failed to control the ball on the edge of the area and ended up skewing his shot wide.

The sides remained deadlocked at 0-0 at the interval.

United looked sharper in the early stages of the second half but midfielder Scott McTominay was lucky to stay on the pitch after a nasty-looking challenge on James Maddison.

Marcus Rashford was brought on by interim manager Rangnick to replace McTominay and add extra zip to the home side's attack. — AFP ■