THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 9, 10th Waning of Tagu 1384 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Monday, 25 April 2022

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.

Bamboo handicrafts from Kawhmu Township seeking for own identity of local products

By Nadi Min

DEXTERITY in working with the hand and an art performed with the hands are seen. A woman named Ma San Thida from Letkhike village, Kawhmu Township, who is skilled in craft, is making a useful and beautiful bag made of bamboo materials.

"It is locally called wicker basket with lid in Yangon. These basket-like bags and purses are made. We used to wholesale and retail them. At present, in cooperation with the cooperative societies, we take orders," she said.

"This bamboo handcrafting business helps me earn a living during the lack of unemployment triggered by the COVID-19 consequences," Ma San Thida expressed her gratitude.

Local women are making traditional handicrafts made of bamboo materials in Kawhmu Township of Yangon Region as part of implementing One Village-One Product project. **PHOTOS: NAY ZAW**

Kawhmu Township, where Ma San Thida lives, is one of the largest bamboo producing townships in Yangon Region. The locals are relying on handicraft businesses made of bamboo.

"There is no labour who depends on daily wages. The majority of the families here are executing this business on a manageable skill. Some villages are manufacturing bamboo trays and cover for circular slate called Kyaukpyin. The locals in Letkhike village are making bamboo purses," Ma San Thida elaborated.

Yangon Region Department of Cooperative is implementing "One Village-One Product" (OVOP) projects in the eastern, northern and southern districts of Yangon Region with a view to enhancing the socio-economy of the local community and increasing job opportunities. Bamboo handicrafts in Kawhmu Township, Bawle fish paste in Taikkyi Township and broom in Hmawby Township are designated and the officials concerned are supporting the projects to yield successful results.

"OVOP project will explore markets with their own local product once tourism revives. It will create jobs for locals," said Daw Ohnma Myint, director of the Yangon Region Department of Cooperative.

The cooperative society was formed with 15 artisans from Kawhmu Township to unite the co-ops and provide capitals at the set interest rate by the departments concerned in order for thriving bamboo handicraft businesses.

SEE PAGE-2

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
As private health care plays an important role in public health sector, it is important to strictly abide by laws and regulations: MOH Union Minister
PAGE-3

NATIONAL
SWRR Union Minister inspects stockpile of rice, wheat donated by India to Myanmar
PAGE-4

LOCAL BUSINESS
Tomato growers suffer losses in Taunggyi Township as price drastically drops
PAGE-7

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.

Bamboo handicrafts from Kawhmu Township seeking for own identity of local products

FROM PAGE-1

The Small-Scale Industries Department is providing technical assistance to the members of the society to boost product quality of handicraft and attract more buyers in the domestic market.

Moreover, the co-ops help explore markets and purchase the decorated handicrafts.

Staff Officer Daw Su Su Htwe of Kawhmu Township Department of Cooperative elaborated, "We have a plan to conduct courses to raise technical awareness of bamboo handcrafting in order to produce quality and unique designed products. Depending on the co-ops fund, raw materials are provided."

She added that Kawhmu products are now supplied to the shops in Moe Oo Pan local products shop and other outlets in Yangon Region, other regions and states.

At present, traditional trays, consumer goods, soap cases, phone stands, tissue boxes, clocks, coffee cups and mugs, pots, purses, decorated baskets and other useful products in creative designs are produced in the villages of Kawhmu Township.

"Traditional bamboo handicrafts from Kawhmu Township are sold pretty well on a trial run. We will focus on market promotion on the potential products to build our own identity in each township in the 2022-2023 FY. The department is willing to patronize local products and expand the resources that the suppliers offer," Director Daw Ohnma Myint of Yangon Region Department of Cooperative delightfully said.

Photo depicts baskets, trays, hats, purses and wicker basket with lids made of bamboo materials. **PHOTOS: NAY ZAW**

Myanmar rural communities build the hats, fences and bridges and make furniture, kitchen utensils such as trays and baskets, musical instrument such as flute, xylophone and bamboo-clapper, lacquerware and other products from bamboo.

They are familiar with handcrafting with bamboo as it passed down from generations to generations.

The neighbouring countries also manufacture the value-added products and traditional handicrafts from bamboo materials. App the stakeholders in the bamboo supply chain are also exerting the concerted efforts for the finished bamboo products and raw materials to penetrate more external markets, promote Myanmar's art and craft and enchant tourists.

Efforts are underway for bamboo from naturally grown plants in the rural areas to the value-added products which can expand the market share in the highly competitive market. It can also grow the economic benefits of the local community.

OVOP project expresses self-identity in each region and have contributions to rural development and State's economic development.

Ma San Thida from Kawhmu Township gave a remark, "We have knacks and passion to build our own identity for our village, create successful and innovative products. As long as our business expands, we will generate a large income for the future."

Translated.

Our Tatmadaw is the only institution hailed from the ethnic people

AS our Tatmadaw is the only institution hailed from the ethnic people, it has to safeguard the lives and poverty of the people and to assist in the daily social life security of the people in all directions.

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

As private health care plays an important role in public health sector, it is important to strictly abide by laws and regulations: MOH Union Minister

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win accompanied by officials met with the members of the Mandalay Region Government led by Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Maung Ko on 23 April in Mandalay.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win said as the outbreak of COVID-19 is now well under control to some extent, it is necessary to step up regular health services. Despite the resumption of hospital operation at full speed, some specialized subjects are weak. He asked for the support of the regional government so that students can attend school safety, since the medical universities and its associated medical universities are reopened.

He said necessary arrangements for the arrival of international flights at the Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay International Airports will be submitted and implemented to the Central Committee for the Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19. He said it is necessary for the regional government to make necessary adjustments.

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win meets members of Mandalay Region cabinet in Mandalay on 23 April.

As the private health care plays an important role in the public health care sector, it is important to strictly abide by the laws and regulations, adding that Mandalay Region has good immunization coverage in the target groups. COVID-19 vaccines will be given to the people aged 15 and over to ensure full coverage of the vaccine in the target groups. The booster vaccine is being given to people aged 40 and over, he said.

He asked for the support when the school-based COVID-19 vaccination will be carried out when they are opened. In addition, routine immunization services for children under 5 years of age such as vaccinations against BCG, Polio, and measles are also being stepped up. He said public health preparations need to be made to prevent the spread of infectious diseases such as dengue fever during the rainy season.

The Mandalay Region Chief Minister said his government is working to clean and beautify the hospitals, and that students who attend medical and related universities, including the University of Nursing, are warmly welcomed and provided with necessary assistance. He said that private hospitals and clinics will be monitored for compliance with the law.

Afterwards, the participants discussed ways to make health work more effective in Mandalay Region.

The Union Minister and party also met with the Rector and faculty members of the Traditional Medicine University (Mandalay).—MNA

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

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

A total of 7.84 tonnes of masks via the Chinshwehaw border trade post were imported yesterday.

Officials from relevant departments cooperate to facilitate and expedite standard operating procedures for the import process. It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments to prevent COVID-19, and contact persons for enquiries can be reached through the Ministry's Website – www.commerce.gov.mm. —MNA

Cartons of masks weighing 7.84 tonnes are carried by vehicle from Chinshwehaw on 24 April.

16 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 24 April, total figure rises to 612,749

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 612,749 after 16 new cases were reported on 24 April 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 591,633 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 19,434 without casualties .

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 23-4-2022, a total of 29,608,037 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 22,863,979 people have been fully vaccinated, 6,744,058 people are yet to get the second shots and 1,278,329 people have received booster doses.—MNA

SWRR Union Minister inspects stockpile of rice, wheat donated by India to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khaing and the Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister inspected the Central Store Depot of the Disaster Management Department (Yangon) in Mayangon Township yesterday morning.

The Yangon Region head of the Disaster Management Department explained that arrival of rice and wheat donated by the Government of India to Myanmar in containers from MIP and Asia World ports, plans of the rice bags to be stored in the depot and distribution of them to townships.

The Union Minister inspected the storage procedures at the depot.

At the Department of Social Welfare's School for Disabled Children in Mayangon Township, the principal in-charge explained the purpose and operation of the training school and the Union Minister instructed officials to upgrade the training school as a Resource Centre for the Development of Persons with Disabilities to provide TOT training.

They visited the Department of Social Welfare's Care Centre for the Disabled Children in Mayangon Township.

Next, the Union Minister and party visited the training hall of Institute of Social Welfare, Department of Social Welfare, in Mayangon Township. They toured the staff housings and the training school.

On arrival at Kyaikwine Youth Training School, the principal in-charge explained the location of the school, staff numbers, admission for capacity, taking care for youths, team working and development of children's knowledge and skills, and advantages, weaknesses and requirements of the ongoing processes.

SWRR Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khaing visits School for the Disabled Children in Mayangon Township on 24 April.

The Union Minister and officials instructed officials to take necessary measures and inspected the dormitories, urging them to nurture the children to work hard to become intelligent and productive human resources.—MNA

Yangon Mayor inspects drainage works in Mingala Taungnyunt Township

Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay inspects dredging of waste from drains in Mingala Taungnyunt Township on 24 April.

CHAIRMAN of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) U Bo Htay, accompanied by the Vice Mayor, Secretary, and committee members, inspected the sale of vegetables, meat and seafood at a cheaper price in the Mobile Market system in Maugon housing on Satyon road, in Mingala Taungnyunt Township yesterday morning.

During the inspection, the Mayor instructed officials to ensure that the meat and vegetables are fresh, to grant the accuracy of the scales and to ensure that vendors/customers wear masks.

The Mayor and party, afterwards, inspected the staff training schools and gyms of the Administration Department, the clearing of garbage by excavators conducted by the Department of Engineering (Drainage Management) to improve the water drainage and the culverts along the Bo Min Yaung road. It is reported that clean and tidy work has been ordered along the Bo Min Yaung road and Theinbyu Road.—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 GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 454237515
ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

gnlmnews@gmail.com
www.gnlm.com.mm

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.

Satellite-based vessel monitoring systems branch, lab of Agriculture Dept inspected

DEPUTY Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi inspected frozen shrimp and seafood processing works of the private fishery industry in Yangon Region such as Yadana Theingi Cold Storage, Golden Boy Limited, Gyogon Fish and Shrimp Cold Storage, Myint Myat Hein Company Limited on 23 April in Yangon.

At the Department of Fisheries' satellite-based vessel monitoring systems (VMS) branch (Yangon), the deputy minister viewed the monitoring of inshore and offshore trawlers in fishery works.

Skilled workers are processing fish at cold storage on 23 April.

The branch is monitoring if the fishing trawlers exceed the designated fishing areas, if they enter within 10 miles of inshore waters or a restricted area. It also supervises the inspection for silent vessels and location delivery within four hours in case of silent vessel stopping at the port. Location information will be provided within 12 hours if it is not reported for more than four hours. Location information will be sent within four hours in case of silent while operating at sea.

If the silent occurs for more than four hours, the VMS Control Centre and the relevant Region and State Fisheries Departments will be notified, and within 48 hours, the vessel must be inspected and must carry out repairs.

In the evening, the deputy minister visited the Soil Utilization Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture in Insein Township and inspected the laboratory analysis of soil, irrigation water, plant parts, and fertilizers. The deputy minister also instructed officials to publish crop types suitable for each soil and climate, educate farmers on the nutritional requirements of each crop and disseminate soil development technologies that will have short-term and long-term benefits.—MNA

3rd Day of 57th Myanma Gems Emporium continues

Gems merchants are checking jade stones.

THE third day of the 57th Myanma Gems Emporium continued yesterday at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Starting from the morning, local and foreign jewellers checked the pieces of pearl, jewel items and jade stones put on display at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall.

The jewellers inspected the 110 lots of pearl from series 221 to series 330 for sale and placed bids inside the tender boxes.

After that, the officials opened the bidding for 110 lots of pearl from series 221 to series 330 out of 330 lots of pearl.

Next, officials opened Tender No. 3 at 12 noon and announced the sale of 110 lots of pearl.

On 23 April, 220 lots of pearl were sold through open bidding to foreign and local jewellers.

On the fourth day of the exhibition, 120 lots of gems, which will be on display from 22 to 24 April, will be accepted and sold through the open bidding.

Lots of pearl are priced in US dollars during this exhibition.

Gems and jade lots are priced in Euros and foreign jewellers will make payment in US dollars, and Yuan while local jewellers will make payment in US dollars, Yuan and Kyat.

The 57th Myanma Gems Emporium is being held at Mani Yadana Jade Hall from 22 to 28 April.

From 22 to 24 April, 330 lots of pearl were sold through open bidding. A total of 120 lots of gems will be auctioned on 25 April and 2,000 lots of jade will be auctioned from 26 to 28 April. —MNA

Gems merchants are viewing large jade stone.

Bullock carts: promoting traditional Myanmar culture and rural customs

OF seven traditional carts used in rural areas in Myanmar, a bullock cart is a type of fancy cart that is beautifully decorated. There are also three types of bullock carts, which are used as a beauty pageant for weddings and ceremonies, as well as to transport monks.

In some villages, it is donated to facilitate the travel of their devoted monks. The bullock cart is a beautiful ride that can carry only five people. In old days, the novice-to-be were carried to the monastery by bullock cart. Although they were used in various forms in the Bagan, Pinya, Inwa, and Koungbaung eras, they were modified and used in harmony with the rural nature in later times.

Despite the fact that motorcycles and other vehicles with foreign technologies have become in use these days, it is gratifying to see that traditional bullock carts continue to be widely used in rural areas.

It is a matter of pride that such cultural memories of Myanmar have been preserved to this day. It is necessary to preserve the traditional Myanmar culture and rural traditions of carts and bullock carts so that they do not disappear.—Zeyar Htet (Minbu)/GNLM

Traditional bullock cart is carrying a novice-to-be.

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

Medics provide COVID-19 vaccine to a member of the Sangha on 24 April.

DOCTORS and nurses from public hospitals, Tatmadaw medical teams, healthcare workers and volunteers are working hard to give COVID-19 vaccines in different states and regions as the vaccination programme is one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease.

COVID-19 vaccine is administered daily to target groups regardless of race or religion, including Buddhist monks and nuns, local people over the age of 40, students, religious leaders, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to

A total of 122 people from Monghsat and Monghkat townships in Shan State (East), 27,583 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 24,169 people from 14 townships in Rakhine and Chin states, 96 people from Pansawng Village in Khamti Township of Sagaing Region, 15,121 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region and 912 people from DaikU and Bago townships of Bago Region, respectively.

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

CRIME NEWS

Illegal teak, foodstuff, fuel, cooking oil, vehicles seized this week

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

A combined team led by Insein Township Forest Department under supervision of Yangon Region Combined Inspection Special Task Force performed a surprise check near the airport traffic light, Yangon-Pyay Road, Yangon North District on 21 April.

During their inspection, 4.1102 tonnes of illegal teak (estimated at K1,233,060) and one Mitsubishi Canter Box truck carrying the timber (estimated at K25 million) and approximately K26,233,060 in total were seized and action is being taken in accordance with the forest law.

Similarly, the Bago Township Customs Department under the supervision of the Anti-Illegal Task Force conducted a surprise check between Nyaungkhashe and DaikU, Bago Region on 22 April.

One undocumented food (approximately K1.48 million) and one Foton View Mini Bus (estimated at K10 million) and K11.480 million in total on one passenger bus driving from Myawady to Toungoo were seized and action is being taken in accordance with the customs procedures.

Similarly, a combined inspection team led by the military and the Myanmar Police Force, under the auspices of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, conducted an inspection near Nawnglon Bridge in Kayin State.

Township Customs Department official checks illegal foods on 22 April.

An official inspects illegal fuel in Kayin State on 22 April.

Engine oil, edible oil, food and consumer goods (estimated at K58.197 million) and five vehicles carrying such items (estimated at K111 million) which are approximately at K169.197 million in total were seized in accordance with customs procedures.

In addition, a combined inspection team on duty at the Mayangchaung Permanent Checkpoint conducted inspections under the management of the Customs Department on 23 April.

Unlicensed foodstuffs, and other items were found mixed with the luggage and clothing (estimated at K6.318 million) on the express bus from Thanbyuzayet to Mandalay, were seized and action is being taken in accordance with the customs procedures.

Similarly, combined inspection teams led by Bago Region Forest Department conducted inspections under the management of the region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

During the inspection, 15.9068 tonnes of illegal teak and hardwood (estimated value of K2,562,900) were seized in Bago, Toungoo and Thayawady districts, and action is being taken in accordance with the forest law.

Therefore, a total of 21 arrests (approximately at K215,790,960) were made on four consecutive days, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee.—MNA

Illegal drugs seized in Phakant, Maungtaw

Win Soe (a) Aung Soe is arrested together with heroin in soap case on 23 April.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped the motorcycle driven by Win Soe (a) Aung Soe near Saungchein village, Lonkhin village-tract, in Phakant Township on 23 April, and seized 0.693 kg of heroin from the motorcycle.

In addition, a combined team consisting of the Rakhine State Police Force searched the house of Adul Zawlam in Maungni ward, Maungtaw, and seized 2,460 stimulant tablets from the house on 22 April.

It is reported that action is being taken against the arrested suspects under the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to the Myanmar Police Force. —GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Black gram prices rebound to K1.5 mln per tonne

THE prices of black gram (urad called in India) have regained to approximately K1.5 million per tonne, the market's data showed.

After the Central Bank of Myanmar notified on 3 April 2022 that foreign exchange deposits must be converted into local currency at its reference rate of K1,850, and India extended the import deadline on 29 March, the prices of black gram dropped to K1,385,000 per tonne on 4 April.

Nevertheless, it is just a temporary drop due to a high consumption requirement and yield of Myanmar's black grams. On 23 April, it increased again to K1,482,000 per tonne.

India, the main buyer of Myanmar's black grams, has high consumption of black grams. Furthermore, it reexports them to the external market. The annual consumption of black gram in India is estimated 2.7-2.8 million tonnes.

Merchants are checking quality of pulses and beans at wholesale centre.

India extended relaxations of conditions regarding clearance consignment for black gram (urad called in India) and pigeon peas until 31 March 2023.

Myanmar conveyed US$830.625 million worth of over 1.09 million tonnes of various beans and pulses to foreign trade partners between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022 in the mini-budget period. The country shipped $780.156 million valued over 1 million tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through sea route, and $50.469 million valued over 61,895 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through land border.

Myanmar exported US$1.57 billion worth of over 2 million tonnes of various pulses to foreign trade partners last financial year 2020-2021.

The country shipped $966.4 million valued 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through sea route, and $604.3 million valued 786,920 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through land border.

Myanmar yearly produces approximately 400,000 tonnes of black gram and about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas. Myanmar is the top producer of the black gram that is primarily demanded by India, while pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are cultivated in Australia and African countries besides Myanmar.—NN/GNLM

Chickpea prices escalating on low supply

Thriving chickpea plantations are covering vast croplands boosting production of beans.

THE prices of chickpea are surging on the back of strong domestic consumption and low supply, Mandalay traders stated.

The prevailing prices of chickpea touched a high of K134,000 per three-basket bag during the post-Thingyan period. The price is up by K3,000 per bag compared to pre-Thingyan period.

The figures tremendously rose from K80,000 per bag recorded last year, the market's data indicated.

The majority of Myanmar people prefer chickpea for its nutrients and rich taste. The number of acreages dropped amid the political changes. Consequently, the yield plummeted.

The chick peas are cultivated in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions and Nay Pyi Taw. There are 890,000 acres of chick peas across the country.

The peas are cultivated in October and November and they are harvested in January-April period.

Myanmar normally ships chickpeas to India, Pakistan, UAE, Turkey and other foreign markets.

More than 1.09 million tonnes of various pulses and beans were exported to foreign markets between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022 of the past mini-budget period, with estimated value of US$830.625 million. Of them, the chickpea exports accounted for 6,132 tonnes, generating an income of over $3.9 million, the Commerce Ministry's data indicated.—KK/GNLM

Tomato growers suffer losses in Taunggyi Township as price drastically drops

TOMATO growers from Taunggyi Township, Shan State are battered by the lowest price this year and some growers even dispose them of, said a grower from Taunggyi Township.

Growers in hill regions extend acreage as they received higher price last year, resulting in excess supply. Tomatoes are flooding the market at present and bringing down the prices, said a trader.

The tomato is priced only K100-K200 per viss (a viss equals to 1.6 kg). This being so, the growers cannot even cover the cost of agricultural input cost, he elaborated.

There is a large price gap between the wholesale and retail prices, when the transportation cost is added amid the hike price of fuel oil, said a market observer.

The input cost doubled this year owing to high fertilizer price and hike in fuel oil prices. Big slump in prices causes a huge loss to the growers in 2022.

During December last year, low supply drove the price up. The tomato fetched up to K2,400-K2,500 per viss.—KK/GNLM

Fresh tomatoes are kept in baskets at the domestic market.

Efficiently utilize the strengths of youths for the State

Youths possess the future life. Depending on their studies, observation, initiatives and good hardworking, their senior citizen lifespans will have glittering.

Experts are quoted as saying that adults are responsible for improving the new generation of youths.

As such, adults, especially senior citizens, give advice that youths have to learn and study various science and arts subjects by efficiently utilizing their current spare time. If so, those who follow the advice of senior citizens are sure to secure the victory and would become good and able persons.

> That is why all youths need to efficiently use the time with diligence, perseverance, and endeavours to accumulate sector-wise knowledge such as education and economy to serve the interests of the State and the people in the future.

Those wishing to become good and able persons must have the skills to emulate the advantages and disadvantages, weak and strong points of others, and take lessons from the past events. They must be keen to have success in life. They have adequate capacity to overcome challenges along with their lives without giving up on all issues.

It is because a successful life does not easily emerge. It is human nature that everybody would face unavoidable difficulties in life. If they avoid such difficulties, their levels of solving life's difficulties will not arise. Moreover, they will have the character to easily give up on any issue without pouring out utmost effort.

The youths need to understand that everybody must be ready to encounter the eight ways of the mundane world. In addition, they should not be happy over the victories for a long time. In fact, the lifespan of all is a period from birth to death to pass the goodness and badness in all measures. Those capable of efficiently utilizing the current time will have prosperity in the future.

The daily routine of a person is similar to that of a country. The development of a nation depends on the endeavours of educated youths. Those educated persons can manage the country's issues to have greater development. A country with fewer educated persons will face a delay in the development sector. Consequently, all the people will pack back the poverty with a low living standard.

The youths in current situations are sure to shoulder the State's responsibilities in the future. Hence, those youths must be capable of managing the improvement of various sectors. That is why all youths need to efficiently use the time with diligence, perseverance, and endeavours to accumulate sector-wise knowledge such as education and economy to serve the interests of the State and the people in the future.

■ ■ ■

IIT Madras-designed trial shows efficacy of Indomethacin drug in treating mild, moderate COVID-19 patients

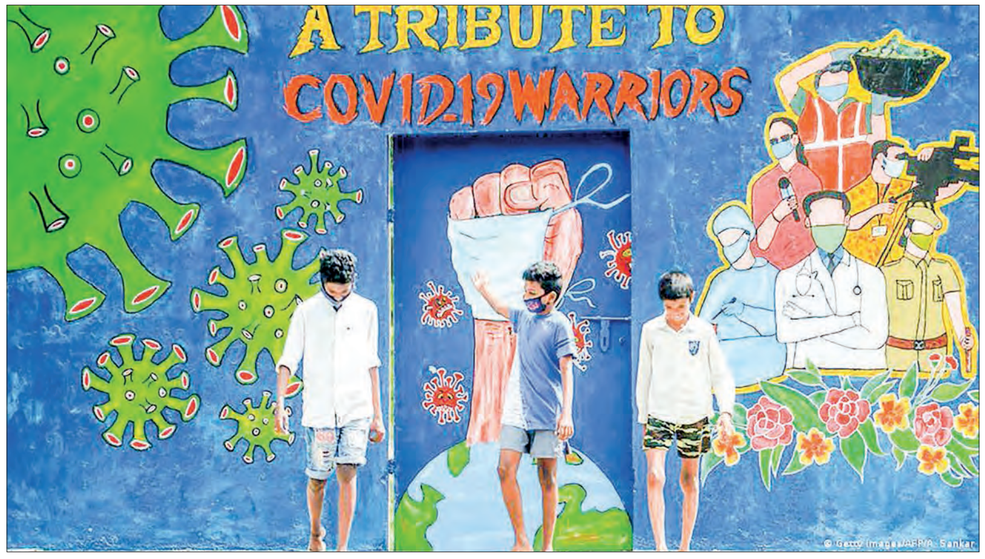
Indian researchers are the first to show the efficacy of indomethacin through a randomized clinical trial though the scientific basis has been researched by Italian and US scientists.

The trials designed by the researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have shown the excellent efficacy of Indomethacin, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug as an antiviral agent in the treatment of mild and moderate COVID-19 patients.

The findings of this study have recently been published in the prestigious peer-reviewed journal Nature Scientific Reports.

The study conducted at Panimalar Medical College and Research Institute was led by Dr Rajan Ravichandran, an Adjunct Faculty at IIT Madras and Director of Nephrology at MIOT hospitals.

The study was conceptualized and coordinated by Professor R Krishna Kumar, Institute professor, IIT Madras.



Deaths in Chennai peaked at levels 4.75 times higher during the brutal second wave of India's Covid-19 outbreak. A Covid-19 mural in Chennai, Tamil Nadu on 16 December 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

An established drug widely used

"Indomethacin, with more than 20 lakh prescriptions per year in the US alone, is an established drug widely used since the 1960s to treat various types of inflammation-related" IIT Madras said in a statement.

IIT Madras further said in a statement that the Indian researchers are the first to show the efficacy of indomethacin through a randomized clinical trial though the scientific basis has been researched by Italian and US scientists.

The entire study was funded by Kris Gopalakrishnan, an alumnus of IIT Madras and Chairman of Axilor Ventures.

"Knowing that one of the deadly effects of the COVID infection is inflammation and the cytokine storm, we decided to study the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, Indomethacin. The scientific evidence strongly shows the anti-viral action against Coronavirus. Indomethacin is a safe and well-understood drug. I have been using it in my profession for the past 30 years," said Dr Rajan Ravichandran.

Highlighting the Research findings, Professor R Krishna Kumar, Institute professor, IIT Madras, said, "Out of a total of 210 admitted patients 107 were randomly allocated to a control group, treated with paracetamol and standard care of treatment.

103 patients were administered indomethacin along with standard care of treatment. The patients were monitored every day for symptoms such as cough, cold, fever and muscle pain along with oxygen saturation."

Desaturated with oxygen saturation levels

"None of the 103 patients who received indomethacin developed oxygen desaturation. On the other hand, 20 of the 109 patients from the control group were desaturated with oxygen saturation levels below 93 per cent. Indomethacin group patients recovered from all symptoms in three to four days. It took double the time for the control group. Liver and kidney function tests showed no adverse reaction," he added

R Krishna Kumar further said that the fourteenth-day follow-up showed that nearly half of the control group patients had several discomforts while a few indomethacin patients complained only of tiredness.

"Indomethacin works with all variants. We had done two trials, one in the first wave and the other in the second wave. The results were the same. I sincerely hope ICMR takes note of this study and includes indomethacin in COVID treatment protocol," Dr Rajan Ravichandran added.

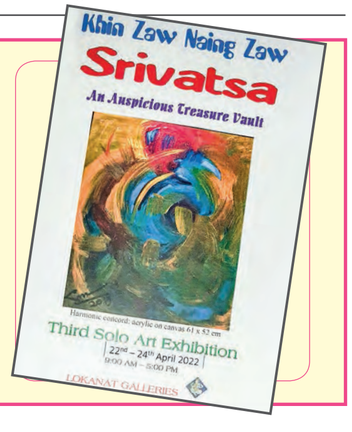
SOURCE: ANI

■

Artist Khin Zaw stages third solo art exhibition titled "Srivatsa"

ARTIST Khin Zaw (author-cum-poet Naing Zaw)'s third solo art exhibition titled "Srivatsa" took place at Lokanat Galleries at the corner of Merchant Street and Pansodan in Yangon for three days from 22 to 24 April.

The exhibition was scheduled to be shown about two years ago, but it delayed for some reasons. The exhibition featured 48 paintings, the majority of which were acrylic works created in 2019, as well as some of this year's paintings. Artist Khin Zaw (author-cum-poet Naing Zaw) quoted "As perceptive creatures we all have amazing backgrounds", "The soil suitable enough to plant", and "We can sow whatsoever in it" in his catalog. People from all walks of fine arts came to visit Khin Zaw (author-cun-poet Naing Zaw)'s art exhibition.—GNLM



Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr. Abdelhamid BOUBAZINE as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, with residence in Hanoi.

Mr. Abdelhamid BOUBAZINE was born on 30 June 1955. He graduated from National School of Administration in 1979. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria in 1979 and he served his national duty in 1980. In 1982, he served as Head of Strategic Affairs and Disarmament Desk in Department of International Political Affairs. In 1984, he served as First Secretary at the Embassy of Algeria in Vienna, Austria and in 1988, he was assigned as Counsellor at the Embassy of Algeria in Maputo, Mozambique. He was appointed as Head of South-South Cooperation Desk in 1990, as Head of Defense and Security Affairs Desk at the Prospective Department in 1991, and as Deputy Director for economic studies at the Prospective Department in 1992 at the Ministry respectively. He was an Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chief of Cabinet a.i in 1993 and Assistant of the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1994. In 1996, he was appointed as Ambassador of Algeria to Mozambique accredited also to Swaziland and Malawi. In 2002, he served as Director of the African Center for the Study and Research on Terrorism. In 2006, he was an Ambassador-at-large and in 2008, he was appointed as Algerian Ambassador to Denmark. In 2015, he served as Inspector and in 2019, he served as Ambassador Counsellor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since December 2021, he has been serving as Algerian Ambassador to Vietnam.

He is married with three children.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated: 25 April 2022

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 24 April 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 25 April 2022: Weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing Region and Chin and Kayin states. Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in (Southern and Eastern) Shan State, scattered in Kachin and Northern Shan 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: Slight increase of day temperatures in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, and Yangon, Ayeyawady regions and Shan, Chin and Rakhine states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 April 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25 April 2022: Partly cloudy.

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Scientists to scour African waters to gauge ocean pollution

The Tara research vessel left its homeport of Lorient in France in December 2020 to embark on a 70,000-kilometre journey. Since then it has traversed the coasts of Chile, Brazil and Argentina, as well as the Weddell Sea in Antarctica. **PHOTO: AFP**

SCIENTISTS on Saturday began a five-month mission to study how plastic pollution in Africa's main rivers and climate change stresses are impacting microorganisms in the Atlantic ocean, they announced.

The survey is being staged from the 33-year-old Tara research schooner which arrived in South Africa's Cape Town on Friday ahead of the expedition up the West African coast.

The researchers will analyse how nutrients and pollution in major African rivers — the Congo, Orange, Gambia and Senegal — are affecting the Atlantic.

They will trace the sources of plastic pollution at river mouths, to understand their distribution and the types of material involved.

The research station will also cast nets that can go up to 1,000 metres below the ocean's surface, to collect samples from ecosystems called "microbiomes", to be analysed in labs on land. The data gathered will help answer key questions about the world's oceans.

The researchers will also study the Benguela Current, which moves up from South Africa to the Namibian and Angolan coasts.

It pulls up cold water from the ocean depths in a process known as upwelling, bringing nutrients to the surface.

"You get more nutrients here than anywhere else in the world," Emma Rocke, a 42-year-old research fellow at the University of Cape Town, who is working on the vessel, told AFP. "Understanding that, and characterising it at a microbiome level is something that hasn't been done really ever, and more importantly, it's not incorporated in climate change models". — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Car-free streets, performances, other activities mark New Yorkers' Earth Day

AS the city celebrates the Earth Day which falls on Friday, New Yorkers are seeing car-free streets, pop-up performances and many other in-person activities.

New York City will have over 80 streets reserved solely for pedestrians and cyclists across its five boroughs, and Citi Bike, a public bicycle sharing system in the city, will offer free one-day passes for new riders on the Car-Free Earth Day on Saturday, said a recent release by the city's transportation department.

"We can't drive our way out of the climate crisis, and Car-Free Earth Day will not only help get cars off the road, but exemplify how prioritizing pedestrians can benefit our communities," said Julie Tighe, president of the New York League of Conservation Voters.

As many as 150 partner organizations and local agencies will provide community-based performances, activities for all ages and programming promoting education surrounding climate change, sustainability and other topics, said the release. — Xinhua

Chinese satellite ground stations receive atmospheric data

THE China Remote Sensing Satellite Ground Station has successfully tracked and received the downlink data from a Chinese atmospheric environment monitoring satellite, according to the Aerospace Information Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The data was received by the branch stations in Beijing and Hainan in three parts on Thursday, with a total size of 133 GB. All data was processed normally, said the institute.

The atmospheric environment monitoring satellite was launched on 16 April. It can comprehensively monitor atmospheric fine particles, polluting emissions, greenhouse gases, clouds and aerosols, land surface, water and other environmental elements, achieving continuous, dynamic performance.

The satellite will further enhance China's remote sensing application capacity in the comprehensive monitoring of global climate change, crop yields and agricultural disasters. — Xinhua

Boat carrying diesel fuel sinks off Ecuador's sensitive Galapagos Islands

Galapagos National Park said the boat was used for scuba diving excursions. **PHOTO: AFP**

A scuba diving boat sank Saturday in one of Ecuador's ecologically sensitive Galapagos Islands, but the damage was minor and no one was hurt, officials said.

The environment ministry said the boat contained about 47 barrels of diesel fuel, leaving a "superficial" rind.

The sinking was first reported by state-run oil company Petrocuador, which did not specify how much fuel would have spilled.

The Galapagos National Park confirmed the sinking of the ship, the Albatross, and said it was used for scuba diving excursions in the waters of the islands, which are a protected natural heritage site.

The company said container booms have been installed around the area of the accident in an effort to control the leak.

Four crew members on board the ship are safe.

The national park suspended tourism activities around the city of Puerto Ayora, where its headquarters are located. — AFP

Biden to order protection of ancient US forests

PRESIDENT Joe Biden was marking Earth Day on Friday by ordering protections for the United States' ancient forests, seen as a crucial weapon in the fight against climate change, during a trip to Seattle.

The Democrat has campaigned heavily for environmental protections and US leadership in the response to global warming, but has regularly run up against lack of support in Congress.

His executive order, signed in the heavily wooded and often spectacularly wild Washington state, will recognize the importance of America's old-growth forests in regulating climate change — but also their vulnerability in an era of ever more intense wildfires.

In the order, Biden requires officials overseeing federal lands to inventory mature forests within a year and to identify threats to the trees.

"America's forests are a key climate solution, absorbing carbon dioxide equivalent to more than 10 per cent of US annual greenhouse gas emissions," the White House said in a statement. — AFP

PANDEMIC WORLD

New Zealand reports the 1st Omicron XE variant

NEW Zealand reported its first case of Omicron XE variant at the border, said the Ministry of Health in a statement on Saturday.

A person who has travelled from overseas to New Zealand has been confirmed as having the XE variant of Omicron, said the ministry.

This is the first known detection of the Omicron XE variant in New Zealand, it said.

According to the ministry, the person, who is currently isolating at home, arrived in New Zealand on 19 April and was tested on 20 April. The whole-genome sequencing subsequently confirmed the XE variant.

"XE has been spreading overseas, and its arrival in New Zealand is not unexpected," said the ministry.

Meanwhile, the country reported 19 deaths from COVID-19, with 7,930 community cases and 494 hospitalizations on Saturday.

In addition, 55 new cases of COVID-19 were detected at the New Zealand border, said the ministry.

New Zealand has reported 875,794 confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic.

As the country is going through Anzac long weekend, the ministry has warned people to take health measures to protect themselves from the virus. "Firstly, be up to date with vaccinations. Secondly, wear a mask. And thirdly, stay home and avoid others if you're unwell," said the ministry.

New Zealand is currently under the orange settings of the COVID-19 Protection Framework, where there is no limit for gatherings. — Xinhua

People arrive at Auckland Airport on 28 February 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

COVID-19 pneumonia increases dementia risk: study

University of Missouri Health Care COVID-19 progressive care unit. **PHOTO: JUSTIN KELLEY/MU HEALTH CARE/UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI/XINHUA**

PATIENTS hospitalized with COVID-19 pneumonia have a higher risk of developing dementia than those with other types of pneumonia, according to a new study from the University of Missouri.

A team of researchers at the University of Missouri School of Medicine pulled data from 1.4 billion medical encounters prior to 31 July 2021. They selected patients hospitalized with pneumonia for more than 24 hours.

Among 10,403 patients with COVID-19 pneumonia, 312 developed new onset dementia after recovering, compared to 263 of the 10,403 patients with other types of pneumonia diagnosed with dementia, according to the study.

"The risk of new onset dementia was more common in COVID-19 pneumonia patients over the age of 70 in our study," said lead researcher Adnan Qureshi, a professor of clinical neurology at the University of Missouri School of Medicine.

"The type of dementia seen in survivors of COVID-19 infection mainly affects memory, ability to perform everyday tasks and self-regulation. Language and awareness of time and location remained relatively preserved," he said. — Xinhua

EU to extend digital COVID-19 certificates: European Commission

THE European Union is not planning to abandon the digital coronavirus certificate just yet, although most countries have lifted sanitary restrictions related to COVID-19, a European Commission spokesperson said on Wednesday.

"It (validity period of certificate) would normally come to an end at the end of June, we have proposed to prolong it one more time simply because we do not know how the epidemiological situation will develop over the next months, in particular in autumn," Wigand told a briefing, adding that it is important to be prepared and have this useful tool ready, especially given the possibility of new variants of COVID-19 emerging.

The certificate has greatly facilitated safe travel within the EU and supported the tourism sector, Wigand added. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

COVID-19 infection may accelerate aging: study

AN international team led by Chinese scientists identified in a recent study a new risk of COVID-19: it ages you beyond your years.

Researchers from the Sixth Affiliated Hospital under Sun Yat-sen University in southern Chinese city of Guangzhou and their collaborators from Spain found that chronological age is a risk factor for SARS-CoV-2 infection and severe COVID-19.

They analyzed the DNA methylation (DNAm) of the blood samples from 232 healthy individuals and 413 COVID-19 patients, according to the study published this week in the journal Nature Communications.

DNAm is a biological process by which methyl groups are added to the DNA molecule to change the activity of a DNA segment without changing its sequence. Each individual has a DNAm age and there are strong correlations between the DNAm age and an individual's chronological age, according to the study.

The researchers noted an acceleration in DNAm aging and the fraying of the telomere, an end part of the chromosome considered closely correlated to people's longevity, in infected individuals. — Xinhua

Shanghai to launch new campaigns against COVID-19

SHANGHAI will start a series of campaigns on Friday to cut off all COVID-19 transmission chains in communities as soon as possible, local authorities said.

Tiered community control measures will be carried out to minimize the movements and gatherings of people, according to the arrangements of the municipal committee of the Communist Party of China and the local government.

Shanghai will also adopt different policies for COVID-19 testing and screening in different areas.

Shanghai has divided the whole city into areas belonging to three categories as part of its targeted efforts to overcome the recent resurgence, which are closed-off management areas, restrictive control areas, and prevention areas.

Other campaigns include carrying out epidemiological investigations, traditional Chinese medicine intervention, as well as cleaning and disinfection. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

Indonesia to ban exports of cooking oil to reduce shortages

INDONESIA will ban exports of palm oil starting next week, its president said Friday, as the world's biggest producer faces a shortage of cooking oil made from the product.

The Southeast Asian archipelago has been running low on palm-based cooking oil since November as producers turn to exports to cash in on an increase in prices around the world.

Authorities now fear the scarcity and soaring prices could provoke social tensions and have moved to secure supplies.

"The government will prohibit the export of raw materials for cooking oil and cooking oil itself... until a deadline to be determined later," President Joko Widodo said in a statement.

"I will continue to monitor and evaluate the implementation of this policy so that cooking oil in the country is abundant at affordable prices," he added.

Officials introduced limited curbs on palm oil exports in January, capped prices, and announced cash subsidies for some Indonesians to compensate for rising food prices.

A green truck carries a load of harvested palm fruit to a palm oil processing plant, Kalimantan-Indonesia. **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/ AFP**

But the commodity continued to become harder to find at markets and grocery stores, with long queues appearing at many locations.

This week the Attorney General's Office accused an official in the trade ministry of corruption for issuing export permits to palm oil producers when they had not met domestic market obligations.

The office also arrested several high-ranking officials at three of Indonesia's big palm oil companies, including Wilmar Nabati Indonesia, a subsidiary of Singapore-based giant Wilmar International. — AFP

EU agrees on landmark law aimed at forcing Big Tech firms to tackle illegal content

An illustration picture shows the logos of Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon and Microsoft displayed on a mobile phone and a laptop screen. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE European Union early Saturday finalised new legislation to require Big Tech to remove harmful content, the bloc's latest move to rein in the world's online giants.

The Digital Services Act (DSA) — the second part of a massive project to regulate tech companies — aims to ensure tougher consequences for platforms and websites that host a long list of banned content ranging from hate speech to disinformation and child sexual abuse images.

EU officials and parliamentarians finally reached agreement at talks in Brussels early Saturday on the legislation, which has been in the works since 2020.

"Yes, we have a deal!," European Commissioner for the Internal Market Thierry Breton tweeted.

"With the DSA, the time of big online platforms behaving like they are 'too big to care' is coming to an end. A major milestone for EU citizens," said Breton, who has previously described the internet as the "Wild West". "Today's agreement on DSA is historic," European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen tweeted.

"Our new rules will protect users online, ensure freedom of expression and opportunities for businesses. What is illegal offline will effectively be illegal online in the EU." — AFP

NEWS IN Brief

Uruguay, Turkey agree to start talks on trade deal

THE foreign ministers of Uruguay and Turkey agreed here on Saturday to begin negotiations toward a bilateral free trade agreement.

Uruguayan Foreign Minister Francisco Bustillo and his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu "agreed on the need to strengthen bilateral trade ties through agreements that generate better market access conditions for exports" for both countries, Uruguay's foreign affairs ministry said in a statement.

THE ministry added the top two diplomats "proceeded to sign the terms of reference to start the negotiation process leading to a bilateral Free Trade Agreement."

Cavusoglu's visit aims to strengthen bilateral relations and is part of "the signing of bilateral agreements, reciprocal visits by high-ranking authorities from both countries, (and) the opening of resident embassies," the statement said. — Xinhua

China-US economic, trade relations win-win in nature: Chinese ambassador to US

CHINA-US economic and trade relations are win-win in nature, and to restore normal trade ties between the two countries as soon as possible is the shared aspiration of both sides, said Chinese Ambassador to the United States Qin Gang on Thursday.

Qin made the comment at the 2022 China-US High-level Agricultural Dialogue held in Des Moines, capital of US state of Iowa.

He is visiting the US Midwest states of Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota, and Des Moines is his second leg in Iowa. — Xinhua

China's shipbuilding sector continues to lead in world market

CHINA remained the world's leading shipbuilder in the first quarter of the year, taking up nearly half of the international market share in terms of output and new and holding orders, data from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology showed.

The country's shipbuilding output hit 9.61 million deadweight tonnes (dwt) in the period, accounting for 46.2 per cent of the world's total, up 2.8 percentage points year on year, according to the ministry.

New orders, another major indicator of the shipbuilding industry, stood at 9.93 million dwt, with a global market share up 1.2 percentage points year on year to 48.6 per cent. — Xinhua

Yihangjin Pile, the world's first 140-meter piling vessel built by Shanghai Zhenhua Heavy Industry, is delivered at a port in Qidong, Jiangsu province, in January. **PHOTO: XU CONGJUN/FOR CHINA DAILY/XINHUA**

US highlights need for stable exchange rates in talks with Japan

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and her Japanese counterpart Shunichi Suzuki have affirmed the importance of stable foreign exchange rates amid the yen's recent rapid decline against the U.S. dollar, the Treasury Department said Friday.

The announcement was apparently meant to showcase that the United States and Japan are aligned on the issue, which has become a major concern for Tokyo on the back of the diverging monetary policies of the US and Japanese central banks.

In their meeting a day earlier in Washington, Yellen and Suzuki "underscored the importance of maintaining previous G-7 and G-20 commitments on exchange rates," the department said in a press release, referring to the Group of Seven and the Group of 20 major economies.

The G-7 — Britain, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Japan and the United States, plus the European Union — has taken a position that foreign exchange rates should be determined by the market, but that excessive volatility can have adverse impacts on the economy.

The G-20, which includes all of the G-7 members, has also recognized the negative implications of excess volatility and disorderly movements in exchange rates.

A weak yen has been seen as a boon to Japanese exporters as it boosts their overseas profits when the money is repatriated. When combined with soaring crude oil and other commodity prices, however, it becomes a headache for the resource-scarce country as it pushes up import costs and could dampen consumer spending.

In 1998, US authorities joined Japan in efforts to stem the yen's depreciation at the time through a yen-buying, dollar-selling market intervention.

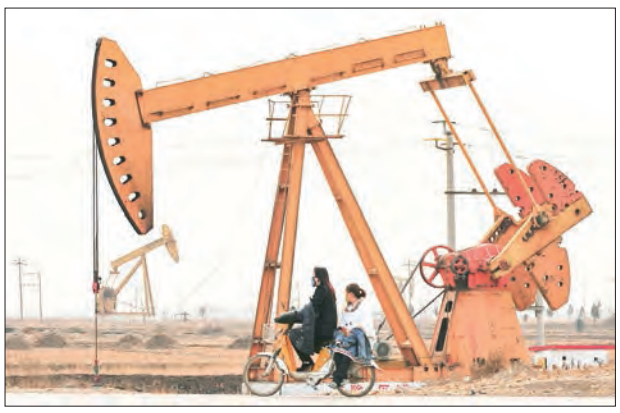
But experts are doubtful that the United States will support moves to weaken the dollar at present, when the country is struggling with inflation surging to a four-decade high on the back of coronavirus pandemic-linked supply chain issues and Russia's war in Ukraine.

A financial data screen in Tokyo shows the US dollar rising above the 128 yen line on 19 April 2022, a level unseen since May 2002 amid the continued weakness in the Japanese currency. **PHOTO: KYODO**

US backing would be essential even for a solo intervention by Japan, as dollar-selling could affect the US economy, according to experts.

Asked whether he discussed the possibility of a market intervention with Yellen, Suzuki told reporters on Thursday that he will not comment on the issue. — Kyodo

Oil prices down 5pc over the week as COVID-19 concerns emerge in China again


Oil prices settled down on Friday, falling 5% over the week, as potentially lower Chinese energy consumption from the lockdown of its Shanghai financial hub overshadowed supply tightness from Russian sanctions that kept the market up for weeks. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP**

OIL prices settled down on Friday, falling 5% over the week, as potentially lower Chinese energy consumption from the lockdown of its Shanghai financial hub overshadowed supply tightness from Russian sanctions that kept the market up for weeks.

London-traded global crude benchmark Brent settled Friday's trade down $1.68, or 1.6%, at $106.65 per barrel.

For the week, Brent showed a 4.5% loss that came after a near 9% gain last week and the 13% drop in two prior weeks. If the declines keep up, April will be this year's first month in the negative for Brent.

New York-traded US crude benchmark West Texas Intermediate, or WTI, settled Friday's trade down $1.72, or 1.7%, at $102.07 a barrel. Like Brent, WTI showed a drop of 4.5% for the week, and similar volatility to the global benchmark in three previous weeks.

Crude prices fell as concerns about the multi-week lockdown of Shanghai over a new COVID-19 cases and deaths weighed on the sentiment in oil, even as the Europe-Russia face-off over Ukraine suggested that the market had no little option but to go higher.

"The risks are certainly more tilted to the upside, given the war in Ukraine and a potential embargo on Russian exports, but lockdowns in China and the risk of a Fed-driven economic slowdown are also significant," Craig Erlam, head of research for Europe at online trading platform OANDA, said. — ANI

China's natural gas output up 6.6 pct in first quarter

CHINA saw a steady increase in its natural gas output in the first quarter of the year, official data showed.

The country's natural gas output totaled 56.9 billion cubic meters during the first three months, up 6.6 per cent from a year ago, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

In March alone, China reported 19.7 billion cubic meters of natural gas production, up 6.3 per cent year on year.

During the first quarter, China imported a total of 27.82 million tonnes of natural gas, down 5.1 per cent year on year, the bureau said. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22008N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22008N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-4-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** 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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S X-PRESS FEEDERS LINES

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Over 50% in Japan feel public safety worsened in last 10 yrs: survey

Police investigators in charge of cybercrimes take part in a contest on data processing and security skills in August 2017 in Yokohama, near Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

MORE than 50 per cent of respondents to a government survey said they feel public safety in Japan has worsened over the past 10 years, with many raising concerns about online fraud and cybercrimes, according to the results released in March.

While 85.1 per cent of respondents said they felt Japan was a safe and peaceful place to live, 10.1 per cent said they believed public security had "worsened" over the last decade and 44.5 per cent believed it had "somewhat worsened," the Cabinet Office survey showed.

Asked in a multiple-answer question about places where respondents think they or those close to them could fall victim to crimes, "online spaces" topped the list at 53.9 per cent, followed by "on the streets" at 50.7 per cent and "downtown areas" at 47.9 per cent.

In a different question on which crimes respondents especially want police to crack down on, 41.3 per cent referred to cybercrimes such as unauthorized online access and phishing scams.

The mail survey conducted between December 2021 and January 2022 targeted those aged 18 or older with Japanese nationality. It drew responses from 1,790 people.

Amid the spread of COVID-19 and increasing digitalization of services, 52.6 per cent of respondents pointed to "fraud and business scams" in a multiple-choice question on the types of crime they were most wary of, followed by "cybercrimes including phishing scams and unauthorized online access" at 52.3 per cent.

According to Gallup, Japan ranked eighth in a 2020 poll that surveyed people's sense of security and confidence in local law enforcement among 115 countries and regions.

The placement tied Japan with countries such as Canada, South Korea and Indonesia. Norway topped the ranking, while China and Taiwan came in second and fourth, respectively. — Kyodo

Egyptian museum housing royal mummies attracts nearly 1 mln visitors since debut

NEARLY one million people have visited the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC) since it was opened to the public a year ago, according to the museum's managing executive director Ahmed Ghoneim.

About 40 per cent of the 970,000 visitors were from foreign countries, Ghoneim told Xinhua in an interview on Friday.

The museum, which is located in downtown Cairo, houses a main hall, a royal mummies hall, and a textile hall. The construction of the museum was completed in 2017 and the museum was opened to the public on 22 April 2021.

To celebrate the long-awaited opening of the museum, Egypt held a grand parade of 22 ancient Egyptian royal mummies, transporting them from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo's Tahrir Square to the NMEC.

People visit the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Cairo, Egypt, on 19 April 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/AHMED GOMAA**

Tourism is one of Egypt's primary sources of revenue, but it has suffered greatly since the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020 and the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Russian and Ukrainian tourists accounted for 45 per cent of all foreign visitors to Egypt in November 2021, Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Khaled al-Anany revealed on Thursday. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

New high-speed railway line operational in central China

A new high-speed railway section in central China's Hubei Province began operation Friday.

The Huanggang-Huangmei high-speed railway, with five stations along its route, has a designed speed of 350 km per hour and is connected to China's artery of the Beijing-Hong Kong Railway.

The 126.85-km line involves 78 bridges and 15 tunnels, with a combined length of 101 km. A maximum of 12 pairs of trains will ply the railway per day depending on the number of passengers, according to China Railway Wuhan Group Co., Ltd.

The line is important for improving the railway network along the Yangtze River Economic Belt and promoting the revitalization and development of the old revolutionary base areas in the Dabie Mountains. Construction of the line started in December 2018. — Xinhua

Ten missing after second accident at Polish coal mine in days

TEN miners were missing on Saturday after a second coal mine accident in just days in Poland, which is heavily dependent on the fossil fuel.

"Rescuers are without contact with 10 people," at the mine in Zofiowka, the JSW company said in a statement.

A tremor shook the mine at 3:40 am, sparking a methane leak, the company said.

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki called news of the accident was "devastating".

Forty-two of the 52 miners underground when the tremor struck managed to make it to the surface, the company said. — AFP

Sunken oil tanker off Tunisian coast was empty: ministry

TUNISIAN environmental authorities said Friday that the Equatorial Guinea-flagged fuel ship sunk last week off the Tunisian coast was not carrying fuel.

"The ministry is now certain that this sunken ship does not present any environmental risk," the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development said in a statement.

"Any risk of pollution, in the light of preliminary information indicating that the ship was carrying 750 tonnes of fuel, has now been ruled out," it said. — Xinhua

Over 100 people were killed in an oil refinery explosion in Nigeria

SEVERAL people were feared burnt to death overnight following an explosion at an illegal oil refinery in southern Nigeria, an NGO said Saturday.

Police confirmed the explosion, saying it had happened late on Friday, but did not give details of casualties.

"Several bodies burnt beyond recognition lay on the ground while others who may have attempted running for safety are seen hanging on some tree branches," said Fyneface Dumnamene, Executive Director of Youths and Environmental Advocacy Centre (YEAC).

Local media reports said over 100 people had been killed in the blast, the latest in Nigeria, Africa's biggest producer of crude.

Police said there had been an explosion at the site of an illegal refinery late Friday where operators and their patrons had gathered for business.

"The incident happened on the boundary between Rivers and Imo state," Rivers state police spokeswoman Grace Iringe-Koko told AFP, without giving details. — AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Delegation sent by next S Korean leader in Japan for policy talks

A delegation sent by South Korean President-elect Yoon Suk Yeol arrived in Japan on Sunday for talks with Japanese officials ahead of his inauguration next month, amid expectations he will work to improve bilateral ties that have soured over wartime issues.

During the delegation's five-day visit through Thursday, its members are expected to convey to Japanese political and business leaders, including Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, that the incoming leader will put an emphasis on Seoul-Tokyo ties.

"We are going to take the first step toward reviving South Korea-Japan relations that have been left in their worst condition," Chung Jin Suk, the delegation head and deputy speaker of the National Assembly, said in a Facebook post on 17 April.

Chung also sought to temper expectations, saying it would be "difficult to quickly turn around South Korea-Japan ties just because a new administration is launched." He cited the thorny issue of compensation orders against Japanese companies in South Korean courts for wartime labour rendered by Koreans under Japanese rule. But as Northeast Asia faces North Korea's nuclear issues and a rapidly changing international environment, the South Korean lawmaker said ramping up "strategic cooperation" between South Korea and Japan will contribute to the peace and prosperity of the region. — Kyodo

Chung Jin Suk (C), deputy speaker of South Korea's National Assembly and the head of a delegation sent by South Korean President-elect Yoon Suk Yeol to Japan, speaks to reporters at the Incheon International Airport on 24 April 2022, before boarding a flight. **PHOTO: KYODO**

WAR IN UKRAINE : ROLLING UPDATES

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

UN chief criticised

ZELENSKY criticises a decision by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to visit Moscow on Tuesday, instead of travelling first to Kyiv.

Fighting in the east

AUTHORITIES in two eastern Ukrainian regions report "fierce" fighting with Russian forces as hope fades for a truce over Orthodox Easter weekend.

THE governor of the eastern Kharkiv region, Oleg Sinegubov, says Kyiv retook three villages near the Russian border after "fierce battles" in which two people had been killed.

Kyiv to quit talks if its soldiers killed in Mariupol: Zelensky

KYIV will pull out of talks with Moscow if Ukrainian soldiers holed up at a vast steel works in Mariupol are killed by Russian troops, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Saturday.

"IF our men are killed in Mariupol and if these pseudo-referendums are organised in the (southern) region of Kherson, then Ukraine will withdraw from any negotiation process," Zelensky told a news conference in Kyiv.

Two month has passed since Russia launched its "special military operation" on 24 February, turning Ukraine into a war zone. A Ukrainian serviceman walks past destroyed tanks not far from the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv on 3 April 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Source : AFP

Guterres to visit Ankara Monday before trips to Moscow and Kyiv

The Belgorod region has reported 12 incidents, including shelling, oil terminal explosions and military vehicle accidents, since the 24 February invasion of Ukraine. **PHOTO: .ANTON VERGUN/TASS**

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Monday will visit Turkey, an important mediator seeking an end to Russia's war against Ukraine, before heading to Moscow and Kyiv, the UN said in a statement.

Guterres will then head to Moscow on Tuesday to meet with Russian President Vladmir Putin, followed by a trip Thursday to Kyiv in an effort to mediate an end to Russia's invasion.

Turkey has been trying to negotiate an end to the conflict, hosting meetings between Russian and Ukrainian negotiators in Istanbul, as well as a summit between the two countries' foreign ministers in Antalya.

Ankara is now trying to arrange an Istanbul summit between Putin and Zelensky, although Turkish officials concede that the prospects of such talks currently remain dim. — AFP

Russia aims at full control of Donbass, southern Ukraine: general

ONE of the tasks of the Russian Armed Forces during the ongoing second stage of the special military operation is to "establish full control over Donbass and southern Ukraine," Deputy Commander of Russia's Central Military District Rustam Minnekaev said Friday. The control of Donbass will make it possible for Russia to create a land corridor to Crimea and influence Ukraine's vital facilities, including Black Sea ports where agricultural and metallurgical products are delivered to other countries, Minnekaev said at a defence industries meeting. — Xinhua

Turkey closes airspace to Russian planes flying to Syria: minister

TURKEY has closed its airspace to Russian civilian and military planes flying to Syria, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu was quoted as saying Saturday by local media.

"We closed the airspace to Russia's military planes — and even civilian ones — flying to Syria. They had until April, and we asked in March," Turkish media quoted Cavusoglu as saying. — AFP

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Delegation sent by next S Korean leader in Japan for policy talks

PAGE-15

Chelsea bidders set to discover their fate

Premier League Chelsea are up for sale. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE**

CHELSEA fans could have a clear idea of who will be the next owners of the Blues this week, with American bank Raine expected to reveal their preferred bidder from among three offers.

Raine were commissioned to lead the sale process by Roman Abramovich before the Russian was hit by UK government sanctions last month over his connections to Vladimir Putin.

The European champions have since been operating under a special licence that limits their ability to sell tickets, merchandise and operate in the transfer market. Chelsea won 19 major trophies during Abramovich's 19-year reign and could add another when they face Liverpool in next month's FA Cup final.

However, the impact of the sanctions is beginning to show, with rows of empty seats in the home end for Arsenal's 4-2 win at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday.

The club also cannot offer new contracts -- defenders Antonio Rudiger and Andreas Christensen are likely to leave at the end of the season on free transfers.—AFP

Schauffele, Cantlay power towards Zurich Classic crown

XANDER Schauffele and Patrick Cantlay produced another dazzling low-scoring round to take a commanding five-shot lead at the PGA Tour's Zurich Classic of New Orleans team event on Saturday.

Schauffele and Cantlay — who lit up the tournament with a 13-under-par 59 in the opening round — carded a 12-under-par 60 to surge clear of the field in Saturday's third round four-balls.

The duo combined for 10 birdies and an eagle to finish the day on 29 under for the tournament, five clear of South African duo Garrick Higgo and Branden Grace, who combined for a third round 63. Schauffele and Cantlay's round erupted over the back nine, when the duo made eight birdies, with the only blemish a par on par-three 14th hole. — 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.

Real Betis beat Valencia on penalties to win Copa del Rey

REAL Betis won the Spanish Copa del Rey on Saturday, beating Valencia 5-4 on penalties in Seville after a thrilling final finished 1-1 after extra time.

Valencia's Yunus Musah blazed over in the shoot-out, allowing Juan Miranda the chance to score the winning penalty at La Cartuja as Betis claimed the fourth major trophy in the club's 115-year history.

Borja Iglesias had headed Betis in front but Hugo Duro equalised for Valencia before half-time and neither side could find a winner, either in the second period or extra time.

But Musah's error and Miranda's cool head gave Betis the cup for a third time, in their home city, following the club's two previous triumphs in 1977 and 2005.—AFP

Myanmar women's futsal team loses three consecutive matches in Thailand

THE Myanmar women's futsal team lost 2-3 to Indonesia in the third match of the NSDF Women's Futsal Championship 2022 in Thailand.

In the first half of the match, the Indonesian women's team took a 2-1 lead and Khin Pyae Lin scored the first goal for the Myanmar team. In the second half, the match was reciprocal and both teams scored one goal each and Zin Moe Pyae scored the goal for team Myanmar.

The Myanmar women's futsal team has been knocked out from the Thai Invitational as the team lost all three group matches. The last match of the group will be played on 26 April. The match will be played against Australian Club South Parth at 1:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time.—GNLM

Myanmar team player (white jersey) attempts to clear the ball against the Indonesian player (green jersey) during the third group match of the NSDF Women's Futsal Championship 2022 in Thailand on 24 April, 2022. **PHOTO:MFF**