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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.

Fourth day of 57th Myanma Gems Emporium continues

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

The local and foreign gems merchants observed the displayed jade and jewel items in the hall and jade stone outside the hall.

After that, the officials opened the bidding for 120 gemstone lots from series 1 to 120 at 9 am and announced that 54 gemstone lots were sold out.

Moreover, 330 pearl lots from series 1 to 330 were on sale through an open tender on the third day, and 330 pearl lots were sold to local and foreign gem merchants.

The jade lots from series 1 to 700 will be sold on the fifth day of the event.

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

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



Gems merchants are pictured evaluating gemstones at the 57th Myanma Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 April 2022.

From 22 to 24 April, 330 pearl lots and 54 gem lots were

sold through open bidding. A total of 700 jade lots will be

sold through open tender on 26 April, and 2,000 lots of jade

will be auctioned from 26 to 28 April. — MNA

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Speech on peace delivered by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing supported

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech on peace on 22 April 2022.

The speech stated that as plans were underway to hold meetings with the ethnic armed organizations-EAOs with the aim of restoring peace across the nation and ceasing armed conflicts in 2022 because ethnic people have not fully enjoyed the essence of Independence within 75 years yet after Myanmar had regained Independence, leaders and two members from each EAO were urged to attend the meetings. As the exhortation of the Senior General was an offer to grant the restoration of genuine and long-term existence of peace ethnic people aspire, the Myanmar Writers Association, the Myanmar Comedians Association (Central), the Myanmar Music Association (Central), the Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) and the Myanmar Press Council expressed their support to the speech respectively. — MNA

Announcement of Young Men's Buddhist Association

10th Waning of Tagu 1384 ME
25 April 2022

1. YMBA found that Chairman of the State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing invited ethnic armed organizations-EAOs leaders to hold a meeting in order to end armed conflicts across the nation in his speech made on 22 April 2022.

2. The YMBA will not be contrary to its aims to protect race, religion, education and regulations and carry out matters related to the country. It also agrees with the speech of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. It urges relevant individuals to openly cooperate in driving for durable peace and development of the country.

YMBA (Central)

Myanmar Music Association (Central) Statement

10th Waning of Tagu 1384 ME
25 April 2022

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech on peace on 22 April.

In his speech, it is stated that the government and the military have firmly guaranteed the establishment of a Union nation based on democracy and federalism, which has always been demanded by ethnic armed organizations-EAOs; Current events show that ethnic people have not yet fully experienced the essence of independence after 75 years; The main reason is ethnic armed conflicts based on differences and only by addressing this can

we thoroughly enjoy the essence of democracy and independence; The year 2022 is the year of peace and the end of armed conflicts in the whole country. It is stated that ethnic armed organizations-EAOs leaders are invited to meet as this needs to be implemented in a practical and effective manner.

As the invitation of the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services is a crucial invitation for the development of the country, the Myanmar Music Association announces its full support.

Myanmar Music Association (Central)

Myanmar nationals return from foreign countries

THE border camps receive Myanmar returnees from foreign countries. A total of 186 people – 148 males and 38 females – returned to Tachilek Township in Shan State (East) and 137 people – 81 males and 56 females to Myawady Township of Kayin State on 24 and 25 April.

The health officials, Tatmadaw medics and other officials provided health-related matters for quarantine. Then, township administrative officials sent them to their respective towns by vehicle, and those who tested positive for COVID-19 were confined to designated places. —MNA

Myanmar Press Council Announcement (2/2022)

25 April 2022

1. State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech on peace on 22 April 2022.

2. In his speech, he said that ethnic people have not thoroughly enjoyed the essence of 75-year independence yet. The root cause depends on ethnic armed conflicts. Therefore, 2022 is set as the year of peace, and ethnic armed organizations-EAOs are invited to hold the talks to end armed conflicts across the nation.

3. This speech is welcomed and supported as it is a precursor to enjoying the taste of peace and development that all ethnic people aspire to.

Myanmar Press Council

We support SAC Chairman Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing's speech on peace: MWA

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, in his speech on peace on 22 April 2022, called on leaders and two members of each ethnic armed organization-EAO to attend the meeting in order to end armed conflicts in the whole country. It will mark 2022 as the peace year as ethnic nationalities have not fully experienced its essence yet for 75 years since Myanmar's independence.

The Myanmar Writers Association supports Senior General Min Aung Hlaing's call as it offers the genuine peace that all ethnic peoples aspire to.

Myanmar Writers Association

We support SAC Chairman Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing's speech on peace: MCA

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, in his speech on peace on 22 April 2022, called on leaders and two members of each ethnic armed organization-EAO to attend the meeting that will end armed conflicts in the whole country. It will mark 2022 as the peace year.

The Myanmar Comedians Association (Central) deeply supports Senior General Min Aung Hlaing's call as it offers the genuine peace that all ethnic peoples aspire to.

Myanmar Comedians Association (Central)



To build the Union based on Democracy and Federal System

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

(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.)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Law Amending the Legal Translation Commission Law State Administration Council Law No 39/2022

10th Waning of Tagu 1384 ME
25 April 2022

THE State Administration Council hereby enacted this law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

1. This law shall be called the Law Amending the Legal Translation Commission Law.
2. Sub-sections (f) and (g) shall be added below Sub-section (e) of Section 2 of the Legal Translation Commission Law as follows: —
“(f) The Ministry means the Union Ministry of Legal Affairs of the Union Government.
(g) The Union Minister means the Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Attorney-General of the Union.”
3. The word “Office of the Attorney-General of the Union” mentioned in Sections 4, 9, 15, 16 and 20 of the Legal Translation Commission Law shall be substituted with the word “the Ministry”, and the word “the Attorney-General of the Union” mentioned at Sections 4 and 5 of the law with the word “the Union Minister”, respectively.

4. Section 12 of the Legal Translation Commission Law shall be substituted as follows: —
“12. (a) The Commission shall issue the order that the approved law translated into Myanmar shall be deemed to be effectively similar to the original copy.
(b) If any expression point of translated copy mentioned accord with the Sub-section (a) is different from the original copy, the original copy related to that expression point shall be confirmable.”
- I hereby signed this law under Section 419 of the Constitution.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

UEC Chairman receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Thein Soe received Mr Vinay Kumar, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the UEC Chairman said that Myanmar and India have been cooperating in electoral processes since the past and India provided its support to Myanmar. The country also studied the democratic system and laws of India in implementing the democratic system.

Then, the Indian Ambassador talked about the bilateral

relations between Myanmar and India as good neighbouring countries, the same history in developing religion, culture and democracy and further co-operation work with the UEC. He also asked about electoral processes and other assistance.

The UEC Chairman openly discussed the compiling of voter lists to hold the election, inspections of political parties, preparations to adopt a PR system and good cooperation of the two countries in electoral processes. — MNA



State Administration Council’s Information Team to hold press conference 13/2022

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold a press conference 13/2022 at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay

Pyi Taw at 1:00 pm on 27 April. Local and foreign media personnel are invited to the press conference, it is learnt. — MNA

13th Press Conference of Information Team to be broadcast live on 27 April

THE 13th press conference of the Information Team of the State Administration Council will be broadcast live on MRTV HD, MRTV News Channel, MWD HD Channel,

MWD Variety HD Channel, MITV, MOI Website, MOI YouTube, MRTV Website. It will be aired live on Radio Myanmar, Thazin FM, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM,

Shwe FM, Padamyar FM, Cherry FM and FM Bagan starting from 1:00 pm on 27 April, at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information. — MNA

Western sanctions against Myanmar’s economy affect only private businesses not the government: Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo

THE impact of Western sanctions on Myanmar’s economy, the sanctions do not affect the government. Still, it only affects private businesses, said Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo during a virtual interview with Xinhua News Agency on 21 April.

Being unable to use the US dollar and transfer money challenges Myanmar business people.

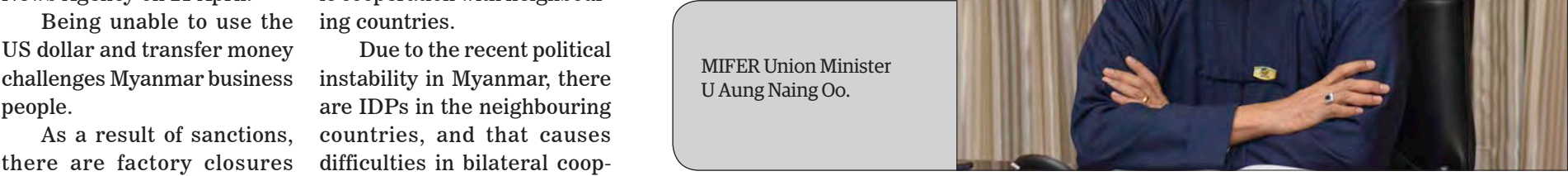
As a result of sanctions, there are factory closures which have resulted in the loss of job opportunities for Myanmar citizens.

Nothing happened to the government. The government has already made the necessary preparations.

He said the blockade had improved Myanmar’s economic cooperation with neighbouring countries.

Due to the recent political instability in Myanmar, there are IDPs in the neighbouring countries, and that causes difficulties in bilateral cooperation.

For example, due to the unrest in the Thai-Myanmar border area, he elaborated that the failure to use the Asian Highway fully and safely hampered the Thai-Myanmar exports/imports affecting neighbouring Thailand. —MNA



Judgements passed on 5 special civil appeal cases; 5 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal, consisting of Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Kyi Thein, U Tin Hone, Daw Khin May Yi and U Thaung Naing, was convened yesterday morning at the Office No. (1) of Supreme Court of the Union and passed judgements on a total of five special civil appeal cases — special civil appeal case No. 17/2020 (Yangon), 18/2020 (Yangon), 15/2020 (Mandalay), 4/2021 (Ayeyawady) and 5/2021 (Ayeyawady).

In addition, a total of five special civil appeal cases — special civil appeal case No. 9/2021 (Ayeyawady), 10/2021 (Ayeyawady), 11/2021 (Mandalay), 13/2021 (Ayeyawady) and 27/2021 (Shan)— were heard following COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines. — MNA

Lacquerware College to reopen in first week of May

THE art of making lacquerware, one of the ten traditional Myanmar arts and crafts, has been preserved as a heritage since the Bagan period in Bagan, which is home to Myanmar’s ancient cultural heritage.

In order to pass on this heritage, the Lacquerware College (Bagan) under the Department of Small-Scale Industries, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, will resume lacquerware classes in 1924 and later became the Lacquerware Institute in 1995. In addition to Myanmar’s traditional lacquerware, the college also teaches modern arts and international lacquerware.

"Foreign tourists can see the practical training at the College of Lacquerware and the museums, process halls, and lacquer shops on campus. Since the school will reopen on 12 May, those who have passed the matriculation exam and

Students need to prepare dissertations and study economics at the University of Cooperative and Management to complete the diploma course," said Daw Nilar Myint, principal of the Bagan Lacquerware College.

"After graduating from the University with a diploma in Cooperative and Management, our school will be able to develop business professionals and professionals, as we have knowledge of lacquerware and economics," she added.



The Lacquerware College in Bagan. PHOTO: KANU

from 12 May.

The Lacquerware College (Bagan) was established in December 2003. It was upgraded to a college from the Lacquerware Vocational School, opened

are under 25 years old will be able to study for two years and receive a diploma. After two years, they can continue to the third year of the University of Cooperative and Management.

Students who have passed the matriculation exam in 2020 will be able to attend this May, and 140 first-year students who could not attend the college due to the temporary closure of the college in the 2019-2020 academic year will be admitted again.

After completing a two-year diploma at the Lacquerware College, students entered the Universities of Economics from 2005 to 2011 for six years. Since 2011, students have been allowed to study at the Cooperative and Management Universities in Sagaing and Thanlyin and are conferred on degrees by the universities. — Nyein Thu(MNA)/GNLM

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was re-constituted 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

MoEE managers/engineers urged to answer enquiries on rotational electricity distribution graciously: MoEE Union Minister

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aung Than Oo instructed district managers and engineers of Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation to graciously answer the people's questions and inform the people about the power distribution system.

He held a meeting with the district electrical managers and district electrical engineers to discuss the loss of electricity in power lines and transformers in the distribution system and the issue of electricity.

He said his ministry is making an effort to meet people's electricity needs as much as possible, adding the need to expand load lines and substations with a full load, systematically manage the maintenance work of power lines and substations, and pay attention to reducing power loss. He also said that

load balancing is being varied as the power capacity is lower than consumption.

He also stressed the need to do a regular reading of electricity meters and make the people access to the online billing system so that the bill payment can be accepted in a short time, quickly and conveniently.

Arrangements are being made to generate electricity from other sources to meet electricity consumption, and the main goal of the ministry is to generate and distribute electricity to the people with minimal loss of power and full voltage in a timely manner. He also urged attendees to work together for regular meter readings, meter distribution and electricity billing, including collecting previous electricity bills.



The meeting was also attended by Yangon Region Minister for Natural Resources U Zaw Win, Acting Chairman of the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation U Aung Kyaw Oo, officials from Office of the Union Minister, and departments. — MNA

Specialists need to provide healthcare services in a proper manner to those who can't afford to pay for healthcare at private hospitals: MoH Union Minister



ABOUT 70 per cent of the population in the country live in rural areas, and most of them depend on low-cost healthcare services in public hospitals. Most people cannot afford to go to private hospitals for treatment. Therefore, relevant specialists must provide healthcare to people in a proper manner by upholding the commitment and ethics of medical professionals, said Union Minister for Health Dr Thein

Khaing Win. He said the above at the meeting with reactors of Medical Universities, heads of region Public Health and Medical Services Departments, medical superintendents, pro-rectors, deans of departments, professors, specialists and medical officials held at the University of Medicine (Mandalay) yesterday.

The Union minister also talked about the appointments

of faculty members at medical and medical-related universities, teaching methods of faculty members by discussing with relevant ministries for the same subjects, practical sections and field studies of students at hospitals, security and preparations and awareness programmes on the opening date of universities of medicine, academic measures for students and their parents. —MNA

Distribution of COVID-19 vaccines continue to Regions/States

MILITARY doctors, health workers and civil society groups are working hard to provide the vaccination against COVID-19, which is an important process in the prevention and control of COVID-19 disease. COVID-19 vaccine is being transported by Tatmadaw (Air) and motor vehicles as per cold-chain standards to respective regions and states.

Yesterday, a total of 68,410 doses of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines with 68,400 doses to Myitkyina, 2,000 doses of As-

tra Zeneca COVID-19 vaccine and 16,000 doses of Sinovac to Kengtung, 2,000 doses of Astra Zeneca and 2,728 doses of Covishield to Lashio, 24,130 doses of Sinovac to Dawei, 15,650 doses of Sinovac to Myeik, 5,920 doses of Sinovac to Kawthoung, 3,750 doses of Sinovac to Loikaw, 3,450 doses of AstraZeneca, 5,307 doses of Covishield and 7,8570 doses of Sinovac to Sittway, 1,975 doses of Astra Zeneca, 5,387 doses of Covishield and 23,590 doses of Sinovac to Thandwe were transported by Tatmadaw air-



Tatmadaw aircraft transport vaccines to regions/ states. Officials have received them and will distribute them to relevant authorities, it is reported. — MNA

21 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 April, total figure rises to 612,770

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **612,770** after **21** new cases were reported on 25 April 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **591,666** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **19,434** without more casualties. —MNA

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

DOCTORS and nurses from People’s 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 and on 24 April, doctors

and nurses from People’s hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 8,208 people from fourteen townships in Shan State(North), 660 people from Yankin and Tamway Townships in Yangoon Region, 34,502 people from twenty six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 21,435 people from thirteen townships in Rakhine State, 118 from Hkamti Township in Sagaing Region, 14,547 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, and 705 people from Htandabin Township in Bago Region, respectively.

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



A local in Shan State (North) is seen receiving a vaccine against COVID-19.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal teak, animals, and foodstuffs seized



Officials confiscate illegal teak logs.

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, effective action is being taken to prevent illicit trade under the law.

On 25 April, an inspection team led by the Myanmar Police Force made inspections under management of the Sagaing Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task

Force.

During the inspection, nine illegally imported cattle in Kalay Township (estimated at K9,700,000) were seized. The action was taken under the Animal Health and Livestock Development Law.

Similarly, a combined inspection team led by the Region

Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections in Phyu and Ottwin townships, Bago Region and 4.6824 tonnes of illegal timber (estimated at K652,120) were seized. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, under the management of the Customs Department, a combined inspection team on duty at the Ma-yanchaung Permanent Checkpoint of Mon State conducted inspections.

Food items and clothes (estimated value of K8,343,000) on two passenger vehicles without official documents and Jean trousers (approximately K4,000,000) carried by one 22-wheeler vehicle were seized. The action was taken under the Customs Law.

As a result, seven arrests (estimated at K22,695,120) were made on 25 April, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. —MNA

Drugs seized in Dawei, Kyimyindine, Nawnghkio townships

A combined inspection team consisting of the Taninthayi Region Police Force members examined a suspected motorbike driven by Thet Zaw (aka) Nyaung Nyaung on 7th street of Sinseik ward in Dawei Township at 7:00 pm on 23 April. It seized 195 ecstasy tablets with K68,000.

At 8:15 pm the same day, the combined inspection team searched Thet Zaw’s house in Ohlok Ward in Dawei Township and found 5,516 ecstasy tablets and 0.375 kilogramme of Ice.

At 7:45 pm the same day, a combined team of the Taninthayi Region Police Force members searched a suspected motorbike driven by San Lwin on 7th street of Sinseik ward in Dawei Township and

found 9,750 ecstasy tablets.

At 11:00 am on 24 April, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a house of Ma Thida Hlaing in Bawga Ward in Kyimyindine Township and seized 5,600 ecstasy tablets.

At 8:00 am the same day, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched an AD Van vehicle driven by Zaw Win (aka) Cousin near the 80/4 milestone of the Mandalay-Lashio Road in Nawnghkio Township and seized 120,000 ecstasy tablets.

They are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Myanmar Police Force stated. — MNA

Human traffickers sentenced to prison for trafficking girls to China

TOUNGGOO District Court sentenced human traffickers to 11-year imprisonment with labour each for trafficking girls to China on 20 April.

Two suspects, Daw Cho (aka) Daw Khin Mar Cho and Daw Nge (aka) Daw Khin Hnin Thet from Yesingon village, Tounggoo Township of Bago Re-

gion, promised Ma ..., aged 36, and Ma ..., aged 21 and Ma ..., aged 19 from Tounggoo Township of Bago Region a well-paid job and sold to Chinese men.

The case was opened against two suspects at No. (3) Police Station of Tounggoo Township under Section 24/32 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons

Law. Then, the court handed down the sentence to 11-year imprisonment, each with a combination order, after Daw Cho (aka) Daw Khin Mar Cho and Daw Nge (aka) Daw Khin Hnin Thet were found guilty of Section 24/32 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law on 20 April. — MNA



An arrestee is pictured along with seized drugs and a car.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Rice exports through border show big slump in past mini-budget period

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Rice Federation, rice and broken rice exports through border trade channels drastically plummeted.

Myanmar delivered more than 1.4 million metric tons of rice and broken rice in the past mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022). Maritime trade performed the best with an export volume of over 1.3 million tonnes, while only 76,000 tonnes were sent to neighbouring countries via border.

Due to the virus strict policy, China restricted Myanmar trucks and drivers from entering its side through the Muse land border. Only Chinese short-haul service is available now to transport Myanmar goods to China through the Kyinsankyawt post.

As a result, the cost of Chinese short-haul trucking tremendously rose to K10 million per



About 10,000 bags of rice and broken rice are daily delivered to China via the Muse cross-border post, whereas earlier, the export volume to China was approximately 60,000 bags per day. PHOTO: PHO KWAR

truck, whereas the trucking was worth only K700,000-K800,000 when Myanmar truckers were allowed to enter China, rice traders stressed.

About 10,000 bags of rice and

broken rice are daily delivered to China via the Muse cross-border post, whereas earlier, the export volume to China was approximately 60,000 bags per day. Consequently, exports of only 76,000

tonnes were seen in border trade in the past mini-budget period.

China shut down all the checkpoints linking to the Muse border amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the checkpoints,

Kyinsankyawt has resumed trading activities from 26 November on a trial run. Myanmar daily delivers rubber, various beans and pulses, dried plum, watermelon, muskmelon, pumpkin and other food commodities to China through the Kyinsankyawt border.

Myanmar exported rice to 13 foreign markets, mainly to Ivory Coast with over 400,000 tonnes, followed by China with 220,000 tonnes and the Philippines with over 130,000 tonnes.

Similarly, Myanmar shipped broken rice to 10 countries, primarily to China with 210,000 tonnes, followed by the Netherlands 160,000 tonnes and Belgium 79,000 tonnes.

Myanmar exported two million tonnes of rice worth US\$700 million to the foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021 Financial Year. — NN/GNLM

Male bamboo should be planted in tropical regions for greenery: GWA



MALE bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*) should be planted in the tropical zone for lush evergreen foliage, said Ko Saw Thiha Maung from the Green World Alliance.

“Male bamboo can be utilized in many ways. They are easy to grow and suitable for creating green areas in the tropical zone. They can be grown on any type of soil,” he said.

The poles of male bamboo are seen hallow in a humid climate and solid in hot weather.

The male bamboo is used for construction such as fences, bamboo thatch and bamboo poles for decorative products. It can be used for various purposes.

“It is commercially valued from the small size. Bamboo growing should have 12 feet distance in each row. About 330-440 plants can be cultivated per

acre. It can be harvested starting from three years,” Ko Saw Thiha Maung elaborated.

It can be cut in five years if it is systematically grown with fertilizer; plant trimming, land treatment, and an irrigation network.

“Male bamboo is useful materials for thatch products. The value-added products can generate large income,” said a trader.

Male bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*) is home to India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand. It is a South-East Asian tropical and subtropical species. It can be grown up in the areas of 3,000 feet in height. Sometimes, it can be naturally grown in the forest.

Currently, the seeds of male bamboo species fetch K25,000 per 300 grammes for about 8,000-10,000 seeds. — Lu Lay/GNLM

Seintalone mango varieties receive handsome price on low yield

SEINTALONE mango varieties fetched a high price in the domestic market during the early season as border trade to China is still suspended, U Kyaw Soe Naing, secretary of the Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association (Mandalay).

Prevailing prices of Seintalone mangoes are K33,000-K35,000 per 16-kilogramme basket, which contains 50-60 packed mangoes in protection bags. If mango quality is poor due to dropping and the absence of protective bags, it fetches only K300,000-K500,000 per tonne.

“On 18 April, a strong wind (25-30 miles per hour) affected the surrounding areas near Mandalay city, resulting in dropping in mango farms. This year, the yield is likely to drop by 30 per cent compared to last year due to strong wind and pest impact. China’s border remains shut down, so we must rely on the domestic market only according to the current market condition,” he elaborated.

Ko Than from Madaya Township, a mango farm owner, stressed that a strong wind dealt a massive blow to my farms, damaging about a half of the yield on two farms out of three farms. We started to send Seintalone to the Yangon market. The mangoes in protection bags are offered at a minimum

of K30,000 and a maximum of K35,000 per basket.

The prices of protection bags increased from K27 to K47 per bag this year. Some farm owners cannot bear the cost burden and make outright mango purchases. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM



Prevailing prices of Seintalone mangoes are K33,000-K35,000 per 16-kilogramme basket, which contains 50-60 packed mangoes in protection bags.

Pluck fruits from the suffering, wonderfulness

THE way of the mundane world is a tool to drive society to shape the lives of living beings. No one faces the way of the mundane world identified as gain and loss, fame and dishonour, praise and blame, happiness and suffering.

Naturally, human beings may be sad or happy when they face bad impacts or good results of eight kinds of the way of the mundane world. The sufferings based on the bad impacts torture the minds of those persons from the society, whereas the wonderfulness may create happiness for the minds of those persons concerning the society.

From then on, they have to strive for enhancement of their capacity level so as to overcome acceptable and unacceptable challenges. That is why they have to build themselves by plucking the suffering and wonderfulness as fruits of the way of the mundane world.

on experiences in all fields, can shape the life of the people.

Actually, all persons need to understand that all things may not be persistent. So, they all should overview everyone with optimism and forgiveness. Only then will the world be pleasant. Indeed, both suffering and wonderfulness should be regarded as the fruits of society. As such, everybody needs to try hard to pluck these fruits. Only when they are able to pluck these fruits to be utilized in their lives, or they dare to consume such fruits.

All the persons must have the durability to encounter good and bad issues and consider the losses and victories without frightening. From then on, they have to strive for enhancement of their capacity level so as to overcome acceptable and unacceptable challenges. That is why they have to build themselves by plucking the suffering and wonderfulness as fruits of the way of the mundane world.



Boao's takeaways add confidence to global cooperation amid COVID-19



Photo taken on 19 April 2022, shows the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) International Conference Centre in Boao, south China's Hainan Province.

PHOTO: XINHUA/YANG GUANYU

DEFYING headwinds from the lingering COVID-19 pandemic, fragile global economic recovery and complex geopolitics, the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2022 has voiced the importance of an open mind and coordinated global actions loud and clear.

Themed "The World in COV-

ID-19 & Beyond: Working Together for Global Development and Shared Future," the forum was held from Wednesday to Friday in Boao, a coastal town in China's southernmost province of Hainan. It gathered government officials, heads of international organizations, experts and entrepreneurs from all over the world

to discuss the post-pandemic development agenda.

From improving public health, promoting common prosperity, and realizing carbon neutrality to proposing the Global Security Initiative, China has shared its wisdom and demonstrated its resolution to bring more certainties to the world's

prospects.

Delivering remarks for the opening ceremony, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said that China as the world's second-largest economy is of great significance to promoting the world's economic recovery.

Meanwhile, all countries

over the globe should strengthen their cooperation to achieve the goal. "In a world of change, one thing remains constant -- the importance of solidarity between countries," Georgieva said.

BRIDGING IMMUNIZATION GAP

"Last year when we met, much of the talk was on COVID-19. This year, the virus is still here with us," said BFA's chairman Ban Ki-moon in his welcome speech during the opening ceremony of this year's conference.

To date, the world has recorded more than 500 million COVID-19 infections and the novel coronavirus has claimed the lives of over 6.2 million people. For humanity to clinch a final victory against the pandemic, more hard efforts are needed.

China has provided over 2.1 billion doses of vaccines to more than 120 countries and international organizations. It will follow through with the pledged donation of 600 million and 150 million doses of vaccines to Africa and ASEAN countries respectively, as part of its effort to close the immunization gap.

Be it in delivering vaccines abroad or producing them overseas, China has honored its commitments with concrete actions. "China action" has won rounds of applause from BFA attendees.

"China is doing its best, not only to protect its own people but also to make a huge contribu-

tion," said Margaret Chan Fung Fu-chun, former director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Alessandro Golombiewski Teixeira, a former chief economic advisor to the president of Brazil, is "a big supporter" of China's dynamic zero-COVID approach.

TOWARD GREENER FUTURE

Ranging from the venues which are solely powered by green electricity, to the recyclable and degradable cups provided to BFA guests, low-carbon applications and design details can be spotted throughout the BFA venues.

The conference's green transition has mirrored China's continuous pursuit of a greener future. China has announced its ambitious targets of peaking CO2 emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060.

China, the world's largest carbon emitter, has become the largest user of renewable energy over the years, with its carbon intensity slashed significantly. The country's enterprises are also scrambling to walk the talk.

During the BFA, a newly developed stainless steel material bought by BROAD Group caught the attention of many guests. The construction material can reduce carbon emissions by 90 kg per square metre, equivalent to the amount of carbon absorbed by five trees.

Source : Xinhua

IMF says yen's rapid slide may hamper Japan's post-pandemic recovery

THE chief of the International Monetary Fund's Japan mission believes the yen's rapid recent slide could hamper the pandemic-stricken Japanese economy from returning to a steady growth pathway by raising import costs and hurting consumer spending.

The yen's drop to a 20-year low against the dollar last week is a reflection of the Bank of Japan's decision to persist with its loose monetary easing settings when central banks in other major economies are tightening, Ranil Salgado said in a recent written interview with Kyodo News.

Still, the IMF Japan mission chief said the Japanese central bank should stay the course until it attains its 2 per cent inflation target as "inflation will fall back

once higher prices (of imported commodities) diminish."

The Japanese currency has lost nearly 15 yen against the dollar since early March, briefly sinking to the mid-129 yen zone last Wednesday. A weaker yen typically serves as a boon to Japanese exporters, as profits earned overseas increase when repatriated and Japan-made products become more competitively priced abroad.

But the yen's recent depreciation is threatening resource-scarce Japan, raising prices of imported energy and other commodities that have already seen sharp price increases driven by the war in Ukraine.

"Further rapid depreciation of the yen due to monetary policy divergence could dampen domes-

tic demand and worsen the terms of trade," Salgado said.

Monetary policy

The BOJ is widely expected to leave its monetary policy unchanged when it holds its next policy meeting on Wednesday and Thursday this week.

The consumer price index, excluding volatile fresh food items, rose 0.8 per cent in March from a year earlier, the fastest pace of increase in over two years but far from the BOJ's 2 per cent target. The IMF last Tuesday cut its forecast for Japan's economic growth this year to 2.4 per cent from the previous 3.3 per cent, citing rising oil prices that are expected to weigh on private consumption and investment.

Source : Kyodo



People wearing masks walk on the street in Nagoya, Japan, 17 April 2020. PHOTO: KYODO



MYANMAR Daily Weather Report

(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Monday 25 April 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 26 April 2022: Weather will be partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Region and Kayin State. Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Kachin and southern Shan states and isolated in upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi regions and (north and east) Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon 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, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, and Ayeyawady regions and Chin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 April 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 April 2022: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 April 2022: Partly cloudy.

Trademark Caution

The Global New Light of Myanmar



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EU needs to recycle more to hit green energy goals: report

EUROPE must act fast to secure supplies of crucial metals required for a green energy transition and its best bet is to recycle, a report said Monday.

The 27-nation EU aims to be “carbon neutral” by 2050 — reducing greenhouse gases to a level where the amount produced is balanced out by the amount removed from the atmosphere.

The bloc also wants to wean itself off dependence on Russian oil, coal and gas.

To this end, it is seeking not only to use less energy but also to increase the amount of energy generated domestically from renewable resources.

That includes producing electric vehicles and batteries, bringing in more wind, solar and

hydrogen technologies, and creating infrastructure to distribute this clean power.

But expanding clean technologies will require substantial inputs of raw metals and — in initial stages at least — much of this will probably have to be imported, according to the study by Belgium’s KU Leuven university.

To bring carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions down to “net zero” by 2050, the EU will need “35 times more lithium” than it uses today and “seven to 26 times the amount of increasingly scarce rare earth metals”, the “Metals for Clean Energy” report said.

The energy transition will also require far greater annual supplies of aluminium, copper,

silicon, nickel and cobalt.

Invest now in recycling

Europe could be self-sufficient for 40 to 75 per cent of its clean energy metal needs by 2050 if it invests heavily now in recycling infrastructure and cuts red tape, said the report, commissioned by the European association of metal producers and recyclers, Eurometaux.

For now, the EU remains import-dependent for much of these metals and, the study warns, “there is growing concern about the security of supply”.

“Europe needs to decide urgently how it will bridge its looming supply gap for primary metals. Without a decisive strategy, it risks new dependencies on unsustainable suppliers,” said

lead author Liesbet Gregoir.

China and India, which rely on coal power for metal production, are set to dominate global markets for battery metals and rare earths. Europe relies on Russia today for aluminium, nickel and copper.

If it is to meet climate and social goals, Europe will need to find external suppliers with better environmental and rights records, the report said.

If, on the other hand, it wants to become less reliant on external sources, Europe will need to open new mineral ore mines and refineries.

There is “theoretical potential” for new mines to provide between five and 55 per cent of the continent’s raw metal needs,

the report said.

But projects need to get going now if they are to be operational in time.

Meanwhile, investments in refining are being stymied by Europe’s energy crisis and soaring fuel prices.

The study concludes that “recycling is Europe’s best chance to improve its long-term self-sufficiency”, noting metals recycling produces significantly less CO2 than primary metals production.

By 2050, locally recycled metals could produce “three-quarters of Europe-made battery cathodes, all its plans for permanent magnets production and significant volumes of aluminium and copper”. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cambodian PM calls for enhanced cooperation to achieve global vision of malaria free by 2025

CAMBODIAN Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen on Monday called on all stakeholders to strengthen cooperation based on trust, people-centred partnerships, and multilateralism in order to achieve the global vision of malaria free by 2025.

In a pre-recorded video statement delivered to the International Forum on the 50th Anniversary of the Discovery of Artemisinin and on Building a Global Community of Health for All, which was held in Beijing, Hun Sen expressed his full support for all activities and cooperation that had been undertaken to build a global community of health for all, especially the eradication of malaria through the use of artemisinin. Artemisinin was the first special antimalarial drug discovered and successfully extracted by China and it has saved millions of lives, especially in developing countries.

Hun Sen said Cambodia used to have more than 170,000 malaria cases and nearly 1,000 deaths in the 1980s, but in 2021, the number of malaria cases had dropped to 3,959 with no death in the last four years, despite the hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. — Xinhua

New Hemsleya species discovered in central China

CHINESE researchers have discovered a new species of Cucurbitaceae in central China’s Hubei Province, according to the Wuhan Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The new species, *Hemsleya revoluta*, has a revolute, yellow-green, globose corolla completely enveloping the calyx and ovary, and smooth seed margins.

The researchers identified it as a new species through extensive field research and comparison, taxonomic literature research and specimens studies. The discovery of the new species plays a positive role in advancing the systematic and medicinal botany research of the *Hemsleya* family, said Li Xinwei, associate researcher of the Garden. — Xinhua



In this NASA handout photo, a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying the company’s Crew Dragon spacecraft is launched on Axiom Mission 1 (Ax-1) to the International Space Station with Commander Michael López-Alegría of Spain and the United States, Pilot Larry Connor of the United States, and Mission Specialists Eytan Stibbe of Israel, and Mark Pathy of Canada aboard, Friday, 8 April 2022, at NASA’s Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. **PHOTO : JOEL KOWSKY / NASA / AFP**

Crew of first private flight to ISS head back to Earth

THE crew of the first fully private mission to the International Space Station departed the orbiting laboratory on Monday to head back to Earth.

The three businessmen and a former NASA astronaut had spent more than two weeks on the station on a history-making mission organized by startup company Axiom Space.

The SpaceX capsule undocked from the ISS at 0110 GMT for the return trip and was scheduled to land in the ocean off the coast of Florida at around 1:00 pm local time (1700 GMT).

The four men — three of whom paid tens of millions of dollars for the rare chance to take part in the mission — were originally scheduled to spend only eight days on the space station.

Bad weather on Earth forced repeated delays in their return, however.

Private passengers Larry Connor, a US citizen who heads a real estate company, Canadian businessman Mark Pathy and Israeli former fighter pilot and entrepreneur Eytan Stibbe had blasted off from Florida on 8 April, reaching the ISS a day

later.

Former astronaut Michael Lopez-Alegría, who holds dual US-Spanish citizenship, is the fourth passenger.

Once on board, the men conducted a series of experiments in cooperation with Earth-bound research centres, including on cardiac health and cognitive performance in low gravity, according to a NASA blog.

Pathy spent considerable time in the station’s famous observation cupola, photographing the Earth from 250 miles (400 kilometres) overhead. — AFP

The world of vaccines, before and after Covid

THE Covid-19 pandemic has forever changed the world's relationship to vaccines, spurring unprecedented production and innovation even while poorer nations were left behind. At the start of World Immunization Week, AFP looks at the current state of play.

Millions of lives saved

Vaccines for more than 20 life-threatening diseases prevent between two to three million deaths a year, according to the World Health Organization.

Until Covid-19, vaccines tended to be targeted at specific groups, such as children, the elderly or vulnerable people. And before the pandemic, the world produced around five billion total vaccine doses a year. Then

everything changed: 11 billion doses of Covid vaccines were produced in 2021 alone.

While vaccines against Covid were created in under a year, there are still no jabs for other infectious diseases like HIV that have been around for decades and killed millions.

The huge differences in vaccination rates between rich and poor countries has also shone a light on other vaccine inequalities. Despite an effective measles vaccine being available for more than half a century, 140,000 deaths from the disease were recorded in 2018 — mostly among children in developing countries, according to France's INSERM institute.

Different technologies

Since British physician Edward Jenner came up with the first vaccine in 1796 for smallpox, several different kinds have been developed. Inactivated vaccines, which are used for polio and influenza, kill or inactivate the germ, but retain its ability to produce antibodies to fight future infections. Attenuated vaccines — used for measles, mumps and rubella as well as chickenpox — contain a weakened version of the virus, again to boost antibodies. More recently, viral vector vaccines, used for Ebola or AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson's Covid vaccines, take a modified version of a different, harmless virus to smuggle genetic instructions to the body's cells, telling them to make antibodies. The newest



An employee works at a facility producing a Covid-19 coronavirus vaccine, which is currently undergoing clinical tests, in Shenyang in China's northeastern Liaoning province on 19 April 2022. PHOTO: AFP

technology is mRNA, used in Pfizer and Moderna's Covid vaccines, which delivers instructions to build the spike protein of the coronavirus, to evoke antibodies. — AFP

Beijing Covid spike prompts mass testing, panic buying



A health worker takes swab sample on a child to be tested for Covid-19 coronavirus at a swab collection site along a street in Beijing on 25 April 2022. PHOTO: AFP

FEARS of a hard Covid lockdown sparked panic buying in Beijing on Monday, as long queues for

compulsory mass testing formed in a large central district of the Chinese capital.

China is already trying to contain a wave of infections in its biggest city Shanghai, which has been almost entirely locked down for weeks and reported 51 new Covid deaths on Monday.

Shanghai has struggled to provide fresh food to those confined at home, while patients have reported trouble accessing non-Covid medical care — and the rising cases in the capital triggered fears of a similar lockdown.

Downtown Beijing's most populous district Chaoyang, home to around 3.5 million people, ordered mass testing from Monday for residents and those coming to work there. The area hosts embassies and the headquarters of many multinational firms. — AFP

Nobel laureate Vargas Llosa to head home after beating Covid: family

NOBEL literature laureate Mario Vargas Llosa has "beaten" Covid and will leave the Madrid clinic where he was being treated to complete his recovery at home, his family tweeted on Monday.

The 86-year-old writer "has beaten Covid. Now he's going home to continue his recovery," his son Alvaro Vargas Llosa tweeted, thanking the medical

staff at the clinic. He went in for treatment last week following "complications caused by coronavirus", his son tweeted on Friday, saying he had entered the clinic "a few days ago" with his condition "progressing favourably". The tweet was also signed by the writer's two other children Gonzalo and Morgana. Born in Peru in 1936, Vargas Llosa took Span-

ish citizenship in 1993. At the beginning of April, he published his latest work, "The Quiet Gaze (of Perez Galdos)", an essay on the Spanish writer Benito Perez Galdos (1843-1920). The last survivor of a golden generation of Latin American literary giants, Vargas Llosa's writing explores universal themes often set outside his native Peru. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Africa's COVID-19 cases near 11.41 mln: Africa CDC

THE number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Africa reached 11,409,064 as of Sunday evening, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said.

The specialized healthcare agency of the African Union (AU) said the death toll across the continent stands at 252,067 and some 11,543,387 patients have recovered from the disease so far.

It said South Africa, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Libya are among the countries with the most cases on the continent.

South Africa has recorded the most COVID-19 cases in Africa with more than 3,758,688 cases, followed by the northern African country of Morocco, with 1,164,670 cases, as of Sunday evening, the Africa CDC said. In terms of the caseload, southern Africa is the most affected region, followed by the northern and eastern parts of the continent, while central Africa is the least affected region. — Xinhua

India reports 2,541 new COVID-19 cases

INDIA'S COVID-19 tally rose to 43,060,086 on Monday after 2,541 new cases were registered during the past 24 hours across the country, showed the federal health ministry's latest data.

This is the sixth consecutive day when the number of new cases breached the 2,000-mark, after lying low for the past several months.

Besides, 30 deaths due to the pandemic since Sunday morning took the total death toll to 522,223.

There are still 16,522 active COVID-19 cases in the country, a rise of 649 active cases during the past 24 hours. The number of active cases had been on the decline for the past two-and-a-half months, but started increasing in the past few days.

So far 42,521,341 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals, including 1,862 discharged during the past 24 hours. — Xinhua

ECONOMY

WORLD

European Central Bank chief: Interest hikes won't drop energy prices



Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank (ECB) holds a news conference following the meeting of the governing council of the ECB in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany, on 10 March 2022. **PHOTO: DANIEL ROLAND / POOL / AFP**

A European Central Bank rate hike will not reduce energy prices, the cause of half of the continent's inflation, ECB president Christine Lagarde said Sunday, even as the institution faces pressure to raise interest rates.

"Inflation in Europe is very high at the moment. Fifty per cent of that is related to energy prices" and Russia's war in Ukraine "has dramatically increased those prices," Lagarde told US network CBS

in an interview.

"If I raise interest rates today, it is not going to bring the price of energy down."

Central banks around the world have largely begun raising interest rates in response to inflation, in order to increase the cost of credit to slow consumption — and therefore ease the pressure on prices.

Lagarde again defended the position adopted by the ECB, which seeks to gradually withdraw its accommodation policy intended to support euro-zone economies during crisis.

"We will be interrupting the purchases of assets in the course of the third quarter; high probability that we do so early in the third quarter," said the French Lagarde, who is in Washington attending finance meetings.

"And then we will look at interest rates and how and by how much we hike them."

Lagarde also stressed that the distinct policies adopted by Europe and the United States in the face of the coronavirus pandemic led to the different nature of inflation on both sides of the Atlantic.

In Europe, she said, "the focus was predominantly on keeping the jobs, not necessarily sending the checks," and thus allowing people to maintain employment despite the downturn and return to work when business picked back up.

But in the United States, the labour market is quite tight with many vacancies. "We don't have that in Europe at the moment," Lagarde said.

That tightness "is clearly contributing to possible strong inflation and second round effect where prices go up, wages go up, short supply of labour, wages continue to go up, and that feeds back into prices," she said. — AFP

Sri Lanka exchange halts again after 13% plunge



A man walks inside Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) in Colombo on 18 April 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

CRISIS-HIT Sri Lanka's stock exchange halted again Monday after a nearly 13 per cent plunge, derailing the bourse's tentative reopening after a two-week break aimed at forestalling a market collapse.

The island nation is grappling with its worst economic downturn since independence in 1948, with months of regular blackouts and acute shortages of food and fuel.

Equities have shed nearly 40 per cent of their value since January, with the local currency falling by a similar amount against the greenback in the past month.

Monday was the first morning of trade on the Colombo bourse since a weeklong Sri Lankan New Year holiday and a subsequent five-day trading halt after the government hiked interest rates and defaulted on

its \$51 billion foreign debt.

The local S&P index fell seven per cent in the opening minute of trade, more than the five per cent needed to trigger an automatic half-hour halt.

Shares continued their rapid slide after a brief resumption, prompting the market to declare a halt to trading for the rest of the day.

Sri Lankan officials were in Washington last week to negotiate with the International Monetary Fund for a bailout, but official sources said there was no immediate prospect of emergency funding from the lender.

Colombo is now banking on further bilateral help from India, China and Japan to help keep the country afloat, a finance ministry source told AFP.

Sri Lanka's economic collapse began to be felt after the coronavirus pandemic torpedoed vital revenue from tourism and remittances, leaving the country unable to finance essential imports. — AFP

NEWS IN Brief

Bank of China issues overseas green bonds equivalent to 2.05 bln USD

BANK of China has successfully priced three green bonds overseas, which were issued by its three overseas branches in the Macao Special Administrative Region, Singapore and Luxembourg, and the total scale is equivalent to 2.05 billion US dollars.

Despite the turbulent market environment, the transaction is still favoured by high-quality investors at home and abroad, the bank said.

The funds raised from the transaction will be used to support green projects such as domestic and overseas renewable energy, clean transportation, green buildings, sustainable water resources and wastewater management, it said.

The bank said it will continue to follow China's green development strategy, promote the practice of green finance, and help the coordinated development of economic, environmental and social benefits. — Xinhua

America's wealth gap is rooted in racism: US media

INCOME inequality grew substantially in the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic, as the country's billionaires got 70 per cent richer, according to a recent article by The San Francisco Public Press.

"While this economic chasm continues to expand, much of it is grounded in discriminatory economic practices dating back to the early 20th century that made it difficult for members of racial minorities in the US to accumulate wealth — or to keep what they were able to acquire," said the article on Friday.

It cited San Francisco, home to 77 billionaires but more than 34,000 homeless people across the Bay Area and more than 800,000 live in poverty. — Xinhua

Hyundai Motor's operating profit hits 8-year high in Q1 2022

HYUNDAI Motor, South Korea's biggest carmaker, logged the highest operating profit in almost eight years in the first quarter of this year due to a solid sale of premium products, the company said Monday.

Consolidated operating profit advanced 16.4 per cent from a year earlier to 1.93 trillion won (1.5 billion US dollars) in the January-March quarter.

It topped market expectations of about 1.6 trillion won (1.3 billion US dollars), posting the highest since the second quarter of 2014. Operating profit margin was 6.4 per cent in the first quarter.

Revenue increased 10.6 per cent to 30.3 trillion won (24.3 billion US dollars), and net income went up 16.8 per

cent to 1.78 trillion won (1.4 billion US dollars) in the cited quarter.

The number of vehicles, sold by Hyundai globally, was 902,945 in the first quarter, down 9.7 per cent from the same quarter of last year.

The automotive sale in markets outside South Korea shrank 7.8 per cent to 750,847 units, and the domestic car sale tumbled 18 per cent to 152,098 units.

The sales reduction stemmed from the global supply shortage of chips and components used to make cars, but the earnings were lifted by the robust sales of Genesis luxury models and sport utility vehicles (SUV), the lower incentives and the favourable foreign exchange market. — Xinhua

Nissan aims to install new collision avoidance technology by 2030

NISSAN Motor Co said Monday it aims to equip new car models by fiscal 2030 with driver-assistance technology that drastically enhances collision avoidance by using real-time information about a vehicle's surroundings.

The Japanese automaker plans to complete the development of the new technology, which employs sensors to detect the shape and distance

of objects with accuracy and automatically performs operations to avoid collision even in complex emergency situations, by the mid-2020s.

In a video of several demonstrations unveiled during an online briefing, a test vehicle automatically avoided crashing into a car that was about to collide and performed a sudden stop in front of a figure crossing the road.

"We believe that about 30 per cent of accident scenarios can be covered by current driving-assistance technology. Through this automated emergency technology, I think we can cover more than 90 per cent of them," said Takao Asami, a senior vice president.

With the technology, a vehicle can detect obstacles 300 metres away after combining information

collected by a high-performance Lidar sensor as well as cameras and radar, and perform emergency manoeuvres, such as changing lanes, according to Nissan. Competition has been intensifying among automakers developing vehicles with assistance and self-driving technology to avoid collisions.

Nissan's domestic rival Honda Motor Co is integrating artificial intel-



Photo taken in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, on 18 April 2022, shows a monitor screen on a Nissan Motor Co test vehicle showing the position of objects in the vehicle's surroundings detected by sensors. **PHOTO : KYODO**

ligence to warn drivers of imminent traffic hazards and help them avoid accidents caused by human error, aiming to equip its vehicles with the technology in the latter half of the 2020s. — Kyodo

China lockdowns, rate hike fears batter stock markets

STOCK markets sank Monday on growing concerns that lockdowns in China aimed at fighting a worsening Covid outbreak could threaten the country's economy and global supply chains.

The losses extended a sell-off across the world last week fuelled by comments from Federal Reserve boss Jerome Powell indicating officials will hike interest rates by half a point next month and possibly several times more by year's end.

China's struggle to get a grip on a Covid outbreak that has forced Shanghai — the country's biggest city — into lockdown and dealing a blow to demand.

Officials in the finance hub reported 51 deaths Monday, its highest daily toll despite weeks of strict containment measures, while Beijing warned of a "grim" situation as infections rise.

The lockdowns will "cause a logistical problem that's going to affect not just China but also the rest of the world", OANDA's Jeffrey Halley told Bloomberg TV.

Officials' determination to continue with a zero-Covid policy as well as a lack of government stimulus, "that all points to lower China stocks and we are going to see a weaker yuan going forward".



A man uses his phone next to a sign showing the numbers for the Hang Seng Index before the close, as Hong Kong shares fell on 25 April 2022. **PHOTO : AFP**

Investors were already fleeing risk assets as they become worried that the Fed tightening — to fight inflation at more than 40-year highs — will knock the pandemic economic recovery off course and dent companies' bottom line.

With earnings season under way, a close eye is being kept on what firms say about the impact on and the outlook for business in light of inflation, forecast rate hikes, supply chain snarls and the Ukraine war. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (959N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (959N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-4-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 16

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 16 VOY. NO. (04/2022)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-4-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MMKH** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (054N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (054N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-4-2022** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KENZEN

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KENZEN VOY.NO. (0122)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-4-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Macron sets out to heal French divisions after re-election



French President and La Republique en Marche (LREM) party candidate for re-election Emmanuel Macron (C) gives a thumbs up as he greets supporters after his victory in France's presidential election, at the Champ de Mars in Paris, on 24 April 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron was Monday to launch efforts to unite a deeply divided nation after winning re-election in a battle against rival Marine Le Pen that saw the far right come its closest yet to taking power.

Centrist Macron won around 58.54 per cent of the vote in the

second-round run-off compared with 41.46 for Le Pen, according to final results from the interior ministry.

Macron is the first French president in two decades to win a second term and his victory prompted a sigh of relief throughout Europe that the far right had

again been thwarted from taking power in the key EU state.

But his latest victory over his far-right rival was narrower than their last face-off in 2017, when he won over 66 per cent of the vote, and Le Pen's result was the best ever for the far right.

The president also begins planning for his new five-year term with a daunting in-tray ranging from preparing for parliamentary elections as soon as June to implementing explosive pension reform plans and dealing with the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The historic gains for the far right dampened the French leader's celebrations on Sunday night. Addressing supporters in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower, he vowed to heal rifts in a deeply divided country.

"From now on, I am not the candidate of one camp, but everybody's president," he said. — AFP

Nicaragua expels OAS, leaves organization early: foreign minister

NICARAGUA on Sunday closed the offices of the Organization of American States in the capital Managua and brought forward its planned withdrawal from the bloc, the foreign minister said.

Denis Moncada announced his country's immediate split from the OAS and the rescinding of the credentials of its repre-

sentatives in Washington, saying the "infamous organization" would no longer have offices in Nicaragua.

"Its local headquarters has been closed," he said, reading a statement in an official broadcast.

As of Sunday, Nicaragua was no longer part "of all the

deceitful mechanisms of this monstrosity, the so-called Permanent Council, so-called commissions, so-called meetings, so-called Summit of the Americas," said Moncada.

"We will not take part in any of the entities of this diabolical instrument of evil called the OAS," he added. — AFP

Israel retaliates after projectile fired from Lebanon: IDF

A projectile was fired from Lebanon into northern Israel, prompting a retaliation, the Israel Defence Forces said early Monday.

The projectile fell in an open field near a kibbutz, Israel's army said in a statement which made no mention of casualties.

"In response to the projectile launched from Lebanon into northern Israel earlier tonight, IDF Artillery forces are currently targeting the source

of the launch in Lebanon," the IDF said.

The attack was not immediately claimed by any group.

Lebanon's National News Agency said the rocket fire was carried out by unidentified groups and that Lebanese forces had deployed to the area, with calm returning before sunrise.

Neighbours Lebanon and Israel are technically in a state of war.

The Jewish state and Lebanon's Shiite Muslim militant

group Hezbollah exchanged fire across the heavily guarded border last summer.

The two sides fought a devastating war in 2006 after Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers.

The 34-day conflict killed 1,200 people in Lebanon, mostly civilians, and 160 Israelis, mostly soldiers.

It ended with a UN-backed ceasefire that saw the Lebanese army deploy in border areas. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man arrested in London after four people found dead

BRITISH police on Monday said a man had been arrested on suspicion of murder after three women and a man were found dead at a property in south London.

Officers forced entry to a residential address in the Southwark area of the capital after reports of a disturbance at about 1:40 am (0040 GMT).

"Inside, they found four people suffering what are believed to be stab injuries," the Metropolitan Police said in a statement.

"Despite the efforts of emergency services, all four people — three women and a man — were pronounced dead at the scene."

Post-mortem examinations will be conducted to determine the exact cause of death. The man arrested was taken into custody at a south London police station. Detectives said it was believed all five people were known to one another. — AFP

World's oldest person dies in Japan at 119

THE world's oldest person from the southwestern Japanese city of Fukuoka died at the age of 119 on 19 April, the local government said Monday.

Kane Tanaka was born on 2 January 1903, the year Wilbur and Orville Wright made the world's first successful flight of powered aircraft and a year before the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War.

Her life spanned several Japanese imperial eras — Meiji, Taisho, Showa, Heisei and Reiwa.

She was recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest person in March 2019, at the age of 116. In addition, she became the



File photo taken March 2019 in the southwestern Japan city of Fukuoka shows Kane Tanaka when she was recognized as the world's oldest living person by Guinness World Records at 116. Tanaka has died aged 119. **PHOTO: KYODO**

oldest person ever on record in Japan after turning 117 years, 261 days old in September 2020. — Kyodo



An Israeli military jeep patrols the border fence with Lebanon, near the northern Israeli settlement of Shtula on 25 April 2022, after a projectile was fired from Lebanon into northern Israel, prompting a retaliation. The projectile fell in an open field near a kibbutz, Israel's army said in a statement which made no mention of casualties. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan minister, delegation of S Korea’s Yoon vow to improve ties



Chung Jin Suk (C), deputy speaker of South Korea’s National Assembly and the head of a delegation to Japan sent by South Korean President-elect Yoon Suk Yeol, speaks to reporters at the Japanese Foreign Ministry in Tokyo on 25 April 2022, after holding talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi. **PHOTO: KYODO**

FOREIGN Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and members of a delegation sent by South Korean President-elect Yoon Suk Yeol pledged Monday to improve the two nation’s ties, which have sharply deteriorated over war-time issues, the delegation’s

leader said. The two sides agreed that they will “maintain and beef up” bilateral relations, and that they share the same ideas on freedom, democracy and a market economy, Chung Jin Suk, the delegation head and deputy speaker of the National Assembly, told reporters after holding talks with Hayashi at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo. Hayashi said the two Asian countries need to develop ties based on friendship and cooperation and that he expects Yoon to exert leadership, according to a Japanese government official. The delegation is on a five-day trip to Japan through Thursday ahead of Yoon’s inauguration on 10 May, as expectations of an improvement in the Tokyo-Seoul relationship grow following the victory of the country’s main op-

position candidate in the March presidential election. Yoon is calling for a “future-oriented” approach, seeking to improve bilateral ties strained over issues related to wartime history including “comfort women”, who were procured for Japan’s wartime military brothels, and compensation demanded by South Koreans for what they say was wartime forced labour. The delegation also discussed the two governments’ historical feud stemming from Japan’s 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula in a meeting with a cross-party group of Japanese lawmakers aimed at promoting friendly ties between the two nations. The Japanese lawmaker group said it feels sympathy with Yoon, who is focusing on a bet-

ter relationship with Japan and the United States, at a difficult time for the regional security environment following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and a flurry of ballistic missile launches by North Korea since the start of this year. The delegation asked senior members of the lawmakers’ group to attend Yoon’s inauguration ceremony. Members of the South Korean delegation plan to meet with former prime ministers Shinzo Abe, who is known for his hawkish views on security and heads the largest faction within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, and Yoshihide Suga. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is also arranging a meeting with the delegation, according to sources with knowledge of the matter. — Kyodo

India, EU set up trade and technology council



This handout photograph taken on 25 April 2022 and released by the Indian Press Information Bureau (PIB) shows India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during a meeting in New Delhi. **PHOTO: PIB / AFP**

INDIA and the European Union announced on Monday the launch of a special council to boost trade and tech cooperation, despite divergent views over Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen is the latest Western diplomat to visit New Delhi in a bid to press India over its neutral stance on the conflict. India, which gets most of its arms from Moscow, has called for a halt to the violence in Ukraine but stopped short of condemning Russia’s invasion.

“The EU has only one Trade and Technology Council and that is with the US and I think therefore it is telling that it was so important for us to put up a second... with India,” von der Leyen said. The measure is part of a broader EU plan to accelerate trade talks with India and to give New Delhi a viable alternative to diversify away from Russia, Bloomberg News quoted an unnamed source as saying. The “strategic coordination mechanism will allow both partners to tackle challenges at the

nexus of trade, trusted technology and security, and thus deepen cooperation in these fields,” India and the Commission said in a joint statement. Both sides said they had “agreed that rapid changes in the geopolitical environment highlight the need for joint in-depth strategic engagement”. Talks on a free trade agreement between India and the EU have been stuck since 2013 over issues like patent protection and tariff reductions, although both sides agreed in May 2021 to resume negotiations. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia announces ceasefire around Mariupol steel plant: ministry

RUSSIA’S defence ministry on Monday announced a ceasefire around the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol to allow a civilian evacuation from the industrial area that has been sheltering the remaining Ukrainian resistance in the port city. Russian troops “from 14:00 Moscow time (1100 GMT) on 25 April 2022, will unilaterally stop any hostilities, withdraw units to a safe distance and ensure the withdrawal of” civilians, the defence ministry said in a statement. It said the civilians will be taken “in any direction they have chosen”. It added that the Ukrainian side should show “readiness” to start the humanitarian evacuations “by raising white flags” at Azovstal. According to the ministry, this information will be communicated to those inside Azovstal “via radio channels” every 30 minutes. Russia last week said it had gained full control of the strategic eastern Ukrainian city, except for its huge Azovstal industrial area. — AFP

2 Ukrainian drones shot down in Russia’s Kursk region

RUSSIAN air defence systems shot down two Ukrainian drones in Russia’s Ukraine-bordering Kursk region, Kursk’s Governor Roman Starovoit said Monday. “Today, at 04:15 Moscow time (0115 GMT), the teams of Russian air defence systems shot down two Ukrainian drones over the village of Borovskoye, Rylsky district,” the governor said on Telegram. “There are no casualties, injuries or destruction. The situation is completely under control,” he added. On Saturday, the governor said that Ukraine had shelled a border checkpoint in the region, causing a fire but no casualties. — Xinhua



Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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

3. Social affairs

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

Myanmar women's squad leaves for South Korea to play friendly matches



Myanmar Women's Footballers pose for a group photo at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. PHOTO: MFF

THE Myanmar women's national team left for South Korea on the morning of 24 April to play friendly matches in preparation for the 31st SEA Games.

The women's team includes goalkeepers May Zin Nwe, Zue Latt Nadi, Myo Mya Mya Nyein, defenders Khin Than Wai, Khin Myo Chit, Chit Chit, Aye Aye Moe, Phyu Phyu Win, Zun Yuya Oo, Nant Zue Zue Htet, midfielders Khin Malar Tun, Khin Moh Moh

Tun, Thin Thin Yu, Khin Moe Wai, Naw Htet Htet Wai, Khaing Thazin, Lin Myint Mo, Pont Pont Pyae Maung and strikers San Thaw Thaw, Myat Noe Khin, July Kyaw and Win Theingi Tun.

Head Coach U Tin Myint Aung will handle the team.

Team authorities have selected 22 players for the trip, but Win Theingi Tun, who plays for Indian club Gokulam, will only be able to join the team just before

the SEA Games.

Officials said that the team will train in South Korea until the first week of May and play three friendly matches.

The women's squad will take on the South Korean Youth Team and South Korean Women Football Clubs during their training trip. Team Myanmar will travel directly to Viet Nam from South Korea for the SEA Games, officials added. —Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Myanmar U-22 team wins second friendly match in UAE

THE Myanmar U-22 team, under training in Dubai, the UAE, in preparation for the 31st SEA Games, won the second friendly match against UAE Pro League club Sharjah by 2-1 on 23 April.

The Myanmar team tested their ability by playing the friendly matches and also played their first friendly match on 20 April.

In this match, the winning goals for team Myanmar were scored by strikers Win Naing Tun and Than Paing. Myanmar has played two games on the UAE tour, and the previous match was a drawn match. Team Myanmar will play against UAE club Fursan Hispania in the third friendly match on 27 April. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Fighter Modric primed to floor Pep's City in Champions League semis

LUKA Modric orchestrated stirring Real Madrid come-backs against Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea, now the 36-year-old has Manchester City and another Champions League final in his sights.

Modric's mesmeric, curving pass with the outside of his right foot for Rodrygo to volley in resuscitated Real against Chelsea, just when it looked like they were dead and buried.

His eye-of-a-needle pass through the legs of Presnel

Kimpembe for Karim Benzema to finish gave the Spaniards life against PSG, levelling a contest that until that point had gone almost entirely in the opposition's favour.

Modric's craft and guile, along with Benzema's ruthless finishing, have been Real Madrid's most devastating weapons en route to the Champions League semi-finals. The first leg is at Manchester City's Etihad Stadium on Tuesday. — AFP

Japan's Hataoka wins 6th LPGA title at DIO Implant LA Open

JAPAN'S Nasa Hataoka shot a commanding 4-under 67 in the final round to run away with a five-stroke victory and her sixth LPGA title Sunday at the DIO Implant LA Open.

The 23-year-old from Ibaraki Prefecture started the last day with a four-stroke lead over Australia's Hannah Green after also carding 67 in the third round at Wilshire Country Club in Los Angeles.

She completed the tournament 15-under, finishing ahead of Green at 10-under and a trio of players — Swede Madelene Sagstrom, Australian Minjee Lee and South Korea's Inbee Park — a further three strokes back in a tie for third. — Kyodo