

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 11, 12th Waning of Tagu 1384 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Wednesday, 27 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.

Myanmar's ancient cultural heritage lies in Bagan — the heart of the country

By Nyein Thu (MNA)

PRESERVING cultural heritage from generation to generation shows the cultural prosperity of a country.

Likewise, preserving tangible cultural heritage, maintaining physical artefacts from generation to generation as the country's lifeblood, and promoting soft power in cultural aspects is the country's reputation and the contribution to tourism, which can generate significant revenue for the State.

Myanmar has rich natural resources with rivers, long coastline, land and mountain ranges. Bagan, a heart of cultural heritage, is standing proudly in the central region.

Bagan enchanting tourism with its cultural values

Bagan has been boasting its cultural heritage with the ancient temples and pagodas from the 12th Century AD. It's the invaluable treasure of the country with its architectural wonders and historical features. King Anawrahta of the first Myanmar Empire founded Bagan as well. The visitors can feel the historical significance,



One of the cultural heritage pagodas in the Bagan area. PHOTO: KANU

prosperity and cultural dynamics of the Bagan dynasty even by walking near the temples and pagodas to date. Despite the loss and damage to the physical artefacts, the eminent Bagan is still the most popular

destination for tourists.

Inviting tourists to explore the ancient city

"Bagan and art of lacquerware are coexisting in the Bagan zone. Lacquer (lo-

cally called Yun) is one of Myanmar's ten best well-known traditional arts and crafts (Ten floral arts) and aesthetic finest art. Lacquerware College is providing the technology of lacquerware arts to maintain

traditional lacquerware from extinction and pass it on to future generations. The college offers a two-year diploma and shares the technology with the locals.

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Myanmar War Veterans Organization Statement

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, urging leaders and two members of each ethnic armed organization-EAO to hold talks in order to end armed conflicts in the whole country and set 2022 as the peace year, since ethnic nationalities have not yet fully experienced the essence of independence after 75 years.

As the appeal of the Senior General is an offer to grant the genuine peace and development that all ethnic people aspire to, the Myanmar War Veterans Organization wholeheartedly welcomes and supports this speech.

Myanmar War Veterans Organization

Myanmar Motion Picture Organization Statement

- 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.
 - In his speech, he invited ethnic armed organizations-EAOs to hold a meeting in order to end armed conflicts across the nation.
 - The call of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is intended to give the people the opportunity to enjoy the taste of peace and development that all ethnic people aspire to. We welcome and support the people’s aspiration for peace according to the motto “Film is for the people”.
- Myanmar Motion Picture Organization*

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

Interfaith Friendship and Solidarity Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Statement

11th Waning of Tagu 1384 ME
26 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 2022. In his remarks, it is stated that the Senior General invited leaders and two members of each ethnic armed organization-EAO to hold talks to end armed conflicts across the nation and to set 2022 as the year of peace.
- 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 genuine peace, and the development of the country, the Myanmar Interfaith Friendship and Solidarity Committee announces its full support.

*Interfaith Friendship and Solidarity Committee(Central)
Republic of the Union of Myanmar*

Joint statement of 23 political parties

11th Waning of Tagu 1384 ME
26 April 2022

- The Chairman of the State Administration Council himself delivered a speech on television, calling on ethnic armed organizations-EAOs to hold talks to resolve armed conflicts which have been going on since Myanmar’s Independence.
- This invitation to leaders of ethnic armed organizations-EAOs strongly refers to the objective of ending conflicts.
- The invitation also clearly showed the country’s current situation and the action plans to be implemented.
- We believe that a genuine desire for peace is a fundamental requirement for the success of peacebuilding. All sincere efforts to build peace are warmly welcome.
- We urged all concerned to work together in good faith for the sake of security, economic development, peace and happiness of the state and its citizens.

No.	Name	Position in the party	Party name	signature
1.	U Than Htay	Chairman	Union Solidarity and Development Party	
2.	U Han Shwe	Chairman	National Unity Party	
3.	U Than Tun	Vice-Chairman	New National Democracy Party	
4.	Dr Nay Zin Latt	Chairman	National Development Party	
5.	U Tin Swe	Vice-Chairman	Democratic Party (Myanmar)	
6.	U Tun Aung Kyaw	Chairman	Modern People Party	
7.	U Theim Kyi	Chairman	National Political Alliance Party	
8.	U Aye Kyaing	Chairman	Rakhine State National United Party	
9.	U Shwe Min (a) Siphar Larlu	Chairman	Lisu National Development Party(Crossbow Party)	
10.	U Myo Nyunt	Chairman	Party for Democracy and Peace	
11.	Daw Sandar Oo	Chairman	Peace for Diversity Party	
12.	U Kyaw Swa Soe	Chairman	Myanmar Farmers’ Development Party	
13.	U Htay Aung	Chairman	People Force Party	
14.	U Kyaw Zin	Chairman	Public of Labour Party	
15.	U Thaung Oo	Chairman	88 Generation Democracy Party	
16.	U Aye Lwin	Chairman	Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics	
17.	U Min Thu	Chairman	Union Farmer-Labour Force Party	
18.	U Kyaw Sein	Chairman	National Prosperity Party	
19.	U Aung Than	Chairman	New Era Union Party	
20.	U Kyaw Tun Khaing	Vice-Chairman	Mro National Development Party (MNDP)	
21.	U Than Oo	Vice-Chairman	88 Generation Student Youths (Union of Myanmar) Party	
22.	U Saw Lwin Nge	Vice-Chairman	Myanmar People’s Democratic Party	
23.	U Tan Goon	General-Secretary	The Party for People	

We will strive to end the armed conflicts across the country

I have told that 2022 is set as the year of peace, and we will strive to end the armed conflicts across the country. As it is necessary to implement such a process practically, I invite leaders of the ethnic armed organizations to hold the meeting. I myself will meet with all groups.

(Excerpt from the speech on peace delivered by by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing on 22 April 2022)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Law Amending the Myanmar Engineering Council Law State Administration Council Law No 40/2022

11th Waning of Tagu 1384 ME
26 April 2022

THE State Administration Council 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 Myanmar Engineering Council Law.
2. Section 5 of the Myanmar Engineering Law shall be substituted as follows: —
“5. In forming the Myanmar Engineering Council with 60 members, the Panel of Patrons of the Council shall-
(a) select to assign duties to 10 each among the eligibly professional engineers as council members in accord with the criteria as follows: -
(1) professional engineers from ministries and government organizations related to the engineering arena,
(2) professional engineers from government departments, universities, colleges and institutes concerning the engineering and technological academic measures.
(b) select to assign duties to eligibly retired professional engineers from ministries, government organizations, engineering and academic technological measures-related government departments, universities, colleges and institutes concerning the engineering arena as council members.
(c) select to assign duties to 15 each among the following eligibly professional

engineers as council members—

- (1) professional engineers from non-governmental engineering societies
 - (2) renowned professional engineers
3. Sub-section (f) of Section 8 of the Myanmar Engineering Council shall be substituted as follows: -
“(f) The Panel of Patrons shall legally form the new council under the permission of the responsible ministry within 60 days from the date the existing council term shall be invalid and order to hand over the duties.”
 4. Sub-section (f) of Section 8 of the Myanmar Engineering Council, below Sub-section (g), shall be substituted as follow: -
“(g) The existing council shall serve the duties and functions until the new council has been formed.”

I hereby signed this law under Section 419 of the Constitution.

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

Myanmar and Thailand discuss drug control cooperation

AT the invitation of Justice Minister of Thailand Mr Somsak Thepsutin, a delegation led by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut went to Bangkok on 22 April to promote the Myanmar-Thai drug control cooperation.

At the meeting, the two sides cordially discussed joint drug control issues between the two countries, the success of the anti-drug special operation— Operation 1511/22 and plans for further cooperation. They also observed the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB)’s management procedures for confiscating drug-related assets, the use of technology in the anti-drug activities, and the auction of seized assets.

Afterwards, the Myanmar delegation led by the Union

minister inspected the security measures, the rule of law and drug control activities at the Royal Thai Police’s Sai Mai Area Police Station and Maritime Police in Bangkok and drug control and observed the living and administrative support of police officers.

A delegation led by Joint Secretary of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and Commander of Anti-Drug Police Force Police Brig-Gen Win Naing, who accompanied the Union Minister during the trip to Thailand, attended the 23rd Myanmar-Thailand Joint Drug Control Meeting on 22 April in Bangkok.

The meeting discussed matters related to the drug situation in the region, control of the illegal entry of chemicals into the Golden Tri-



Myanmar-Thailand discussion on drug control cooperation in progress.

gle region, prevention of the spread of drugs to the region and beyond, identification and arrest of suspects wanted by both countries, capacity building of drug-control offices and education campaigns on narcotics among young people. — MNA

Myanmar’s ancient cultural heritage lies in Bagan...

FROM PAGE-1

Bagan Lacquerware College, in cooperation with Asian Lacquer Craft Exchange, is exchanging lacquer arts from Asian countries. There are lacquer craft exchange programmes in Japan, China, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Cambodia, Viet Nam and Laos. They are temporarily suspended in the COVID pandemic. There were teacher exchange programmes between Myanmar and development partner Japan. Japanese lecturers conducted an intensive course for the locals executing lacquerware for living.

The lacquerware technology college is an institution where the technology of lacquerware is offered to meet international standards, preserve traditional lacquerware, and not lose its grip. Furthermore, tourists can also explore lacquerware at the Lacquerware Museum

the earnings will go to the revenue of the State.

Moreover, over 40 antique lacquer objects have been collected with the State’s budget. Also, there are two buildings for the foreigners to explore the arts of lacquerware at the college. Additionally, lacquerware shops also offer items produced with Japanese techniques and traditional ones. The college will be reopened on 12 May 2022, so the tourists are cordially invited,” said Daw Nilar Myint, a principal of the college said.

Preserving and protecting the lacquerware arts to date and maintaining temples and pagodas from the Bagan dynasty is a price of the Bagan zone. The locals have been preserving it as vocational education and passing on the future generation is a national responsibility. Lacquerware College (Bagan), operated under the Department of Cooperative and the Depart-



Myanmar’s ancient cultural heritage lies in Bagan – the heart of the country.

Lacquerware Institute in 1995 and Lacquerware College on 23 December 2003.

Aims and objectives of the College



Lacquerware technology Hall in the campus.



Lacquerware shop in the campus.

on campus. More than 400 lacquerware, including traditional items maintained from the 12th century AD, is showcased at the museum. The foreigners usually visit there. Also, the lacquerware production hall features production stages from the raw materials (bamboo, timber). The foreigner is charged K2,000 to enter the museum and hall, and

ment of Small-Scale Industries, is preserving the lacquer arts from the threat of extinction up to now.

Academic upgrading of the College

Lacquerware College (Bagan) was started as a lacquerware vocation school in 1924 and upgraded to Myanma

The college is opened to preserve Myanmar’s traditional heritage from the Bagan dynasty, protect the endangered lacquer craft from extinction, provide technical assistance to the lacquer industry to promote and maintain traditional crafts and produce artisans and lacquerware professionals to be well-known experts with busi-

ness knowledge.

Emergence of self-help lacquerware vocational school

The vocation of making lacquerware is also preserving the country’s cultural heritage. Retired assistant to Officer of Bagan U Ba Tin in Colonial era, was a person who appreciated traditional arts. He tried to establish a lacquerware vocational school for the sustainable development of lacquer crafts in Bagan city. U Ba Tin met with lacquerware experts and opened a self-help school. In 1924, the state-owned school was opened.

Upgrading to college level

The government changed the course duration of the lacquerware vocation school from three years to one year in March 1960. The school offered a one-year course every year from March 1960 to March 1965. According to a meeting (32/94) of the Union Government of Myanmar on 31 August 1994, the school was upgraded to Myanma Lacquerware Institute. Later, it was turned into Lacquerware College in December 2003.

Completing bachelor degree

Those enthusiastic with graduate (under 35 years) and under-graduate (under 25 years) education can join a two-year diploma course. Those who successfully accomplished the two-year diploma course starting from the 2005 intake are entitled to attend the Co-operative University to learn business science and receive a bachelor’s degree.

Cooperation with international institutions

Lacquerware College (Bagan) was made partner with Japan for lacquer craft exchange programmes in 1953. At present, it’s working together with the Universities of arts in Japan, China and Thailand to exchange lacquer crafts.

Creating job opportunities for the trainees

The college produced 2,564 trainees between 1924-1925 and 2019-2020 academic years. Of them, 15 can set up their own business, 80 serve as civil staff, and 550 join private firms. Three of them are engaged in the lacquerware industry for a living. The college helped them to hunt for jobs.

Translated.



7th Coordination Meeting of the Task Force to facilitate provision of Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar through the AHA Centre

THE 7th Coordination Meeting of the Task Force to facilitate the provision of Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar through the AHA Centre was held at 10:00 am on 26 April 2022 at the Ministry of International Cooperation.

The Meeting was attended by Chair of the Task Force, U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister of the Ministry of International Cooperation, Vice-Chair (1) of the Task Force, Dr Thet Khaing Win, Union Minister of the Ministry of Health, Vice-Chair (2) of the Task Force, Dr Thet Thet Khine, Union Minister of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, members and secretaries of the Task Force.

The Meeting reviewed operational experiences for receiving and delivery of Humanitarian Assistance across the nation. The Meeting further noted the outcomes of the discussion with Cambodia Delegation during their working visit to Myanmar. The Meeting then discussed the initiatives for Phase-2 provision of Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar proposed by Cambodia, preparation for the Joint Needs Assessment, which is the initial stage for Phase-2 and policy-related matters for Humanitarian Assistance.

The Meeting reaffirmed continued support to facilitate swift and effective implementation of the whole process in close coordination with Cambodia, the ASEAN Secretariat and the AHA Centre. —MNA



The seventh Coordination Meeting of the Task Force to facilitate the provision of Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar through the AHA Centre is convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MoHT Union Minister attends Seminar on ASEAN-Korea Culture and Tourism



UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung attended the ASEAN-Korea Culture and Tourism seminar under

the title of “Creating Sustainable and Responsible Tourism with Digital Technology” organized by the ASEAN-Korea

Centre, the ASEAN Secretariat, Korea Tourism Organization and Travie Magazine online yesterday.

At the seminar, Secretary General Mr Kim Hae-yong of the ASEAN-Korea Centre delivered a keynote address on the global COVID-19 impact on tourism and other sectors, challenges encountered in trying to revive tourism after COVID-19, and tourism cooperation between ASEAN and Korea and the establishment of sustainable tourism through the use of digital technology.

Mr Ahn Young-bae of the Korea Tourism Organization said building sustainable tourism through the use of digital technology and cooperation between ASEAN and Korea for future tourism development. Chairman Mr Sergio Guerreiro of the Tourism Committee of the OECD discussed the importance of digital technology,

implementation of the OECD tourism sector, factors to consider when formulating tourism policies, essential roles of ministries, opportunities, benefits and challenges available through the use of digital technology.

Experts from respective fields discussed the digital transformation results through the experience of coping with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of sustainable tourism in developing resilient future tourism.

The seminar is held from 26 to 27 April to develop a strategic plan for smart tourism in the reopening of ASEAN-Korea tourism and enabling ASEAN and Korea to work together digitally for digital tourism. — MNA

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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.

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Effective protections on intellectual property can improve foreign investment, create new job opportunities: MoC Union Minister



The eighth World Intellectual Property Day 2022 event in progress virtually.

EFFECTIVE protections on intellectual property can improve foreign investment and create new job opportunities, said Union Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint San during the eighth World Intellectual Property Day 2022 ceremony held virtually in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Moreover, the

transfer of high technology can enhance productivity and create innovations in literature, arts, and industrial sectors by sharing the benefits equally between the creators and consumers and improving living standards. Therefore, intellectual property can support the country’s economic development, he said.

According to the theme of this year’s World Intellectual Property Day, the Union Minister added that it is necessary to work together to establish a copyright protection system so that today’s youth can create innovations that will make the future more beautiful.

World Intellectual Property Day has been held annually by the World Intellectual Property Organization since 2000. The theme of World IP Day 2022 is IP and Youth; Innovating for A

Better Future.
Myanmar became the 176th member country of WIPO in 2001. The Ministry of Education (previously the Ministry of Science and Technology) and the IP Department under the Research and Innovation Department served as a domain to communicate with the World Intellectual Property Organization to conduct the IP related activities. The IP Department drafted and amended the copyright law, shared knowledge, cooperated with international organizations and carried out the copyright measures.
The 26th of April is designated as “World IP Day” each year in recognition of the “WIPO Convention” established by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 1970. — Htun Htun/GNLM

57th Myanmar Gems Emporium continues its fifth day

THE fifth day of the 57th Myanmar Gems Emporium continued yesterday at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.
The local and foreign gem merchants observed the displayed jade and jewel items in the hall and jadestone outside the hall.
After that, the officials opened the bidding for 700 jadestone lots from series 1 to 700 and announced that 523 jadestone lots were sold out.

Moreover, 330 pearl lots from series 1 to 330 were on sale through the open tender system, and 330 pearl lots were sold out, while 54 gemstone lots from series 1 to 120 were sold to local and foreign gem merchants during previous events.
The jade lots from the series 701 to 1400 will be sold on the sixth day of the event, and from 1401 to 2000 on the seventh day.
Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental

Conservation U Khin Maung Yi, in his capacity as Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee Patron, inspected the jade sales at the event yesterday afternoon.
The Myanmar Gems Emporium has been successfully held since 1964 to earn foreign income and develop the economy for the citizens, reaching its 57th event. The local and foreign gemstone merchants peacefully observed the displayed pearl lots and jade lots during the event. — MNA



Gemstone traders are seen evaluating jade lots at the 57th Myanmar Gems Emporium yesterday.

Ex-union ministers U Ohn Win, U Win Khine, ex-deputy minister Dr Tun Naing, ex-managing director of No 1 Mining Enterprise U Kyaw San, managing director of Electric Generation Enterprise U Than Naing Oo, company chairman U Chit Khine, managing director U Win Min Khine charged under Anti-Corruption Law

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has set up an inspection team to investigate the bribes in the production and sales of coal which is needed for the Tigyt coal-fired power plant of Electric Power Generation Enterprise of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.
According to the inspections, No (1) Mining Enterprise and one private company developed an operation on Tigyt coal-fired power plant with 30 per cent of interest to the country and 70 per cent to private. In paying 2 per cent of miner-

al tax to the government, they failed to change the sale of price per ton (K48,100 per tonne in 2018-2019, K56,500 per tonne in 2019-2022). They collected on the sale per tonne of coal at K12,000 according to the ministry’s management committee meeting 1/2017 held on 12 January 2017. Therefore, it reduced more than K1,900 million of mine tax for more than 23 tonnes of coal produced from 2018 to 2021 and more than K14,000 million for 30 per cent of production that the government must receive, which caused more than K15,900 mil-

lion losses in the State budget. Therefore, ex-union minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win was charged under Section 55 of the Anti-Corruption Law, while former managing director U Kyaw San of the No (1) Mining Enterprise and joint-venture company chairman U Chit Khine under Section 55/63 of the Anti-Corruption Law.
The Electric Power Generation Enterprise of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and the private company failed to follow the President’s Office di-

rective 1/2017 in making the coal procurement contract. They did not calculate the price of one tonne based on 2,000 tonnes of normal production per day but on 1,750 tonnes to increase the price for one tonne. It cost more than K5,809.12 per tonne, and the government faced losses of more than K9,400 million, over K8,200 million in purchasing for 1.4 million tonnes by the department between 2019 and 2021 and more than K1,200 million in income tax for calculation of the income tax of per ton that must be paid by the company.

The cases were opened against ex-union minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khine and ex-deputy minister Dr Tun Naing under Section 55 of the Anti-Corruption Law, ex-managing director of the Electric Power Generation Enterprise U Than Naing Oo and joint-venture company managing director U Win Min Khine under Section 55/63 of the Anti-Corruption Law at Phayagon Myoma police station in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw on 25 April. The ACC conducts further investigations to take action. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Awareness campaigns for GI designation of Shwebo Pawsan rice conducted in villages

AWARENESS campaigns for Shwebo Pawsan (high-grade rice variety) to get a Geographical Indication (GI) designation were conducted on 21 April in Aungchantha village and 25 April in Nyaungpintha village in the Shwebo district.

Shwebo Pawsan Farming, Milling and Trading Association (Central) has been raising awareness of GI.

Working agendas and cooperation, the interest of farmers, traders and millers when GI will be earned, the business operating system for quality management drawn up by the association and inviting new members were highlighted at the event.

Additionally, matters concerning SATAKE Seed Centre operated by the association were



Awareness campaigns for Shwebo Pawsan (high-grade rice variety) to get a Geographical Indication (GI) designation were conducted on 21 April in Aungchantha village and 25 April in Nyaungpintha village in the Shwebo district.

also explained.

Pedigree seed access plays a pivotal role in seeking GI. The association is also running a



Seed Centre developed under the JICA's project to produce pedigree and quality seeds of Pawsan variety in Wetlet Town-

ship, Shwebo district.

Shwebo Pawsan rice seed production (2020-2021) has been carried out on trial run from 22

December 2021.

In order to acquire copyright for Shwebo Pawsan, relevant organizations and farmers are cordially invited to work together in producing pedigree seeds and meeting GI criteria.

Pawsan rice crop was previously grown in Ayeyawady delta regions. Now, it is cultivated across the country. There are about 1.3 million acres of Pawsan rice crop every year.

Pawsan varieties vary in different regions and a harvest season. A GI is a specific intellectual property right that designates a product from one particular region and whose characteristics result in both the natural conditions of its origin and the expertise of local producers. — Lu Lay/GNLM

Gold transactions still cannot be fixed on the CBM reference exchange rate: YGEA



Gold jewellery is seen at one of gold outlets in Yangon.

GOLD transactions still cannot be fixed on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate amid the financial difficulty, said U Myo Myint, the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) chair.

According to the provisions stipulated in Sections 11, 12 and 13 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, the foreign exchange earned by locals in Myanmar must be deposited in accounts at the authorized dealers and exchanged for the local currency at the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference rate of K1,850 per US dollar within one working day, according to the

notification released on 3 April.

That is why the YGEA called for an urgent meeting on 8 April. The meeting determined to carry out gold transactions depending on the CBM's reference exchange rate. However, it has not come into effect yet.

"We have difficulty fixing the gold price on the CBM's reference rate. The border market does not accept the set rate of K1,850. Nonetheless, the transaction is done with the exchange rate margin," U Myo Myint was quoted as saying.

On 23 April, officials from the department concerned, the

YGEA and Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association discussed gold price stability at the meeting. Gold transaction on the CBM's reference rate, immediate payments, and avoiding price manipulation was discussed, he said.

Current market condition impedes transaction on the basis of the reference rate. Yet, it will be implemented later, he continued.

The US dollar stands at K2,000 in the unofficial black market, while the CBM reference rate is K1,850. The gold price stands at US\$1,903 per ounce in the global market. Meanwhile, 24-carat gold is worth K2,045,000 per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme).

The domestic gold price is highly correlated with the global gold price, YGEA stated. During the end of September 2021, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K3,000 in the gold exchanges and consequently, the pure gold reached a record high of K2.22 million per tical in history. — NN/GNLM

Perennial gum sterculia cultivation expands in NyaungU District

THE number of acreages for perennial gum sterculia that produces tragacanth Gum aka Sterculia gum or Karaya gum, has increased in NyaungU District, Mandalay Region, according to U Aung San, a gum sterculia farm owner in Ngathayauk town.

The distance of gum sterculia is 10 feet in each row of cultivation. The growers in Kyaukpadaung Township, NyaungU Township, Ngathayauk town and Bagan city are expanding acreage of gum sterculia as they

rely on rainwater for agriculture. The growing season starts in the monsoon. It's resistant to climate change. Skilled tappers harvest the gum. Some growers turned to perennial gum sterculia as low rainfall affected crop yield, U Tin Htun Aung, a three-acre farm owner from Legwa village, said.

Myanmar Tragacanth Gum is generally exported to China. Additionally, Japan has shown interest in it, but it wants only organic farmed gum. —Ko Htein KPD, KK/GNLM



The distance of gum sterculia is 10 feet in each row of cultivation. The growers in Kyaukpadaung Township, NyaungU Township, Ngathayauk town and Bagan city are expanding acreage of gum sterculia as they rely on rainwater for agriculture.

Create a green country, green Earth for future generations

THE urban areas in the country are populous with high population density in the expansion of urban areas into the fallow and virgin lands around them because of the increasing population and migration of the people from one place to another. Construction of roads and buildings as facilities for local people and acts of humans and vehicles cause damage to existing natural situations, harming the environment to be polluted.

The high density of population brings hotness to the urbanites. The small and large cities full of public housing emit heat into the atmosphere, which reflects the climatic conditions of the country. Air-conditioners, refrigerators and other electronic equipment, as well as vehicles and industries, release gases, smoke and heat to the urban areas.

The high temperature of urban areas may bear physical and mental harmfulness to the people of urban areas. In summer, the people may suffer from harmful impacts over emergency health cases such as muscle cramps, heat stroke, heart attack, as well as respiratory tract diseases based on dust, smoke, gases and various kinds of pollution.

The best way to prevent the environmental overheating is to grow trees in harmony with urban buildings and roads. In this regard, it is necessary to culture lawns and grows flowery parks and shade trees without covering the concrete structures such as buildings, streets and car parks around the urban area in order to control the heat and reflection, absorb gases such as carbon dioxide, sustain moisture in the shade of trees and make the air quality good.

Moreover, the greening structures and activities created with flowery plants and shade trees help the people be clean and fresh, easing their tensions triggered by depression of the people from the workplaces and restricted daily routines.

These will be challenges to increasing population density in urban areas and the booming of major cities in the future. Despite natural situations, relevant authorities need to manage the relaxation of overheating and air pollution based on the spreading of mist, dust, smoke and dangerous gases. To mitigate these impacts, all citizens need to grow various species of trees in vacant and virgin lands inside and outside the cities.

Only when urbanites in all counties establish the green cities will the planet Earth have a chance to extend its term of age. Consequently, all global people will have the opportunity of accommodation. If so, all need to create a green country and a green Earth for future generations.



UK Covid patient was positive for record 505 days: researchers

The previous record for persistent infection — rather than repeated bouts of Covid — is thought to be 335 days, the team from King's College London and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust said.

BRITISH researchers believe they have documented the longest-known Covid-19 infection, in a patient who tested positive for a total of 505 days before their death.

The previous record for persistent infection — rather than repeated bouts of Covid — is thought to be 335 days, the team from King's College London and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust said.

One of the study's co-authors, consultant virologist Gaia Nebbia, said the unnamed individual was diagnosed in mid-2020 with respiratory symptoms that later improved.

Tested positive about 45 times

But they then tested positive about 45 times before attending hospital up to their death.

Nebbia said persistent infection with SARS-CoV-2 — the virus which causes Covid-19 — has been described in patients with weakened immune systems.

She and her team studied how the virus from nine Covid patients in London changed over time, concluding that new variants may occur in immunocompromised patients.

"This is one of the hypotheses for the emergence of variants," Nebbia told AFP.

"Regular sampling and genetic analysis of the virus showed that five of the nine patients developed at least one mutation seen in variants of concern.

"Some individuals developed multiple mutations associated with variants of concern, such as the Alpha, Delta and Omicron variants.

"However, none of the individuals in our work developed new variants that became widespread variants of concern."

Of the nine immunocompromised patients who tested positive for at least eight weeks, infections persisted on average for 73 days.

But two patients had persistent infections for more than a year.



The previous record for persistent infection — rather than repeated bouts of Covid — is thought to be 335 days, the team from King's College London and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust said.
PHOTO: JUSTIN TALLIS/ AFP

Weakened immune systems

All the patients had weakened immune systems due to organ transplantation, HIV, cancer or other medical therapies. They were studied between March 2020 and December last year.

Of the nine, five survived. Two of the five recovered without treatment and two others recovered after antibody and antiviral therapy.

The fifth individual was still infected at their last follow-up examination in early 2022, even after treatment, and had Covid for 412 days.

Should they test positive at their next appointment, they will exceed the 505-day record, the researchers said.

Nebbia said the situation demonstrated the urgent need for new treatments to help immunocompromised patients recover.

The findings will be presented at the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases in Lisbon, which begins on Saturday.

SOURCE: AFP

Appointment of Kenyan Ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Lindsay Kimwole Kiptiness as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kenya to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residing in Bangkok.

Mr Lindsay Kimwole Kiptiness was born in 1968. He obtained a Bachelor of Education (Arts) from Moi University in 1992 a Post-Graduate Diploma (PGD) in Diplomacy and International Relations from the University of Nairobi in 2005, MA in Peace and Conflict Studies from Hacettepe University, Turkey in 2015 respectively. Since 2019, he is writing an MA thesis on International Studies in University of Nairobi. From 1993-1995, he worked as a Teacher/Deputy Head teacher at Sergoit Secondary School. From 1995 to 2003, he served as District Officer and as a personal representative of the President, whose responsibilities were security, law and order, community mobilization, conflict resolution and resource management, etc.

He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya in 2003 and served in various capacities at the Ministry, Kenya High Commission in Botswana, Kenya Embassies in Khartoum, Sudan and Ankara, Turkey, Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) till 2015. From 2016 to 2017, he served as Deputy Chef de Cabinet at Cabinet Secretary's Office and from 2018 to 2020, he served as Deputy Director and Director respectively at Asia, Australasia and Pacific Islands Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since 2021, he has been serving as Ambassador of Kenya to Thailand.

He is married with four children.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated, 27 April 2022

To Lengthen One's Lifespan

By Yin Nwe Ko

MY GRANDPA passed away in his early 50s. It was during the state of lawlessness due to the civil war. He was a wealthy man from a village which was not more than four miles away from a town. He owned over a hundred acres of paddy fields and a lot of cattle. In his village, there was no security, especially at night. He often heard the news that his house would be robbed one day. At last, he had to move to the town for the safety of the lives of the family members, leaving his properties in the village. After some time, his house and his barn, which was full of paddy, were burnt down by the robbers. The news weighed him down, and he was laid in bed.

At that moment, the powerful and effective medicine could not be bought easily. He was taken care of by his family with random indigenous medicine. The condition of his health got worse and worse day after day. At last, he left his beloved family and went to his new existence. This incident was 67 years ago. If my grandpa had met a doctor and got some treatments with powerful and effective medicine, he could not have encountered such a situation like that.

A few days ago, I made a phone call to a person who was very intimate, like my younger brother, whose age was about 55 and who lived in Hlegu and asked him about his health. He

answered my call, explaining how he made his medical check in a renowned private hospital with modern apparatus and machines. He continued how the physician gave him important instructions and some effective medicine. I remembered my grandpa at once. The person I talked to on the phone was not as wealthy as my grandpa. However, my grandpa was unlucky. The instability of the State made my grandpa and my friend greatly different.

After our conversation, I happened to think about people. Most people, including me, want to live long.

It is not a fault! It is natural. Therefore, they try to lengthen their lifespan with various kinds

of medicine whenever they become ill. The chronic or acute illness needs to be cured with food or medicine which is instructed by a skilful doctor or physician. These days, there are many doctors, physicians, private clinics, high standard hospitals and very precise laboratories here. As the stability of the State is also confirmed, people can have excellent treatments at any time.

In 2003, I was not well and went to a doctor from a clinic in my town. He made a necessary examination on me and let me know that I had high blood pressure. He also gave me some instructions in which I would have to take regular doses of pills with-

out fail to keep my normal blood pressure. Since then, I have been taking those pills for ages. Otherwise, I would have died of high blood pressure in ten years. My grandpa did not get that chance as the unstable situation of the State at that moment, although he had enough cash to cure his illness. I think he also had a strong desire to recover from his illness and live long happily in the world with his family.

What was more, I had another illness after 2003 and consulted the clinic's doctor that I often went to. He gave me some instructions and suitable medicine as before. Therefore, I had to take more pills for them. At present, I am taking four different

pills after breakfast daily. This is also lengthening my lifespan. Later, I sometimes think about why I am doing this to lengthen my lifespan. *Am I attached to my current life? Is lengthening lifespan good? What am I going to do in the remaining period of my life?*

A lengthening lifespan is called longevity, and it was stated on Wikipedia as follows.

As living conditions improve and the science of medicine advances, the longevity of the average American has increased greatly, from about 45 years in 1900 to over 75 years today. But the most impressive human longevity is nothing compared to the 400-year lifespan of an ocean clam

found near Iceland, or the 5,000-year lifespan of the bristlecone pine, a tree found in the western US. We may use *longevity* to talk not only about actual lives but also of the useful "life" of things: the life of your car's tires or the shingles on your roof, for example.

From the above passage, I happened to take notice of the phrase "the useful life". One's life is long, but if he could not do anything for society and depends on all his measures upon the others, is his life meaningful? All his measures such as having a meal, changing clothes, taking a bath, urination, excretions, making the bed, walking hither and thither in the house, bringing medicines to

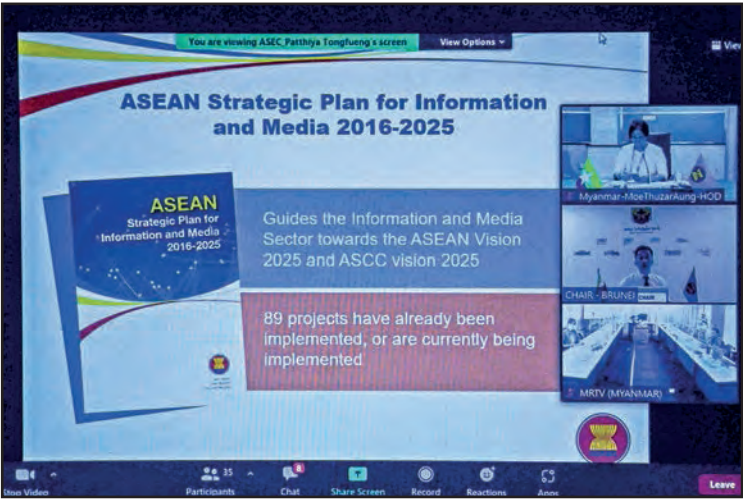
take them, etc., will be the duties of the others, and it will be a burden for them. If so, his longevity will not be beneficial to society.

My individual opinion is that one should be beneficial for his society in any way as long as he is alive. If not so, he accepts that death is more meaningful than his longevity. Here, my esteemed readers can differ from mine.

I had heard an opinion when I was a third-year student. One of my respected teachers said about it. *"Being alive and being dead are greatly different in meaning. However, when they are identical, being dead is much better than the first one."*



8th SOMRI working group on content and production meeting held in Brunei



The MRTV delegation joins the eighth SOMRI working group on content and production meeting virtually.

THE 8th SOMRI working group on content and production meeting (8th SOMRI WG-CP) was held through videoconferencing yesterday morning in Brunei, and a delegation led by Director Daw Moe Thu Zar Aung of the Myanmar Radio and Television-MRTV participated in the discussion.

At the meeting, the participants discussed decisions of the ASEAN Meetings on television programmes and production, TV programme and production implementation

projects, information and Strategic Plan for the Information and Media Sector (2016-2025), projects being implemented with ASEAN dialogue partners concerning television programme and production, new programmes and production projects.

The meeting aims to provide good support for the implementation of the projects and decisions made at the Senior Officials' Meeting Responsible for Information-SOMRI, to review and submit news and

broadcast programmes and projects in the news and media sector, to conduct a detailed study of technical standards and frameworks, policy guidelines for the media sector and submit to the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting, and to fully cooperate in the implementation of information projects agreed upon by SOMRI.

The SOMRI Working Group on Content and Production meetings are held voluntarily at least once a year. Laos will host it in 2023. — MNA

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ministry of Education

Department of Higher Education

Statement

UNIVERSITIES, Degree Colleges and Colleges under the Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education will offer the second and third batches of the final year courses specializing in Bachelor of Arts (University of Distance Education) in the 2022 Academic Year as follows: -

No	Academic Year/ Subject	Course Duration
1	Second Batch Fourth-year courses specializing in Bachelor of Arts (University of Distance Education) (Subjects – English, Law, Geography, Psychology, Oriental Studies, Philosophy) and fifth-year courses in Law	19-5-2022 to 28-5-2022
2	Third Batch Fourth-year courses specializing in Bachelor of Arts (University of Distance Education) (Subjects – Myanmar, History, Economics, Business Management)	6-6-2022 to 15-6-2022

Department of Higher Education

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.

Packs of 19.04 tonnes of masks were imported via the Chinshwehaw border trade post 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



Illegal timbers, consumer goods, cosmetics and vehicles seized

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

On 23 April, a combined inspection team led by the Region Forest Department under the supervision of the Yangon Region Anti-Illegal Trade Special Task Force conducted inspections. They seized 2.1502 tonnes of illegal teak furniture parts and teak doors (estimated value of K645,060) and two vehicles (estimated value of K35,000,000) that carried these things, totalling K35,646,060, on the Yangon-Pyay Road in Mingaladon township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 25 April, the consumer

goods and cosmetics (estimated value of K75,150,000), which were not declared in the Import Declaration, were also seized during an inspection conducted by the inspection team on



Officials seize illegal teak.

duty under the supervision of the Customs Department at the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Checkpoint. Similarly, the consumer goods that do not show any official documents, with a 12-wheeler truck that carried these things (estimated value of K22,000,000) were seized in Muse Township. The action was taken under the Customs Law.

In addition, on 26 April, 5.4902 tonnes of illegal timbers (estimated value of K1,098,040) were seized under the Forest Law in Bago District and Toungoo District yesterday during an inspection conducted by the inspection team led by the Forest Department under the supervision of the Bago Region

Anti-Illegal Trade Special Task Force. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, an unregistered Honda Fit GE6 vehicle (estimated value of K1,500,000) in the Sagaing Region during an inspection conducted by the inspection team led by the Police Force under the supervision of the Sagaing Region Anti-Illegal Trade Special Task Force. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Therefore, the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee stated that ten arrests (estimated at K189,548,122) were made on 23, 25 and 26 April. — MNA

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chinese Taipei logs single-day high of 6,339 new COVID-19 cases

Chinese Taipei on Tuesday reported a single-day high of 6,339 new COVID-19 cases, comprising 6,295 locally transmitted cases and 44 imported infections, said the Central Epidemic Command Centre (CECC). Of the local cases, New Taipei city reported the highest number of infections at 2,076, followed by Taipei city with 1,302, Taoyuan city with 1,159, Keelung city with 409, Taichung city with 263, Hualien county with 212, Kaohsiung city with 182 and Yilan county with 126 cases.

With the addition of new cases, the total number of COVID-19 cases in Chinese Taipei reported, so far mounted to 68,022 including 10,521 imported cases and 57,447 local cases.

With no fresh death reported in the past 24 hours, the death toll remained unchanged at 856 including 842 fatalities from local cases and the other 14 from imported cases. — ANI



Medical workers are busy at the screening station for possible COVID-19 cases at a hospital in Taipei on 30 March 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA/JIN LIWANG/FILE

Multinational pharmaceutical company keen to expand cooperation with China



AstraZeneca is committed to working with all parties to bridge the vaccine gap and strengthen exchanges on anti-pandemic experience through digital means. PHOTO: HOLLANDSE HOOGTE / AFP

ASTRAZENECA, a multinational biopharmaceutical company, is keen to cooperate with China on a wide range of topics, including global anti-epidemic cooperation and promoting healthcare innovations, said the head of the company at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2022.

“In order to reinforce the achievements in the global fight against COVID-19 and share the health and wellbeing, addressing timely and equitable access to vaccines

and vaccination is urgent for the world,” Leif Johansson, chairman of AstraZeneca, said in his speech via video link at the Boao forum.

As of the first quarter of 2022, AstraZeneca has delivered more than 2.8 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccine to more than 180 countries worldwide, about two-thirds of which were exported to go to low-income countries and regions.

He said that AstraZeneca is committed to working with all parties to bridge the vaccine

gap and strengthen exchanges on anti-pandemic experience through digital means.

Johansson pointed out that China has scored world-renowned achievements in developing the digital economy, and the application of digital technologies such as 5G, big data, and artificial intelligence has significantly improved the quality of medical services and accessibility of treatment for patients in China.

In terms of China-Europe cooperation, Leon Wang, executive vice-president and international and China president of AstraZeneca, spoke highly of the significant role that Chinese companies played in promoting close economic and trade exchanges between the two sides.

Faced with multiple challenges posed by the pandemic, he suggested all parties should seek common ground while reserving differences so as to explore more potential for the global economic recovery and achieve a win-win outcome. —Xinhua

Serum Institute of India, world’s largest vaccine maker, halts production of Covishield

SERUM Institute of India has halted production of Covishield, the locally made version of the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine, due to falling demand, said chief executive of the world’s largest vaccine maker on Friday.

The Serum institute has produced more than one billion doses of Covishield — its version of the AstraZeneca jab — and is a major supplier to the Covax global inoculation programme for poorer countries. There is now a global glut of coronavirus vaccines.

It is a remarkable contrast to a year ago, when India, known as the “pharmacy of the world”, restricted exports to combat a terrifying rise in infections that pushed the healthcare system to breaking point. Vaccine exports resumed in November.

“We’ve got 200 million doses of stock,” said Serum chief Adar

Poonawalla. “We shut down production in December. I’ve even offered to give free donations to whoever wants to take it,” he told an economic forum organized by Times Network media group.

“I didn’t know what to do with the product. So I had to tell them, shut down the production. Otherwise, it’ll all expire,” he

added. Drugs Controller General of India allows Covishield to be used for up to nine months after its manufacturing date. The production halt applies only to Covishield, a Serum spokesperson confirmed to AFP. The company also produces Covovax under licence from US pharma giant Novavax. — AFP



Police personnel guard during the transportation of the Covishield vaccine from the Serum Institute of India’s facility in Pune. PHOTO: ANI/FILE

Small businesses struggling in New Zealand, uncertainty looms over COVID-19

SONNY Sun who owns a small retail shop located in the central business district (CBD) in New Zealand’s largest city Auckland, is not sure of the business outlook.

Small businesses have suffered a lot amid COVID-19 in New Zealand, and they are still struggling as New Zealand has loosened COVID-19 restrictions nationwide.

Sun’s business used to be brisk before the pandemic when white-collar workers, tourists and international students were swarming across the busy commercial area.

“Business was very good in 2017 and 2018. I used to have four employees working for me,” Sun said.

To avoid being infected amid COVID-19, many people in New Zealand have worked at home to reduce social activities. Now walking down the once busy Queen Street in Auckland CBD, it is not uncommon to find homeless people and rough sleepers sheltering themselves in front of many of the empty shops. News of crime was heard now and then.

“I have to shorten the business hour of my shop. It is very unsafe at night time here. I can’t risk my employees’ or my safety for just several dollars of income,” said Sun, adding that his shop was robbed several times in the past year.

Sun has already lost most of his customers, some employees and revenue amid the pandemic. “My deficit reached 70,000 New Zealand dollars in 2020,” said Sun. —Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan unveils 6.2 tril. yen package to soften impact of Ukraine war

JAPAN on Tuesday compiled a 6.2 trillion yen (\$48 billion) emergency economic package to mitigate the impact on households and smaller firms of rising prices, partly blamed on Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The key features of the package include cash handouts of 50,000 yen per child for low-income households, more subsidies for oil wholesalers to bring down retail gasoline prices and support for struggling small and medium-sized companies as well as livestock farmers.

The relief measures, compiled before a House of Councillors election in July, come as rising fuel costs and food prices are threatening to hurt consumer sentiment, with the economy yet



The relief measures, compiled before a House of Councillors election in July, come as rising fuel costs and food prices are threatening to hurt consumer sentiment. **PHOTO: KYODO**

to fully recover from the COVID-19 pandemic fallout.

To finance the new spending, the government will tap 1.5 trillion yen from reserve funds allocated for emergency spending in the

current business year that began in April, around 2 trillion yen secured in the fiscal 2022 budget and other sources as well as 2.7 trillion yen from an extra budget to be compiled later.—Kyodo

Asia facing 'stagflationary outlook' amid Ukraine war: IMF



Visitors learn about food from Malaysia at the 6th China (Quanzhou) Maritime Silk Road International Brand Expo in the city of Shishi in Quanzhou, southeast China's Fujian Province, 30 October 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA/SONG WEIWEI**

ASIAN nations, like the rest of the world, are being battered by countervailing forces such as the war in Ukraine that are raising prices while holding back growth, the IMF said Monday.

"The region faces a stagflationary outlook, with growth being lower than previously expected,

and inflation being higher," said Anne-Marie Gulde-Wolf, acting director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department. The regional outlook, which follows the World Economic Outlook released last week, shows the growth forecast for Asia was cut to 4.9 per cent, impacted by the slowdown in China,

which is having ripple effects on other closely-linked economies.

Inflation is now expected to rise 3.2 per cent this year, a full point higher than expected in January, she said. "Despite the downgrade, Asia remains the world's most dynamic region, and an important source of global growth," Gulde-Wolf said in remarks prepared for delivery to a press briefing. But the Russian invasion of Ukraine and Western sanctions on Moscow have driven up food and fuel prices worldwide, while major central banks are raising interest rates to combat inflation, which will pressure countries with high debt loads.

A larger-than-expected slowdown in China due to prolonged or more widespread Covid-19 lockdowns or a longer-than-expected slump in the property market presents "a significant risk for the region."—AFP

NEWS IN Brief

World's top 500 companies gradually resume production in Shanghai

DESPITE the impact of the COVID-19 resurgence in Shanghai, more than 4,000 workers at a factory of SAIC Motor, a Chinese automaker have resumed work while being shielded from the virus.

Starting on 18 April the complete vehicle and parts manufacturers and logistics branches of the world's top 500 company started the pressure test for work and production resumption, focusing on the support of personnel, supply chain, production management as well as epidemic prevention measures, said Huang Jianying, Party chief of a passenger vehicle branch of SAIC Motor.

More than 700 complete vehicles have come off the production line at the branch's factory located in China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone since the first one came off on 19 April.

The factory's production will gradually climb if the supply chain remains stable, according to Ji Qiwei, deputy general manager of the branch.

"We attach sufficient importance to both production and epidemic prevention," said Huang.

The factory not only formulated a series of plans on epidemic prevention, health screening and emergency before the pressure test but also set up eight professional teams of security, logistics and emergency response. The teams take charge of implementing the prevention measures and disinfecting the production, material and living areas.

As for the challenges in the supply chain and logistics, Huang said SAIC Motor has conducted a comprehensive survey of suppliers' production capacity, inventory and raw materials while helping them advance the epidemic prevention and production resumption.—Xinhua

Boao Forum builds up high expectations for revival of world economy, says Turkish scholar

THE Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2022 creates high expectations for contributing to the revival of the world economy and multilateral trade mechanism, especially in the post-COVID-19 pandemic era, a Turkish scholar has said.

Founded in 2001, the BFA is a non-governmental and non-profit international organization committed to promoting regional economic integration and bringing Asian countries closer to their development goals.

Held annually in Boao, a coastal town in China's southernmost province of Hainan, the forum brings together world leaders, business leaders, scholars and think tanks representatives.

This year's event opened on Wednesday and lasted three days.

Selcuk Colakoglu, director of the Ankara-based Turkish Center for Asia-Pacific Studies, said there were "vibrant discussions" at the forum on integration and globalization in Asia and other parts of the world, which have been impacted by the pandemic.—Xinhua

German business mood up slightly despite Ukraine war

THE business climate in Germany improved slightly in April as Europe's largest economy absorbed the initial shock of the war in Ukraine, an economic think-tank said on Monday.

"The German economy has

shown its resilience," Ifo president Clemens Fuest said after the closely watched index rose to 91.8 points from 90.8 points in March.

Companies were less pessimistic about the outlook for

the economy, after the mood plunged in March following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Ifo said.

The overall indicator lost almost eight points in March, while forecasts took a bigger knock

than at the start of the coronavirus pandemic two years ago.

The assessment of current conditions was "minimally better", Fuest said, adding that sentiment among businesses had "stabilized at a low level".

"The initial shock of the war seems to have abated somewhat, but given the multitude of risks, it is too early to start talking about a turning point," said Elmar Voelker, an analyst at LBBW bank.—AFP

Nissan ending production of Datsun brand vehicles

JAPANESE automaker Nissan is ending production of Datsun brand vehicles, less than a decade after reviving the famed budget car to woo cost-conscious customers in emerging markets, the company said on Monday.

“Nissan is focusing on core models and segments that bring the most benefit to customers, dealer partners and the business,” it said in a statement.

“Production of Datsun redi-GO will cease at the Chennai Plant,” it said, adding that sales of already built models would continue.

The facility in India was the last one operating for the brand, after production ended in Indonesia and Russia.

The company said aftersales service and parts would remain available.

Nissan first killed off the Datsun brand in 1981, but it was revived in 2013 by then-CEO Carlos Ghosn.

Ghosn would go on to be arrested in Japan on allegations of financial misconduct, before jumping bail and fleeing to Lebanon where he remains an international fugitive.—AFP



Nissan Motor Co. has ended the production of its Datsun brand vehicles for emerging markets amid poor sales. PHOTO: KYODO

UBS profits rise on investment banking rebound

SWISS banking giant UBS reported Tuesday better-than-expected net profit for the first quarter, which rose by 17 per cent to \$2.1 billion (1.9 billion euros), buoyed by an upturn in its investment banking division.

The bank’s operating income — the equivalent of revenue — jumped eight percent compared to the same period a year earlier, to more than \$9.3 billion, Switzerland’s biggest bank said in a statement.

Both figures beat expectations of analysts surveyed by Swiss agency AWP, which had pencilled in an average of \$1.6 billion in net profit, on operating income of \$8.8 billion. UBS chief executive Ralph Hamers said that the first three months of the year had been “dominated by extraordinary geopolitical and macro events”.

But he added in the statement that the bank had “remained focused on executing our strategy, providing stability for our clients and managing risk”.—AFP

ECB calls for global regulation of cryptocurrencies

A senior European Central Bank official called Monday for global regulation of cryptocurrencies as the virtual assets are now bigger than the risky mortgage loans behind the 2007 global financial crisis and show signs of being a bubble.

Cryptocurrencies like bitcoin have so far largely escaped regulation, but authorities in numerous countries are taking a closer look given the threat they could pose to financial systems given their volatility and the increasing size of the market.

“We need to make coordinated efforts at the global level to bring cryp-



Cryptocurrencies like bitcoin have so far largely escaped regulation, but authorities in numerous countries are taking a closer look given the threat they could pose to financial systems given their volatility and the increasing size of the market. PHOTO: MODERNDIPLOMACY.EU/AFP

to-assets into the regulatory purview,” said Fabio Panetta, a member of the ECB’s executive board, in a speech in New York.

“And we need to en-

last month increased oversight to prevent cryptocurrencies from becoming a risk to financial stability.

Panetta said the crypto market is now larger than the \$1.3 trillion (1.21 trillion euros) sub-prime mortgage market was when it melted down and triggered the global financial crisis in 2007.

Moreover, “it shows strikingly similar dynamics”, he warned.

“Crypto evangelists promise heaven on earth, using an illusory narrative of ever-rising crypto-asset prices to maintain inflows and thus the momentum fuelling the crypto bubble,” said Panetta. —AFP

China’s cross-border e-commerce registers growth despite pandemic

AT a cross-border e-commerce industrial park in Hefei, capital of east China’s Anhui Province, workers from Shangyan Trading Company are busy loading clothes into trucks after quality inspection.

The goods will be transported thousands of miles away to overseas warehouses and will be shipped to North America for sale.

“Despite the pandemic headwinds, our cross-border e-commerce sales have continued to grow in recent years,” said Jiang Yebing, general manager of Shangyan, adding that the company’s sales volume rose by 60 per cent year on year in the first quarter of 2022 and goods were delivered each day.

Driven by factors including smoother logistics channels and more convenient customs clearance policies, cross-border e-commerce in landlocked Anhui has gained momentum. This impetus offers a glimpse into China’s rapid growth in this field against the backdrop of the pandemic.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V FILOTIMO VOY.NO. (214W/217E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FILOTIMO VOY.NO. (214W/217E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-4-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE

AS the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 1st MAY 2022 (World Workers Day) and 14th MAY 2022 (Full-moon Day of KASON), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

MYANMA Port Authority
“NOTICE of High Tide”

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.24 feet to 20.44 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of May 16th to May 18th, 2022. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

Pope asks Sri Lanka to reveal Easter bombers over conspiracy murmurs

POPE Francis urged Sri Lankan authorities on Monday to reveal who was behind the country's 2019 Easter bombings in an attack the island's Catholics suspect was a plot to propel President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to power.

While meeting with a delegation of over 60 victims of the Easter Sunday attacks on three churches and three hotels that killed 279 people, Francis asked Rajapaksa's administration to reveal the truth.

"Please, out of love for justice, out of love for your people, let it be made clear once and for all who were responsible for these events," the pope said in an appeal to Colombo.

"This will bring peace to your conscience and to your country."

Addressing some 3,500 Sri



Security forces inspect a church hit by a bomb in Colombo, Sri Lanka in April 2019. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Lankans in Italy, including some of the victims, the pope also said he prayed that Sri Lanka will also be able to ride out the worst economic crisis in its history.

The island is gripped by severe shortages of food, fuel and medicines with its 22 million residents grappling with daily

electricity blackouts and galloping inflation.

The head of Sri Lanka's Catholic Church, Malcolm Ranjith, who conducted mass at St. Peter's basilica just before meeting with the pope on Monday, called for "justice and change" in his country.—AFP

Branson urges Singapore not to execute disabled man



Singapore maintains the death penalty for several offences, including drug trafficking and murder, and insists it has helped to keep the city-state one of Asia's safest places. **PHOTO: AFP / ROSLAN RAHMAN**

BRITISH tycoon Richard Branson on Tuesday urged Singapore to spare the life of a mentally

disabled Malaysian facing execution, telling AFP the death penalty was a "horrible blotch"

on the city-state's reputation.

Nagaenthran K. Dharmaalingam, convicted of trafficking a small amount of heroin into Singapore, is due to be hanged on Wednesday after more than a decade on death row.

The planned execution has sparked an international outcry, with the United Nations and European Union among those condemning a punishment they say is cruel and ineffective as a deterrent.

In an interview with AFP, Branson, a long-time campaigner against the death penalty, urged Singaporean President Halimah Yacob to grant Nagaenthran clemency.—AFP

Japan PM to visit Southeast Asia, Europe amid Ukraine crisis

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida plans to tour South-east Asia and Europe over a holiday week starting Friday, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiji Kihara said Tuesday.

The premier will visit Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Italy

and Britain over the eight-day period through 6 May for talks with their leaders, Kihara told a parliamentary meeting.

Kishida is expected to exchange views with the leaders regarding Russia's war in Ukraine.

The war, which started when Russia launched an invasion on 24 February, has created a humanitarian crisis. Ukraine has been asking for global support, including more armaments to help repel Russian forces.—Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Court blocks Biden lifting US border expulsion policy

A US federal judge on Monday temporarily blocked President Joe Biden from ending a policy allowing the government to quickly expel migrants at the southern border during the pandemic.

The Biden administration had been on track to lift the measure, known as Title 42, on 23 May — a decision that sparked uproar among Republicans and many Democrats, as well as advocates for tougher border controls.

The US District Court in Louisiana said after a videoconference with lawyers it had "announced its intent to grant the motion" originally filed by Missouri, Louisiana and Arizona to stay the termination.

"The parties will confer regarding the specific terms to be contained in the Temporary Restraining Order and attempt to reach agreement," it said in the ruling.

The order prevents the administration from taking any action before a hearing on May 13 to determine whether Title 42 can be lifted.

The three Republican states that brought the lawsuit — later joined by 18 others — celebrated a major win they hoped would avert the unprecedented influx of migrants predicted by Homeland Security officials.—AFP

Russia blocks chess website over Ukraine

THE popular website Chess.com has been blocked in Russia after publishing two critical articles on the situation in Ukraine branded "false information" by the authorities.

The site, which boasts 50 million members worldwide, is now on a list of blocked sources drawn up by Russia's telecom watchdog Roskomnadzor.

The general prosecutor's office requested that access to just two pages of the Chess.com critical of Russia's "special operation" in Ukraine be restricted, domestic agencies and media reported.

But because Chess.com uses the HTTPS protocol, the whole site has become unavailable, the media said.

Chess.com could not be opened in Russia on Sunday afternoon.

The articles allegedly condemned the offensive Russia unleashed in Ukraine on 24 February according to Russian media reports.

Chess.com has already banned Russian grandmaster Sergey Karjakin, who has publicly supported the offensive, from playing games on the site. Karjakin, who played Norway's Magnus Carlsen in 2016 for the world title, has also been suspended for six months by world chess governing body FIDE.—AFP

Iran hails latest talks with Saudi Arabia as 'positive'

IRAN said Monday that the latest round of talks with its regional rival Saudi Arabia was "positive and serious" and voiced hope for further progress soon.

Tehran and Riyadh, which severed diplomatic ties in 2016, held four rounds of talks in Iraq between April and September last year, with a fifth meeting last Thursday.

"The fifth round of negotiations between Iran and Saudi Arabia in Baghdad ... was positive and serious and saw progress," foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh told reporters.

Shiite Muslim-majority Iran and the Sunni kingdom of Saudi Arabia support rival sides in several conflicts, including in Yemen, where Tehran backs the Huthi rebels and Riyadh leads a military coalition supporting the government.

In 2016, Iranian protesters attacked Saudi diplomatic missions in the Islamic republic after the kingdom executed revered Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr. Riyadh responded by cutting ties with Tehran.

Iran's Nour news agency reported the latest talks were attended by "senior officials from the secretariat of Iran's Supreme National Security Council and the head of the Saudi intelligence service".—AFP

N. Korea’s Kim vows to boost nuclear capabilities at military parade

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un has pledged to bolster his country’s nuclear capabilities at the “maximum speed” in a speech given at a military parade to mark the 90th anniversary of the founding of the nation’s army, state-run media reported Tuesday.

At the first military parade in Pyongyang’s Kim Il Sung Square since January 2021, held Monday night, ballistic missiles including a new type of intercontinental ballistic missile Hwasong-17 were displayed, the Korean Central News Agency

said.

The Hwasong-17 is believed to be capable of delivering a nuclear warhead to anywhere in the continental United States.

The country’s main Rodong Sinmun newspaper released photos of the parade showing many other weapons, including what appear to be hypersonic and submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

Kim said the country’s nuclear force is a “symbol of national power” and it should be further strengthened, according to KCNA, underscoring it has

no intention to abandon its nuclear capabilities. He added he will use nuclear “deterrence” anytime if necessary.

Bilateral negotiations between North Korea and the United States over denuclearization and sanctions relief have been at a standstill for more than two years.

In recent years, North Korea has held military parades, aimed at enhancing national pride, at night to liven up the festive mood through colourful lights, foreign affairs experts said.—Kyodo



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (C) attends a military parade in Pyongyang on 25 April 2022, as reported in North Korea’s Rodong Sinmun the following day. PHOTO: KOREA MEDIA/KYODO

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR: ROLLING UPDATES

UN chief, Turkish president promise to work for peace in Ukraine

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday reaffirmed their commitment to ending the conflict in Ukraine and to creating conditions to end the suffering of civilians, said a UN spokesman.

Guterres met Erdogan in the Turkish capital Ankara on Monday. The UN chief expressed his support for Turkey’s ongoing diplomatic efforts in relation to the conflict in Ukraine, Farhan Haq, Guterres’ deputy spokesman, told reporters in New York.

“He and President Erdogan reaffirmed that their common objective is to end the war as soon as possible and to create conditions to end the suffering of civilians. They stressed the urgent need for effective access through humanitarian corridors to evacuate civilians and deliver much-needed assistance to impacted communities,” said Haq.

They agreed to stay in contact to follow up on ongoing initiatives, he added. Guterres and Erdogan also discussed the impact of the Ukraine conflict on regional and global issues, including energy, food and finance, said Haq.

Guterres was in Ankara on Monday before travelling to Moscow and Kyiv. Turkey, a major mediator, has also indicated its willingness to become a security guarantor of Ukraine.—Xinhua



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan “reaffirmed that their common objective is to end the war as soon as possible. PHOTO: AFP

Russia’s Lavrov warns of ‘real’ danger of World War III

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Monday that peace talks with Ukraine would continue, while warning there was a “real” danger of a World War III. Speaking to Russian news agencies, he criticized Kyiv’s approach to the talks, adding: “Good will has its limits. But if it isn’t reciprocal, that doesn’t help

the negotiation process.

“But we are continuing to engage in negotiations with the team delegated by [Ukrainian President Volodymyr] Zelensky, and these contacts will go on.”

But Lavrov accused former actor Zelensky of “pretending” to negotiate. “He’s a good actor,” he said.

But he added: “If you watch attentively and read attentively what he says, you’ll find a thousand contradictions.”

Given the current tensions, Lavrov said the danger of a World War III was “real.” “The danger is serious, it is real, you can’t underestimate it,” Lavrov told the Interfax news agency.—AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

Peace talks to continue

LAVROV also says peace talks with Ukraine will continue, criticizing Kyiv’s approach to the negotiations and accusing President Volodymyr Zelensky of “pretending” to negotiate.

“Good will has its limits. But if it isn’t reciprocal, that doesn’t help the negotiation process,” he says.

UK drops tariffs on goods from Ukraine

BRITAIN says it has dropped all tariffs on goods from Ukraine while slapping a ban on some technology exports to Moscow to help Kyiv in its fight against the Russian invasion.

US diplomats to return

BLINKEN confirms that US diplomats, withdrawn at the start of Russia’s invasion, will gradually return to Kyiv.

US President Joe Biden nominates career foreign service officer Bridget Brink to be the next US ambassador.

Several European countries have also reopened their embassies in Kyiv since Russia withdrew its forces from the region.

No deal on Mariupol

RUSSIA’S army says Kyiv prevented civilian evacuations from Mariupol’s Azovstal steel plant, where Ukrainian forces have been holding out in the besieged port city, despite announcing a unilateral ceasefire.

Ukraine disputes the claims, saying Moscow did not agree to its request for the evacuation of wounded soldiers and civilians.

Putin congratulates Macron

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin congratulates French President Emmanuel Macron on his re-election following a run-off with far-right candidate Marine Le Pen, seen as closer to Moscow.

Russia strikes on rail infrastructure kill 5, wound 18

AT least five people were killed and another 18 injured on Monday in Russian strikes on railway infrastructure in the central Ukraine region of Vinnytsia, Kyiv said.

“Preliminary information shows that five people died and 18 were injured. Rescue operations are under way, investigators, prosecutors and other services are working at the scene,” the Ukrainian prosecutor general’s office said in a statement on social media.

SOURCE: AFP

N. Korea's Kim vows to boost nuclear capabilities at military parade

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SPORT

Myanmar team loses to Australian club in NSDF final group match

THE Myanmar women's futsal team lost 2-3 to Australian club South Perth in the final group match of the NSDF Women's Futsal Championship 2022 in Thailand yesterday.

The first half ended in a 2-2 draw, with Zin Moe Pyae and Khaing Thazin Oo scoring for team Myanmar but the Australian club South Perth scored the winning goal in the second half.

The Myanmar women's futsal team lost all four matches in the Thai Invitational and finished last in the group.

The match between Thailand and Indonesia ended in a 1-1 draw.

After the group matches, Thailand finished first and was



Myanmar Futsal Team player (red) attempts to clear the ball from the Australian South Perth player (yellow) during their last group match in the NSDF Women's Futsal Championship 2022 in Thailand on 26 April 2022. PHOTO: MFF

crowned the championship title, followed by Indonesia, which won second place.

Meanwhile, the Thai All-

Stars Women's Futsal Team stood third while the Australian South Perth Team earned the fourth spot. — GNLM

'Anfield is hell' says Villarreal's Capoue



French midfielder Etienne Capoue says Villarreal are happy with their underdog tag as they prepare to face Liverpool in the Champions League on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

"I said 'Where is Villarreal?'" explains Etienne Capoue, who describes it like he was scanning a map of the world and pointing his finger down.

"I was told it was in the sun, just there, next to Valencia. So I said 'alright, let's go'."

Capoue's last two games for Watford were in England's second tier against Norwich and Huddersfield.

He left in January 2021 and his last two games of that sea-

son for Villarreal came against Real Madrid and Manchester United. Villarreal beat United on penalties to win the Europa League final and Capoue was named man of the match.

On Wednesday, Villarreal, the club Capoue knew nothing about, face Liverpool in the first leg of the Champions League semi-finals. A small, sleepy town on Spain's east coast now has an outside shot at being crowned kings of Europe.

"Winning the Champions League? We never had the audacity to say we could win the Champions League," Capoue tells AFP laughing.

"We're the smallest club in the semi-finals, we were the smallest club in the quarter-finals. We're just making our merry way. And we have nothing to lose."

Villarreal knocked out Juventus in the last 16 and Bayern Munich in the quarters, two clubs that together own twice as many European Cups - eight - as Villarreal have wins in the knock-out stage.

When Bayern were winning a third consecutive European Cup in 1976, Villarreal were being relegated to the Spanish fourth tier.

For some at Villarreal, the talk of fairytales and giant-killings might be wearing thin.

Villarreal is a tiny town but a big club, the Europa League champions, a team owned by a supermarket tycoon, who have finished only one of the last eight seasons outside La Liga's top seven. — 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.

Raducanu set for fourth coach in a year after cutting Beltz loose

US Open champion Emma Raducanu is set to appoint her fourth coach in a year after ending her association with Torben Beltz after just five months, she said on Tuesday.

The 19-year-old is due to play in the Madrid Open this week as she builds up to the French Open but said she felt

she required a "new training model".

The Lawn Tennis Association's (LTA) head of women's coaching, Iain Bates, will work with Raducanu this week.

She will bid to build on her run to the Stuttgart quarter-finals last week where she lost to world number one and eventual champion Iga Swiatek.

"I want to thank Torben for his coaching, professionalism and dedication over the last half a year," said Raducanu, who on Monday rose to her highest world ranking of 11.

"He has a huge heart and I have enjoyed our strong chemistry during the time together.

"I feel the best direction for my development is to transition to a new training model with the LTA supporting in the interim." —AFP



US Open champion Emma Raducanu is looking for her fourth coach in a year having cut loose experienced German Torben Beltz after just five months. PHOTO: AFP