BEWARE OF DANGERS UNDER THE UV INDEX ON SUMMER DAYS

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

Ground for Sasana Beikman Aggadhipati Visumgama ordination hall consecrated in conjunction with the celebration of success for the ceremony in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Park

A CEREMONY to consecrate the ground for Sasana Beikman Aggadhipati Visumgama ordination hall as Simasammuti ordination hall was held in conjunction with the celebration of the ceremony's success in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territorial Area yesterday morning.

The ceremony was graced by 54 members of the Sangha, including Presiding Nayaka of Paukmyaing Monastery in Lewe Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Janinda, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Acinna of Maha Thihanada Monastery in Tatkon, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, council members and Union level officials.

Members of the Sangha consecrated the ordination hall according to the Vinaya rules. At the celebration of the ceremony's success, members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta

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State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the scale model of the ordination hall at the event in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 April 2022.

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Statements supporting peace statement of SAC Chairman Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

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, the Senior General urged leaders and two members from each ethnic armed organization to join the talks in order to restore peace and cease armed conflicts across the nation in 2022 as ethnic people have not enjoyed the essence of Independence within 75 years period after Myanmar had regained the Independence.

As the exhortation of the Senior General was an offer to grant the restoration of genuine and long term existence of peace to the ethnic people aspire, the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) and the Myanmar Artists Association (Central) expressed their support for the speech, respectively.—MNA

Statement of Myanmar Artists Association (Central)

12th Waning of Tagu 1384 ME
27 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.

He said that although the country has been independent for 75 years, ethnic people have not yet thoroughly enjoyed the taste of independence due to armed conflicts. He invited leaders of the ethnic armed organization-EAO to hold talks with the aim of ending armed conflicts across the country.

As the urging of the Senior General is a call for a genuine peace that all ethnic people aspire to, the Myanmar Artists Association (Central) announces its full support.

Myanmar Artists Association (Central)

Statement of Myanmar Theatrical Association(Central)

12th Waning of Tagu 1384 ME
27 April 2022

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

The speech invited leaders of the ethnic armed organization-EAO to hold talks in order to end armed conflicts across the country.

As the appeal of the Senior General is a call for a genuine peace that all ethnic people aspire to, it is welcome and supported by the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central).

Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central)

Press Release

THE Central Bank of Myanmar works hard to ensure its objectives such as financial stabilization, financial system stability, effective payment and settlement system.

It is reported that the Anti-Corruption Commission took action against the Chairman and CEO of Myanma Apex Bank under Section 55/63 of Anti-Corruption Law, and the bank submitted that they were suspended from their positions and to appoint a new Chairman and CEO. The CBM approved such appointments under the Central Bank of Myanmar Law and Financial Institutions Law provisions on 27 April 2022.

The CBM supervised the MAB and found out that the financial status of that bank was stable and firm, and it also followed the instructions of the CBM.

Moreover, the CBM closely monitors easy access to financial status, deposits, and withdrawals and provides liquidity support if necessary. So the Depositors can access the banking services as usual without any worries.

Therefore, there is no need for the people working with the bank or saving money at the bank to worry about the banking services.

Central Bank of Myanmar
(27.4.2022)

Press Release

UNDER the Foreign Exchange Management Law, Foreign Exchange Management Regulations and Notification No 46/2021 dated 10-11-2021 of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the holder of a foreign currency trading licence shall inspect whether exporters receive export earnings within three months from the date of the shipment of the goods accordingly to the evidence of the actual exports. The exporters must deposit their export earnings into their banking accounts within three months from the date of the shipment of goods without fail under that law and regulations.

However, it was found that exporters failed to follow the law mentioned above, rules and regulations.

Therefore, exporters must deposit all their export earnings into their banking accounts within three months from the date of the shipment of goods without fail under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Law and Foreign Exchange Management Regulations. If they fail to do so, action will be taken against them under Section 42(a) of the Foreign Exchange Management Law.

Central Bank of Myanmar
(27.4.2022)

17 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 27 April, total figure rises to 612,802

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 612,802 after 17 new cases were reported on 27 April 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 591,740 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 19,434 without casualties for 25 consecutive days.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 26-4-2022, a total of 30,142,895 people have been vaccinated. Of them, 23,114,428 people have been fully vaccinated, 7,028,467 people are yet to get the second shots and 1,369,249 people have received booster doses.—MNA

This year is identified as the Year of Peace

THIS year is the pre-year of the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day. So, we have to make utmost efforts to enjoy the fruits of Independence and democratic administration fully. Hence, this year is identified as the Year of Peace. We are trying our best to restore the peace and tranquillity of the entire nation.

(Excerpt from New Year Message of greetings delivered by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on the New Year occasion in 1384 Myanmar Era Myanmar New Year Day on 17-4-2022)

Ground for Sasana Beikman Aggadhipati Visumgama ordination hall consecrated in conjunction ...

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while laypersons recited religious verses in chorus.

Ovadacariya of building Maravijaya Buddha Image Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi supplicated consecration process and entitling of the ordination hall as Aggadhipati. Members of the Sangha agreed on it.

After the ceremony, the Senior General and party offered alms to members of the Sangha. The Senior General then viewed the scale model of the ordination hall and fulfilled the needs submitted by officials.

On the evening of 23 April, 12 members of the Sangha led by Pali Sayadaw performed the preventive measures on the site of the ordination hall. One hundred and seventeen members of the Sangha carried out the ceremony to revoke the influent area of the past ordination halls from 24 to 26 April. Fifty-four members of the Sangha led by Pyaukmyaing Sayadaw and Thihananda Monastery Sayadaw undertook the consecration of ground for current ordination hall in line with the Vinaya rules and advice of senior members of the Sangha yesterday morning.

Sasana Beikman Aggadhipati Visumgama ordination will be consecrated with the advice of venerable Sayadaws and the guidance of the Senior General. The ordination hall will be 208 feet long and 205 feet wide, with a stand for 180 members of the Sangha and 1,890 laypersons capacity on the hall and both side rows. It will be the largest ordination hall in Myanmar. — MNA

The Senior General presents offerings to members of the Sangha.

A miniature of the ordination hall.

Public Notice

1. It has already been announced that exporters must deposit their export earnings into their banking accounts in foreign currencies within three months from the date of the shipment of goods without fail under the Foreign Exchange Management Law, Foreign Exchange Management Regulations and Notification No 46/2021 of the Central Bank of Myanmar.
2. The exporters/importers registration certificates of 177 exports and imports companies — 12 in 2016, 72 in 2017 and 93 in 2018 — were revoked for failure to follow the CBM orders.
3. Therefore, if export companies' export earnings do not enter within the fixed period of the CBM, the exporters/importers' registration certificates will be revoked.

Ministry of Commerce
27-4-2022

Following the Myanmar GAP will be a perpetual agricultural technique free from danger, contributing to environmental conservation: Vice-Senior General

EMPHASIS must be placed on systematic packaging of basic foodstuff as the value-added foodstuff meeting international standards, said Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the ceremony to introduce the National Food Safety Policy at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses the ceremony to introduce the National Food Safety Policy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his address, the Vice-Senior General said that initial food producers need to produce quality food products made of agricultural and livestock materials. They have to increase the production of quality value-added products through small, medium and heavy industries.

Departments under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation supervise the production of basic foodstuffs in line with the agricultural and livestock practices. Moreover, these departments transfer technologies to producers to abide by the good agriculture practices and issue the certificates. Following the Myanmar GAP will be a perpetual agricultural technique free from danger, contributing to environmental conservation.

The Department of Agriculture enacted the Myanmar GAP guideline and GAP protocol for 15 items in 2017 and issued 3,616 Myanmar GAP certificates for 56 kinds of crops until February 2022. The National Standard Council has approved the GAP standards of Myanmar for crops as the State standard and has drawn the Myanmar organic standards.

The Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary implements nine kinds of standards for Good Animal Husbandry Practices. Twenty-seven livestock breeding zones and five-foot and mouth disease zones are being operated across the nation. There are 44 GAHP farms in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Mandalay and Yangon regions and Shan State.

The Department of Fisheries is accelerating the production of marine products meeting the international standard. Directive No 8/2018 was issued for the fishery industry in line with the international techniques. The department participates in the management of safety food measures. Vendors need to understand the food safety measures, while officials need to raise awareness of food safety measures. Moreover, awareness must be raised for cooks to make safe foods systematically.

The Vice-Senior General looks around the booths to initiate the National Food Safety Policy at the event.

Emphasis must be placed on systematic packaging of basic foodstuff as value-added foodstuffs meeting international standards. Efforts must be made to increase the production of quality foodstuffs.

Branches of the Department of Food and Drug Administration and relevant departments search imappropriate foodstuffs for the people in the market on a monthly basis and take action against offenders under the law to protect consumers on the one hand.

He urged the Department of Public Health to raise health awareness related to the consumption system, which may harm their health.

The National Food Safety Policy was drawn to ensure the safety of consumer health, emergence of international level standards in respective sectors, realization of good practices in agriculture, livestock and production and generating income of foreign exchange through exportation.

The policy will prevent disadvantages of health conditions based on consumption of foodstuffs as well as help establish a reliable foodstuff market.

In conclusion, the Vice-Senior General said only when foodstuffs in the chain of foods from the farmlands to consumers are safe and nutritious will all citizens be healthy and fit. Hence, all stakeholders need to strive to achieve success in their sectors with responsibility and accountability.

The Vice-Senior General viewed the booths introducing the policy and the Food and Drug Administration Mobile Laboratory.

In the second session of the meeting, the director-general of the Department of FDA introduced the national food safety policy, and the Consumer Affairs Department officials discussed it. — MNA

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www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

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

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

SAC information team holds 13th press conference

The SAC's Information Team holds its 13th press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE Ministry of Information hosted the 13th press conference of the Information Team of the State Administration Council yesterday afternoon under the COVID-19 rules and regulations. Team Leader of the SAC Information Team Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, Member of the Union Election Commission U Khin Maung Oo, spokespersons from relevant departments and representatives of the Information Team answered the questions raised by the media.

At the press conference, all the media outlets, including those present at the conference, were asked if they had asked the so-called NUG why not address Tatmadaw's demands and some political parties to address vote-rigging in the 2020 General Election; where they spend the money received by selling financial bonds, tickets, projects, how they have taken action against terrorist groups led by Bo Thanmani who confessed the killing of 10 people in Sagaing Region, which media outlets have stood up for Inmahtee Village and Zeephyugon Village who themselves have spoken out about arson attacks to their villages by PDF terrorists; if the killings of innocent people, monks, civil servants under various accusations are the policy of NUG if NUG has the policy to go to school or not if they do not teach at schools if the NUG's democracy is considered a genuine democracy only if they are supported. Media outlets were asked if they had ever questioned NUG.

Leader of the Information Team Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun also explained Maha Thingyan Festival was celebrated peacefully and successfully in all regions and states, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory. However, local/foreign media outlets have reported on the destruction of the festival. He also added the excerpts from the Chairman of the State Administration Council's speech on peace delivered on 22 April, the connection situation with ethnic armed organizations regarding the peace call, the government's effort to hold the general election with a multiparty democracy system in the whole country, discussion and agreement reached during the visit of a delegation led by Dr Kung Phoak, Head of the Office of the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chairmanship and Secretary of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

He also added that the SAC efforts in reopening schools with security guarantees despite various threats against students, parents and teachers while opportunists in political affairs spreading propaganda under the title of military's slave education, COVID-19 vaccination processes across the nation and Myancopharm COVID-19 vaccine production in local by purchasing Ready to Fill Bulk from Sinopharm China National Biotech Group following the instructions of State Head, activities of government to ensure local fuel security and oil price stability, successive supervisions to guarantee the country's energy needs and energy security.

He also clarified the participation in the 31st Southeast Asian Games and 11st Southeast Asian Para Games to be held in Viet Nam in 2022, the 19th Asian Games and the 3rd Asian Youths Games under 18 to be held in China, public security system with the participation of people in addition to Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and security units and ending of terrorist attacks as soon as the system emerges through PowerPoint Presentations.

Then, UEC member U Khin Maung Oo clarified the compiling of voter lists, inspections of political parties and further work plans.

Afterwards, the officials answered the questions raised by the media outlets.

The attendees to the event observed the documentary photos of the press conference, Myanmar's traditional Thingyan festival, peace processes of government, visit of Secretary of State of Cambodian Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Head of Special Envoy Office of ASEAN Chairmanship Dr Kung Phoak to Myanmar and violence perpetrated by PDF and NUG terrorist groups.

The press conference was also attended by members of the Information Team of the State Administration Council, officials of the Tatmadaw Information Team, guests and reporters from local news agencies, daily newspapers, and local TV channels and local-based foreign news agencies. —MNA

One of the photo panels at the 13th press conference.

57th Myanma Gems Emporium continues into sixth day

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

Local and foreign gem merchants observed the displayed jade items in the hall and jade stones outside the hall.

A total of 700 jade lots from series 701 to 1400 lots were on sale through the open tender system, and 457 jade lots were sold out.

Then, local and foreign gemstone traders put their prices into tender boxes for jade lots from 1401 to 2000 for the seventh-day event.

Officials opened the tender boxes for 1401 to 2000 jade lots at 3 pm, and the sold-out jade lots will be announced at 8 am on 28 April.

A total of 330 pearl lots, 54 gemstone lots and 523 jade lots were sold to local and foreign gemstone merchants during previous event days.

The gems emporium brings benefits such as gemstone traders can run in their financial as normal, the finish-product business persons can get raw material, and the workers can grab job opportunities

The 57th Myanma Gems Emporium will be organized from 22 to 28 April by the Myanma Gems Emporium Organizing Central Committee to earn foreign income for the country and bring interest to the people. — MNA

Gemstone traders are looking into the jade at the 57th Myanma Gems Emporium.

Myanmar's ARMAC Steering Committee members attend 18th meeting of ASEAN-ARMAC Steering Committee

CAMBODIA successfully chaired the 18th Meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) at ARMAC's Headquarters in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, via videoconferencing yesterday.

Members of ARMAC Steering Committee, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Deputy Director-General U Nyan Myint Aung, Lt-Col Htin Aung Kyaw from office of Directorate of Military Engineers attended with Myanmar Minister Counsellor to Cambodia Daw Aye Thanda, Deputy Secretary Daw Aye Thanda Soe via video conferencing in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Ambassadors of ASEAN Members States, members of Steering Committee (SC), ARMAC Exercutive Director Mr. Prum Suonpraseth and officials.

In this meeting, they discussed and approved on to hold ARMAC Special Meeting on July 2022, to revise and review the current constitution of ARMAC and to improve the financial assistances of ARMAC. — MNA

Court sentences ex-State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to 5-year prison

EX-STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was prosecuted for accepting cash payments totalling $600,000 and seven visses of gold from the Yangon Region ex-chief minister at her house by misusing her power and authority under Section 55 of the Anti-Corruption Law on 8-7-2021 at the Mandalay Region High Court. The court hearings were conducted at the Mandalay Region special court (Nay Pyi Taw).

The Mandalay Region High Court sentenced Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to five years in prison under Section 55 of the Anti-Corruption Law on 27 April 2022. — MNA

New special postage stamp to feature traditional costumes during Amarapura era

IN a bid to portray Myanmar's cultural heritage, rediscover traditional costumes of men and women from generation to generation and draw the attention of the youth, Myanmar Post under the Ministry of Transport and Communications will issue two new postage stamps (worth K200 each) at 9:30 am on 29 April 2022 (14th Waning of Tagu 1384 ME), depicting the costumes of men and women in Amarapura era. The new series will be sold at the Central Post Office in Nay Pyi Taw, the General Post offices in Yangon and Mandalay and other post offices in each region and state.

To mark a special event, the postage stamps purchased at the Central Post Office in Nay Pyi Taw and General Post offices in Yangon and Mandalay on 29 April 2022, will have a date marking. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Depositors at Myanmar Apex Bank Limited can enjoy reliable banking services on a regular basis without any worry, CBM announces

THE Central Bank of Myanmar closely monitors the financial convenience and cash deposit and withdrawal of the Myanmar Apex Bank Limited and provides liquidity support if necessary. Therefore, the CBM issued a statement saying that depositors at the Myanmar Apex Bank Limited could access banking services regularly without any worries yesterday.

Since the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) prosecutes the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Myanmar Apex Bank Limited under Section 55/63 of the Anti-Corruption Law, the Bank has announced that the above persons have terminated their duties and proposed the re-appointment of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank. The statement said that the Central Bank of Myanmar approved the appointments on 27 April 2022 in accordance with the provisions of the Central Bank of Myanmar Law and the Financial Institutions Law.

The Central Bank of Myanmar is making efforts to stabilise the financial system and strengthen the efficient payment and clearing systems. Therefore, the Central Bank of Myanmar is monitoring Myanmar Apex Bank Limited. It is reported that the financial condition of the Myanmar Apex Bank Limited is stable, and the bank is following the instructions of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

The Office of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Therefore, the central bank has issued a statement saying that those who have savings in Myanmar Apex Bank Limited and people working with the bank do not have to worry. — Htun Htun/GNLM

Palm oil reference rate set at K5,620 per viss in Yangon until 1 May: CAD

The price of palm oil rocketed up to over K7,000 per viss in the domestic market, tracking Indonesia's palm oil export policy.

THE reference price of palm oil is set at K5,620 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) on 1 May, and the Department of Consumer Affairs is controlling the market to ensure price stability.

The Supervisory Committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been issuing a weekly reference rate to govern the market in line with the changes in international rates. The MoC announced on 25 April 2022 that the reference rate for a week from 25 April to 1 May is set at K5,620 per viss.

"The Consumer Affairs Department carried out supervision of palm oil market. We issue the reference rate on a weekly basis through the state-run newspapers. The department set the gross profit not to exceed more than 2 per cent of the reference rate in Yangon. We govern this condition. The traders might add transportation and labour charges for other regions and states. We are endeavouring to ensure the price stability," said an official of the department.

The price of palm oil rocketed up to over K7,000 per viss in the domestic market, tracking Indonesia's palm oil export policy.

Ministry of Commerce is striving for the consumers not to worry over the supply of edible oil. The ministry is also trying to secure the edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer a reasonable price to the consumers, maintain the price stability and prevent market manipulation.

MoC stated that if those retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Special Goods Tax Law.

There are 31,090.98 tonnes of palm oil (19.03 million visses) remaining in the palm oil tanks. There is a sufficiency in the domestic market. The department is ensuring the daily distribution of palm oil to other regions and states. The shipments of palm oil from foreign countries are regularly seen, MoC stated.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at one million tonne per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market. — NN/GNLM

Myanmar records trade surplus of $321 mln in past mini-budget period

MYANMAR'S external trade in the past mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022) amounted to US$16.234 billion, comprising export worth $8.279 billion and imports valued at $7.955 billion. The trade surplus of $324 million was recorded as exports surpassed imports.

The figures reflected an increase of $263 million in overall trade compared to the same corresponding period (October-March) in the 2020-2021 Financial Year.

During the mini-budget period, Myanmar shipped rice, broken rice, corn, beans and pulses, fishery products, livestock and animal products and the finished garment products on a Cutting-Making-and-Packing basis through maritime trade. The value of maritime exports was up by over $1600 million against the year-ago period. Similarly, cross-border trade with the neighbouring countries also performed exceptionally well following the reopening of some border posts between Myanmar and China. The overall exports through the border and maritime trade channels rose by $100 million compared to those recorded in the same period last year.

Unimportant goods such as vehicles and palm oil imports depending on consumer demand were scrutinized in 2021-2022 FY, coupled with import substitution to minimize the foreign currency outflows. Consequently, the imports significantly fell. Regardless of the hike in edible oil, the value of imports slid only ten per cent of the targeted value. The import value was up by $164 million as against last year.

Therefore, during the mini-budget period, the export figure indicated exceeded the targeted export value ($8.2 billion) by 101 per cent, and imports performed 90 per cent of the target import amount ($8.8 billion). Thus, the total trade value reached 95 per cent of the targeted value ($17 billion). — MNA

Beware of dangers under the UV index on summer days

ABOUT three months of summer become a heavier burden for the people due to suffering from overheating day by day. Hence, they all need to know the dangerous impacts of the UV index to avoid undesirable summer events.

Overheat of high temperature at noon and afternoon stretches all over the country under the sunray during the shiny days of summer, bearing ultraviolet ray which passes through the Ozone layer of the atmosphere to the world.

Depending on the UV index, anyone cannot suffer from danger despite moving under UV index 3 and sunray without any shelters such as hats and umbrellas. But, everybody needs to take care of the direct touching of UV index 6 to 9, especially to skin and eyes. Hence, they have to systematically wear umbrellas, hats and ray-ban glass in addition to using skin-care lotions while moving under the sunray.

All the people need to notice the health awareness for dangers of UV index this summer on a daily basis. They have to apply knowledge on health awareness in overcoming the high dangerous UV days to look after their families to have a healthy life. They have to utilize the goodness of the sunray and avoid its dangers on Myanmar's summer days.

UV indexes 10 and 11+ may cause skin and eye problems to people. Hence, at a time when the overheating of summer days bears UV indexes 10 and 11+, everybody should take shelter and avoid moving under the sunray. If they need to go outside, they have to use the necessary wear against the UV, according to the experts.

Those experts noted that the persons who suffered from long-term touching of UV would face eye problems such as cataract disease, skin diseases such as cancer, ripening of old age before oldness, and declining immunity.

As such, young and old people need to take care of the dangers in the overhead days when they should prevent dehydration because they may suffer from tiredness, feeling motion sickness, and heatstroke. Especially children and older persons and the patients with hypertension, diabetes and heart diseases need to take shelter under proper temperature without too many moves.

The people should take care of their daily lifestyle in the summer. They need to take a rest with good ventilation. They should drink enough water on a daily basis, avoid liquors and take an immediate bath after arrival from outside.

All the people need to notice the health awareness for dangers of UV index this summer on a daily basis. They have to apply knowledge on health awareness in overcoming the high dangerous UV days to look after their families to have a healthy life. They have to utilize the goodness of the sunray and avoid its dangers on Myanmar's summer days.

Behaviour Intervention to Combat Covid-19 Infection at Work

[In commemoration of the World Day for Safety and Health, 28 April 2022]

By Chit Ko Pe

LIVING together with Covid-19 in this world becomes real and undeniable.

"How are you?" This social greeting phrase seems outdated and redundant. It belies some supplementary words to reflect the current living condition. A complete one would be:

"How are you *with Covid-19*?"

Indeed, some people succumbed to it, some quarantined, some recovered, some left unscratched but worried and terrified. Everyone on earth experiences it in one way or another.

Unprecedented changes rock the world today. A handshake is replaced with an elbow or leg touch in greeting. Close contact is dislodged by a physical distance in a social setting. A virtual mode is preferred to a physical meeting. And whatnot.

A mask is a common sight everywhere. Once, it was a sick person's PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). Now everyone, healthy or unhealthy, wears it indoors or outdoors, becoming essential personal stuff for their daily lives.

To keep abreast with those changes, one must be aware of their actions to be rhythmical with behaviour. The persistent behaviour (in-born or brought-up) needs to be intervened at this trying time. The interaction between mind and body shall be recalibrated to eclipse the old normal with a new one.

It is a 4S that has two different approaches. One is for people with at-risk behaviour, the other for people with safe behaviour.

(1) Approach for people with at-risk behaviour

4S: Spot, Stop, Share, Support

Spot – The observer shall be able to find out the at-risk behaviour shown by the worker at the job.

Stop – Upon finding it, a quick act of pausing his/her work is needed.

Share – The observer shall let him/her know of a potential hazard and a corrective measure.

Support – Render words of encouragement to him/her so as to continue the job safely.

CARE for this 4S approach is Concern, Assurance, Respect and Encouragement.

(2) Approach for people with safe behaviour

4S: Spot, Salute, Standardize, Sustain

Spot – The observer shall be able to find out the safe behaviour shown by the worker at the job.

Salute – A kind of appreciation shall be shown in recognition of his/her safe behaviour.

Standardize – Others shall emulate the safe behaviour to make it a norm of work style.

Sustain – It shall be demonstrated repeatedly so that the way is copied in the process by all.

CARE for this 4S approach is Cheers, Appreciation, Reward and Enrichment.

Two 4S approaches have been recently applied in some construction workplaces in Myanmar, and the adaption of new norms in behaviour is gradually rooted in the workforce.

A nationwide movement shall be pursued with a grant set aside to make it a success. It includes radio broadcasts, TV shows, demonstrations, talks, discussions and awards.

A behaviour change ensures that living with Covid-19 is not a scare but care in personal hygiene that scares Covid-19.

The quest for a universal coronavirus vaccine

If a pan-coronavirus vaccine is successfully able to establish a broader foundational immunity against coronaviruses, it would allow us, as a global society, to go from being one step behind, to leaping one step ahead of the pandemic .....

AS VACCINE makers rush to stamp out new Covid-19 variants, some scientists have set their sights higher, aiming for a universal coronavirus vaccine that could tackle any future strains and possibly even stave off another pandemic.

Since the race for a first Covid jab supercharged a new generation of vaccine technology, there have been numerous efforts to develop pan-coronavirus immunization.

Drew Weissman of the University of Pennsylvania, who was a pioneer of the mRNA technology used in Pfizer's Covid vaccine, is leading one such project.

He said the problem with updating current vaccines to target all existing strains — a plan announced by Pfizer earlier this month — is that "new variants are going to appear every three or six months".

After more than two years simply trying to infect more people, he said, the virus is now starting to mutate specifically to get around the immunity gained from vaccines — much as influenza's constant changing requires an updated shot every year.

"That makes it a little bit trickier, because now you're fighting head-to-head with the virus," Weissman told AFP.

A GSK employee is at work at the factory of British pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) in Wavre on 8 February 2021 where the Covid-19 CureVac vaccine was produced. **PHOTO: AFP/KENZO TRIBOUILLARD**

So his team is working on a pan-coronavirus vaccine, which he said has tested well so far.

They are trying to find "highly conserved epitope sequences" — more integral parts of the virus that cannot mutate readily because it would die without them.

But it's not going to be easy.

"We may have a universal vaccine in two or three years, but we're going to have to keep working on it and changing it over time to keep ahead of the virus," Weissman said.

Expanding ambitions

Covid was not the first coronavirus to jump from animals to humans this century: its older relative SARS killed nearly 800 people from 2002-2004, and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) followed in 2012.

When US-based biotech firm VBI Vaccines announced its pan-coronavirus project in the early days of the pandemic in March 2020, it targeted all three.

Francisco Diaz-Mitoma, VBI's chief medical officer, explained the premise by likening each antigen of their proposed vaccine to one of the three primary colours.

The firm hopes to provide antibodies not just for these three — but also for "the various shades of orange, green, and purple found in between".

"In other words, we are trying to teach the immune system to expand upon the variations of virus it is capable of 'seeing' from the start," he told AFP.

He said VBI's vaccine had shown promising results so far — including in bats and pangolins — with clinical studies hoped to start in the coming months ahead of results in early 2023.

The ferritin nanoparticle vaccine effort led by Barton Haynes, director of Duke University's Human Vaccine Institute, has received funding from the US National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

He told AFP this vaccine, which targets SARS-like viruses but not a broader range of coronaviruses like MERS, had been shown to work well against Omicron.

'Leaping one step ahead'

Pamela Bjorkman of the California Institute of Technology said a true pan-coronavirus vaccine was probably not realistic because there are so many lineages — some which include common colds.

Her project uses a mosaic nanoparticle approach to target the B lineage of betacoronaviruses, which includes the original SARS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the disease Covid.

Bjorkman told AFP that even the "quest" for this specific lineage was comparable to the "many years of effort to make a universal influenza vaccine."

Like Haynes, she said the wide availability of a vaccine depended on how quickly they could begin human trials.

Even if none of the current pan-coronavirus vaccine projects are likely to be rolled out in the next year, their eventual arrival could change the world's relationship with Covid. "If a pan-coronavirus vaccine is successfully able to establish a broader foundational immunity against coronaviruses, it would allow us, as a global society, to go from being one step behind, to leaping one step ahead of the pandemic," Diaz-Mitoma said.

The broadening horizons of vaccine research could also be one way Covid has forced the world to better prepare for the threat of even worse pandemics ahead.

SOURCE: AFP

MYANMAR Daily Weather Report

(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Wednesday 27 April 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 28 April, 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region and Kachin, southern Shan, Kayah States and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon Regions and (northern and Eastern) Shan, Kayin States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in upper Sagaing, Bago, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, (southern and eastern) Shan, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 April 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 April 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 April 2022: Partly cloudy.

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International travellers arrive on MAI airlines via commercial flights

One of the MAI aircraft. **PHOTO: KANU**

INTERNATIONAL flights were reopened at Yangon International Airport on 17 April, with international flights arriving by MAI on commercial flights.

Yangon-Kuala Lumpur-Yangon MAI operates the relief flights twice a week. In turn, commercial flights from Yangon to Incheon (Korea), Guangzhou (China), Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Dubai, and Kolkata and New Delhi (India) are operating daily.

"Since the reopening of the international airline, the airline has been operating smoothly due to a large number of tourists, said Captain Kyaw Soe Hla, Chief Operating Officer of MAI Airlines.

"Travellers are also comfortable. Currently, there are a lot of tourists. International travel will increase if people no longer have to worry about COVID-19. And if overnight quarantine access is relaxed, the tourism sector will accelerate.

"In some countries, quarantine programmes are no longer available, leading to increased tourists.

"MAI is providing services for the well-being and safety of tourists to facilitate the traffic connection and the revitalization of Myanma Airlines," Captain Kyaw Soe Hla added.

After the reopening of Myanmar's international airlines this month, many Myanmar nationals who had been working abroad and returning to their homeland had arrived, and international travellers were arriving at Yangon International Airport on MAI Airlines' commercial flights. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/ GNLM

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 7.15 tonnes of masks were imported via the Chinshwehaw border trade post by two vehicles of two companies, and 0.22 tonne of gloves were imported via international port 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

CRIME NEWS

Illegal cosmetics, foodstuffs, teak and vehicles seized

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

On 24 April, a combined inspection team led by the Region Forest Department conducted a joint inspection by the Yangon Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

A total of 3.3450 tonnes of illegal teak and one vehicle carrying those items (estimated at K15,000,000) and a total estimated value of K16,003,500 were seized in Hmawby Township, Yangon North District. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, a combined inspection team under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections at the Area (9), Indin checkpoint, Maungdaw Township, on 24 April.

Thirty-five gold nuggets worth about K700,000,000 were seized from a vehicle driving from Angumaw to Maungtaw. The action was taken under the Import and Export Law.

Similarly, a combined inspection team led by the Department of Forest conducted an inspection by the Rakhine State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force on 25 April, and 2.9854 tonnes of illegal timbers (approximately K208,978) in the Sarpyin forest reserve were seized. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, a joint inspection team on duty at the Mayanchaung Permanent Inspection Post under the management of the Customs Department conducted inspections on 27 April.

A total of one truckload of beers (estimated at K11,200,000) and one truckload of undocumented beers (approximately K16,000,000) were seized and the action was taken in line with the Customs procedures.

Similarly, a combined inspection team led by the Customs Department conducted inspections at the 16th-Mile Kyaukchaw Inspection Station, Mandalay Region under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

During the inspection, cosmetics (estimated at K1,680,000) without any official documents were seized. The action was taken according to the Customs procedures.

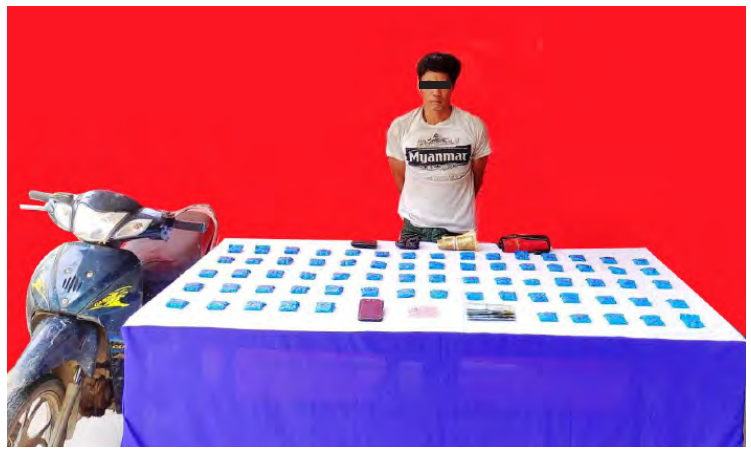
Therefore, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, six arrests (estimated at K745,092,478) were made on 24, 25, and 27 April. — MNA

Drugs seized in Bhamo, Bogale Townships

A combined inspection team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a motorbike driven by Yawshu in Shwepyitha ward in Bhamo Township at 1:00 pm on 25 April and seized 13,650 ecstasy tablets.

Similarly, at 7:00 am on 26 April, the combined inspection team consisting of members of the Ayeyawady Region Police Force examined Nanda Aung near a jetty in No. (5) Ward in Bogale Township and found 9,800 ecstasy tablets.

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



Arrestee Yawshu is seen along with seized drugs and a motorbike.

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PANDEMIC WORLD

Over half of Japan's population has received booster shot: gov't

OVER half of Japan's population has received their third COVID-19 vaccine dose, with 86.9 per cent of those aged 65 and above vaccinated, government data showed Monday.

But vaccination rates among younger people still remain low relative to the general population, with only 30.1 per cent and 33.2 per cent of those in their 20s and 30s, respectively, having received their booster shots.

COVID-19 vaccines have proven effective in stemming the spread of the Omicron variant of the virus despite initial doubts, and health experts are encouraging people to keep up to date with their shots.

Between 4 and 10 April, infections per 100,000 among those in their 20s stood at 766 for the unvaccinated, but dropped to 306 for the fully vaccinated, and to 141 for those who had received their third shot, according to the health ministry. A similar trend was also observed in other age groups.

"The results show that (the vaccine) can prevent infections in any age group. Young people are also at risk of long COVID if they get infected, so we want them to get their third shots," said Takaji Wakita, head of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases who also leads the expert panel of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

The booster shot vaccination rate in countries like Singapore and Britain is higher. Singapore's rate stood at 73 per cent as of Saturday. A study at Nagasaki University in southwestern Japan found that among those aged 16 to 64, a third vaccine dose was 69 per cent effective in preventing an outbreak of the Omicron strain, compared with 43 per cent for those who had only received up to two doses.—Kyodo

Shigeru Omi, the Japanese government's top COVID-19 adviser, receives his third shot of coronavirus vaccine at a mass vaccination centre in Tokyo's Otemachi area on 5 February 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

US FDA approves first COVID-19 treatment for young children

Photo taken on 23 August 2021 shows the US Food and Drug Administration in Silver Spring, Maryland, the United States. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Monday expanded its approval of the COVID-19 treatment Veklury, also known as remdesivir, to include paediatric patients 28 days of age and older weighing at least 3 kilogrammes who are infected by SARS-CoV-2.

This action makes Veklury the first approved COVID-19 treatment for children less than 12 years of age, said the FDA.

Veklury is approved for young children who are hospitalized, or have mild-to-moderate COVID-19 and are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, according to the FDA. Previously Veklury was only approved to treat COVID-19 for certain adults and pediatric patients 12 years of age and older who weigh at least 40 kilogrammes.—Xinhua

Drop in vaccines exposes LatAm kids to disease: report

ONE in four children in Latin America and the Caribbean does not have vaccine protection against three potentially deadly diseases, a UN report said Monday, warning of plummeting inoculation rates.

While 90 per cent of children in the region in 2015 had received the vaccine for diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough (DTP3), by 2020 coverage had dropped to three-quarters, according to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), a regional office of the WHO.

This means some 2.5 million children were not fully protected — and 1.5 million of them have not had even one dose in the three-shot regimen.

Globally, according to the World Health Organization, 17.1 million infants did not receive an initial dose of DTP3 vaccine in 2020, and another 5.6 million were only partially jabbed.

Outbreaks of preventable diseases "have already occurred" in Latin America and the Caribbean, the agencies said.

In 2013, only five people in the region contracted diphtheria — a bacterial disease that can cause breathing difficulties, heart failure and potentially death.

Five years later, the number was nearly 900.

Worsened by Covid

There has also been a rise in cases of measles — another disease that can be prevented with inoculation — from nearly 500 cases in 2013 to more than 23,000 in 2019, said the statement. "The decline in vaccination rates in the region is alarming," said UNICEF regional director Jean Gough.

The reasons were multifold. —AFP

Precaution dose of COVID vaccine will protect family, society, says expert

PRECAUTION dose of COVID vaccine will be helpful to boost immunity and is important to protect family and society against the pandemic, said Dr Suresh Kumar, MD, LNJP hospital Delhi on Monday.

Speaking to ANI, Dr Kumar said, "Precaution dose will have a huge impact on COVID-19 surge. Precaution doses are available for free in government hospitals. A precautionary dose will be helpful to boost immunity."

"We have seen that after two doses, hospitalization has reduced. Those who are admitted are those whose vaccination schedule is incomplete. The third dose is important to protect the family and society," he emphasised.

Dr Kumar raised concerns over the surge in COVID cases in the last few days.

Asked about the dominant variant in the present surge, Dr Kumar said that the omicron sub-variant has been prevalent and ruled out the XE variant present in the incoming patients.

"A surge has been witnessed for the past 4-5 days and positivity rate increased to 4-5 per cent. We have 12 patients admitted including two children and 10 adults. One child is sick and we have kept him on oxygen support. Omicron sub-variant has been prevalent in patients," he added.—ANI

ECONOMY
WORLD

A woman wearing a face mask visits the Myeongdong shopping area in Seoul, South Korea, 8 Decmber 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA/WANG JINGQIANG**

S.Korea's GDP grows 0.7 pct in Q1 on quarter

SOUTH Korea's economy got off to a slower start in the first quarter of this year due to challenges from an increasingly complex international environment and the continued COVID-19 resurgence at home.

Real gross domestic product (GDP), adjusted for inflation, grew 0.7 per cent in the January-March quarter compared to the previous quarter, Bank of Korea (BOK) data showed Tuesday.

It was down from the 1.2 per cent expansion tallied in the fourth quarter of last year, but the real GDP kept increasing for the seventh consecutive quarter since the third quarter of 2020.

The slower growth was caused by external uncertainties, such as global supply disruptions and geopolitical risks in Europe, as well as the continued pandemic at home.

South Korea's health authorities estimated that the COVID-19 resurgence, driven by the Omicron variant of the virus, may have peaked in the middle of March, but experts here voiced worry about another resurgence later this year. —Xinhua

UAE vows 'responsible' artificial intelligence rollout

THE world's first minister for artificial intelligence says the United Arab Emirates isn't only looking for economic benefits as it seeks to become a leading nation in the sector.

The UAE's minister of state for AI, Omar bin Sultan al-Olama, said "quality of life" considerations were key, and also stressed the importance of a "responsible" rollout — with impacts potentially reverberating for decades.

"We are looking at AI as a tool," he told AFP in an interview in Dubai. "It's a tool that we need to use to unleash the quality of life aspect."

The UAE also calls AI "machine intelligence", defining it as a branch of technology enabling systems to "think, learn, and make decisions like humans", which can support everything from virology to transport.

"Yes, economic gain is something that every country wants, and we want it too," Olama added. "But… we want to ensure the development and deployment and the use of AI is responsible."

Olama was just 27 when he was handed the cabinet-level position in 2017, tasked with launching the oil-rich Arab nation's strategy in a field which touches everything from speech and facial recognition to commerce and autonomous cars.

His appointment came a year after the UAE also named ministers for happiness, hoping to create a "happier society", and tolerance, mainly aimed at promoting coexistence in the Gulf country where foreigners make up the majority of the population.

The UAE's stated goal is to become one of the leading AI nations by 2031, creating new economic and business opportunities and generating up to 335 billion dirhams ($91 billion) in extra growth.—AFP

One of the self-driving taxis being used in a tech demonstration to transport passengers to the nearby Yas Island, in the capital Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 30 November 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

US Senate confirms Brainard as Fed vice-chair

THE US Senate on Tuesday confirmed Lael Brainard to serve as the Federal Reserve's vice-chair, but Covid infections among Democratic senators allowed Republicans to block a vote on Lisa Cook becoming the first Black woman on the board.

Brainard, who has served on the Fed board since 2014, was promoted to her new post by a 52-43 vote with the support of seven Republicans.

But the upper house of Congress failed to hold a final vote on Cook's nomination, amid Republican opposition and because Democrats, who hold a slim edge, were unable to force the issue since two senators announced they have Covid, as does Vice-President Kamala Harris who could cast a tie-breaking vote.—AFP

NEWS IN Brief

Canada stumbling in transition to low-carbon economy: watchdog

Canada's oil and natural gas industry is active in 12 of 13 provinces and territories. **PHOTO: CANADIAN ENERGY CENTRE/AFP**

CANADA'S environmental watchdog on Tuesday slammed the government for bungling a transition to a low-carbon economy, accusing it of providing no support for energy workers facing job losses and overestimating the role of hydrogen fuel.

"When it comes to supporting a just transition to a low-carbon economy, the government has been unprepared and slow off the mark," Climate Commissioner Jerry DeMarco said in a new report.

"As Canada shifts its focus to low-carbon alternatives, the government is not prepared to provide appropriate support to more than 50 communities and 170,000 workers in the fossil fuels sector," he added.—AFP

World's top palm oil producer Indonesia suffers cooking oil shortage

THE Indonesian government has recently announced that starting 28 April, it will suspend exports of crude palm oil (CPO) and its derivatives to ensure domestic supplies.

President Joko Widodo argued during the announcement last Friday that the export ban was needed to "stabilize the oil prices at home," and promised to re-evaluate the policy "when the cooking oil had become affordable again."

As the world's largest palm oil producing country, Indonesia has been suffering acute shortages and high prices of cooking oil, which derives mainly from palm oil, since the end of last year.

Local media reported that supplies might still be found in supermarkets but the prices had jumped beyond the usual retail prices, triggering nationwide protests.—Xinhua

Mercedes profits rise on higher prices

GERMAN automaker Mercedes-Benz said Wednesday that higher sales prices enabled it to lift its bottom line slightly in the first three months of the year, despite a shortage of semiconductors and fallout from the war in Ukraine.

Mercedes-Benz said in a statement that it booked net profit of 3.6 billion euros ($3.8 billion) in the period from January to March, an increase of three per cent over the same period last year. Underlying or operating profit rose by 11 per cent to 5.2 billion euros on a six-percent increase in revenues to 35 billion euros.

The Stuttgart-based carmaker said its results were boosted by a "sharpened focus on top-end vehicles and premium vans, combined with ongoing cost discipline… even as the Covid-19 pandemic, semiconductor supply-chain bottlenecks and war in Ukraine continued to impact business."

Mercedes-Benz said unit sales of its cars were down by 10 per cent at around 487,000.

Over the past year, automakers have been battling shortages in semiconductors, electronic components that are used in both conventional and electric vehicles, occasionally being made to halt production.—AFP

India slashes size of biggest IPO

INDIA has slashed the size of an initial public offering by insurance giant LIC but the share issue will still be the country's largest to date, with a targeted windfall of $2.7 billion, regulatory filings showed Wednesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is desperate for proceeds from the IPO by Life Insurance Corporation of India and the sale of other state assets to help fix tattered public finances.

The long-awaited IPO — originally slated for March — will open next week, the filing seen by AFP showed, after the government chose to wait out recent market volatility triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

People walk past a promotional poster for the Life Insurance Corporation of India in Mumbai. **PHOTO: AFP**

"While global sentiments are weak, Indian markets are resilient," finance ministry official Tuhin Kanta Pandey told reporters.

"This is an opportunity for the Indian consumer to participate in the wealth creation of one of India's most valuable corporations," he said.

But the adverse market conditions did force the government to substantially cut its stake sale to 3.5 per cent, down from five per cent.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ASIATIC KING VOY.NO. (22S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ASIATIC KING VOY.NO. (22S/N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-4-2022** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V PACIFIC GRACE VOY.NO. (2212S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PACIFIC GRACE VOY.NO. (2212S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-4-2022** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCL 18

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 18 VOY. NO. (012022)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-4-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT-2** 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 SUN SHINE

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SUN SHINE VOY.NO. (1)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-4-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT-1** 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 THURIYA SANDAR WIN CO LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ZHEN XIANG 9

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ZHEN XIANG 9 VOY.NO. (2204)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-4-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-2** 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 ELDER TRIUMPANT SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V PVT DIAMOND

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PVT DIAMOND VOY.NO. (AR1248)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-4-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-5** 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 GLOBAL MARS SHIPPING

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka to sell 'golden' visas

Protesters have demanded President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's resignation over Sri Lanka's crippling economic crisis . **PHOTO: AFP**

CASH-STRAPPED Sri Lanka announced Tuesday it would sell long-term visas to attract desperately needed foreign currency after the island nation ran out of dollars to pay for food and fuel.

Foreigners who deposit a minimum of $100,000 locally will be granted permission to live and work in Sri Lanka for 10 years under the "Golden Paradise Visa Programme," the government said.

The money should be locked in a local bank account for the duration of the stay, the government said in a statement.

"This scheme will help Sri Lanka at a time when we are facing the worst financial crisis since our independence," media minister Nalaka Godahewa told reporters in Colombo.

The government also approved the granting of five-year visas to any foreigner spending a minimum of $75,000 to buy an apartment on the island.

Acute shortages of food, fuel and medicines have triggered widespread protests, with thousands of people camped outside President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's seafront office to demand his resignation.

The government has signalled a willingness to consider constitutional reforms that could pare back the authority of the president, who gave himself sweeping powers to appoint and sack ministers, judges and public servants after his 2019 election.

His government also rolled back democratic reforms that gave statutory independence to the police, civil service, election commission and the judiciary.

Sri Lanka's economic collapse began to be felt after the coronavirus pandemic torpedoed vital revenue from tourism and remittances.

Utilities unable to pay for fuel imports have imposed lengthy daily blackouts to ration power, while long lines snake around service stations as people queue for petrol and kerosene.—AFP

Going digital, Chinese gov't on the move

CHINA is looking to expedite the building of a digital government to achieve greater efficiency in public service delivery and modernize the country's governance system and capacity.

The central authorities have put their foot on the accelerator as the guidelines on building a digital government was adopted at a meeting of the Central Commission for Comprehensively Deepening Reform.

President Xi Jinping chaired the meeting on 19 April and called for extensively applying digital technologies to government management and services and enabling the government to function in a more digital and smarter way, thus offering solid support for modernizing China's system and capacity for governance.

The ultimate goal of building a digital government is meeting people's aspirations for a better life, a statement of the commission says, describing the Chinese government's prospective digital service system as "universal, accessible, smart, convenient, equitable and inclusive", through which the public can reduce the number of visits they make to government departments.

"The aim of building a digital government is to deliver better services to citizens and businesses, which highlights the people-centred governance philosophy of the Communist Party of China (CPC)," said Ma Liang, professor at the School of Public Administration and Policy, Renmin University of China.—Xinhua

Moldova holds security talks over blasts in Russia-backed region

EX-SOVIET Moldova on Tuesday convened its security council after a series of blasts in the Russian-backed separatist Transnistria region raised fears of a spillover from the war in Ukraine.

The breakaway region saw explosions hit its security ministry on Monday and a radio tower on Tuesday morning.

President Maia Sandu was to hold a meeting of the country's Supreme Security Council "in connection with the incidents in the Transnistria region", her office said, with a press briefing to follow.

The blasts came as the conflict in Ukraine has provoked fears in Moldova that the country could become Russia's next target.

A Russian military chief last week angered Moldova by referring to "oppression" of Russian speakers in Trasnistria.

The Kremlin expressed "concern" over the blasts and Russian state news agency RIA Novosti quoted a source in the Trasnistria government as saying that attackers had entered from Ukraine.

The OSCE in Moldova tweeted that it "condemns all attempts to destabilise (the) situation" in Transnistria and its buffer zone.—AFP

Austria closes compensation fund for victims of Nazi era

People attend a commemoration ceremony at a memorial plate for the victims of Nazism on 26 January 2018 in Weimar, central Germany, at the roll call area of the former Buchenwald Nazi concentration camp, one day before the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. **PHOTO:VCG/XINHUA**

AUSTRIA on Tuesday dissolved a fund set up in 2001 to compensate victims of Nazism, saying it had "fully completed its tasks", according to a statement sent to AFP.

"The dissolution of the General Settlement Fund for Victims of National Socialism… marks the completion of one of Austria's largest-scale projects to provide restitution and compensation for Nazi-seized assets," it said.

More than 30,000 cases filed by people persecuted by the Nazis or their descendants have been heard.

"The General Settlement Fund made (payments) of $215 million (200 million euros) in total. Around 25,000 beneficiaries received a payment from the General Settlement Fund," the statement said.

The fund was set up to study requests for the return of property acquired legally after the war by local authorities or the Austrian state following the Nazis' plundering from Jewish people during the country's annexation to the Third Reich. —AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

EU court dismisses Polish complaint over copyright reform

The EU wanted the copyright legislation to be brought into law by 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

A top European Union court on Tuesday dismissed Poland's complaint against the bloc's copyright reform, ruling that it does not threaten freedom of expression as feared by Warsaw.

"The directive introduces several procedural safeguards, which protect the right to freedom of expression and information of users," the Court of Justice of the European Union said.

The verdict should put an end to the legal issue, one of many between Poland's nationalist government and the EU.

Under the reform adopted in 2019, European law now holds platforms legally responsible for enforcing copyright, requiring them to check what their users post to prevent infringement.

The reform was backed by media companies and artists but opposed by internet giants and supporters of a free internet.

Poland was one of six countries against the reform.

Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Konrad Szymanski had argued that its provisions posed a "serious threat to freedom of expression" and could even lead to "the adoption of regulations similar to preventive censorship".

But the court ruled that the reform came with a "clear and precise limit on the measures that may be taken… by excluding, in particular, measures which filter and block lawful content when uploading". —AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

Chernobyl anniversary

ON the 36th anniversary of what is considered the worst-ever nuclear disaster there is relief the hulking sarcophagus covering the reactor's radioactivity has returned to Ukrainian control.

But concerns have far from dissipated for atomic sites in Ukraine, with missiles flying over a nuclear power station near the southern city of Zaporizhzhia in the latest close call.

Moldova under fire

FEARS of the conflict spilling over into Moldova rise after a series of blasts in its breakaway Russian-backed Transnistria region, which borders western Ukraine.

Authorities in Transnistria say two explosions on Tuesday morning damaged a radio tower, while on Monday evening the offices of the state security ministry were hit in a suspected grenade attack.

The United Nations and United States express alarm, though stopped short of backing Kyiv's contention that Russia was responsible.

Putin has 'hope' for negotiations

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin tells the visiting UN chief Antonio Guterres that he still has hope for negotiations to end the conflict in Ukraine.

"Despite the fact that the military operation is ongoing, we still hope that we will be able to reach agreements on the diplomatic track. We are negotiating, we do not reject (talks)," Putin tells Guterres.

Guterres, who is seeking to mediate in the conflict, is on his first visit to Moscow since the war began and is then to travel to Kyiv for talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Friendship statue demolished

AUTHORITIES in Kyiv demolished a monument symbolizing historic ties between ex-Soviet Ukraine and Russia.

"It took some effort but the Soviet sculpture of the two workers — symbolizing the reunification of Ukraine and Russia — was dismantled this evening," Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko says in a statement on social media.

Over eight million refugees expected

THE UN says nearly 5.3 million Ukrainians have fled the country since Russia invaded and warns that three million more could follow by the end of this year.

SOURCE: AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR: ROLLING UPDATES

Russia cuts Poland, Bulgaria gas over Ukraine

RUSSIA halted gas supplies to Poland and Bulgaria on Wednesday, after blasts in a breakaway region of neighbouring Moldova led Kyiv to accuse Moscow of seeking to expand the Ukraine war further into Europe.

The Russian energy giant Gazprom said it had cut supplies to Poland and Bulgaria, in Moscow's latest use of gas as a weapon in a conflict that has now dragged into its third month and claimed thousands of lives.

Russia halted gas supplies to Poland and Bulgaria on Wednesday, after blasts in a breakaway region of neighbouring Moldova led Kyiv to accuse Moscow of seeking to expand the Ukraine war further into Europe. **PHOTO: AFP**

Explosions this week targeting the state security ministry, a radio tower and military unit in neighbouring Moldova's region of Transnistria — occupied by Moscow's forces for decades — followed a Kremlin commander's claims Russian speakers in the country were being oppressed. That triggered alarm that Moldova could be Russia's next target in its push into Europe, with Moscow having exploited similar fears after launching its bloody invasion of Ukraine on 24 February.—AFP

Ukraine says several villages in east captured by Russian forces

UKRAINE announced Wednesday that Russian forces had pushed deeper into the east of the country and captured several villages, as part of Moscow's offensive to take control of Donbas.

The defence ministry said that Russian forces had pushed out Kyiv's army from Velyka Komyshuvakha and Zavody in the Kharkiv region and had gained control over Zarichne and Novotoshkivske in the Donetsk region. — AFP

26 April: A Ukrainian soldier sits on an armoured personnel carrier driving on a road near Sloviansk, a city of more than 100,000 in eastern Ukraine. **PHOTO: YASUYOSHI CHIBA/AFP**

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

EU court dismisses Polish complaint over copyright reform

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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 inves tment 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 team to start friendly matches on 29 April

Myanmar women's team is seen under training in Yangon before leaving for South Korea. **PHOTO: KO ZAW**

THE Myanmar women's soccer team, taking a training in South Korea in preparation for the 31st SEA Games, will start a friendly match on 29 April.

The team has been taking a training in South Korea for about two weeks and will play three friendly matches from 29 April to 3 May.

The Myanmar women's team will play against South Korea U-20 national team on 29 April, Seoul City Women's Club on 1 May and the South Korea U-20 youth team on 3 May.

The Myanmar women's team left for South Korea on 24 April to prepare for the SEA Games and will start its training on 25 April. The Myanmar women's team will take a train in South Korea until the first week of May and travel directly to Viet Nam for the 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 Moh, 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. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Morikawa puts golf glory ahead of financial gain

BRITISH Open champion Collin Morikawa on Tuesday insisted he will always put golf glory ahead of financial gain amid the controversy over a series of new Saudi-backed tournaments.

Phil Mickelson's agent revealed on Monday that the six-time major winner has requested a release from the PGA Tour to play the first LIV Golf Invitational Series event in June.

The lucrative event has reportedly persuaded 15 of the world's top 100 players to ask for their releases from the PGA and DP World Tours in order to play at Centurion Club from 9-11 June.

On a conference call to promote his British Open title defence at St Andrews later this year, Morikawa made it clear he would not be joining the rush to chase a profit."No. I said at Riviera earlier this year (in February) that my alliance is to the PGA Tour," he said.

"Will I still watch what's going on? I mean, yeah. You're curious to what's going on. But do I care who's going to be playing or do I care who's going to be making money? No, not at all.—AFP

Man City let Real Madrid off the hook in seven-goal Champions League classic

Bernardo Silva (left) scored Manchester City's fourth goal. PHOTO: AFP

PEP Guardiola said he had to reiterate to his players they had beaten Real Madrid 4-3 in a Champions League classic on Tuesday despite the disappointment of not killing off their semi-final tie at the Etihad.

Kevin De Bruyne, Gabriel Jesus, Phil Foden and Bernardo Silva were on target for Guardiola's men, who held a two-goal lead three times. But Karim Benzema's double and a brilliant individual effort from Vinicius Junior gave Madrid hope of another famous Champions League fightback at the Santiago Bernabeu on 4 May.

Guardiola lamented letting Liverpool escape "alive" in the Premier League title race after a 2-2 draw at the Etihad nine days ago and will have similar regrets after a blistering opening that could have seen City go 4-0 up inside half an hour. —AFP