CREATE A CHANCE FOR CONSUMERS TO CHOOSE THE BEST FOODS PAGE-8 (OPINION)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 19, 6th Waxing of Kason 1384 ME www.gnlm.com.mm Thursday, 5 May 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.

Media are to give correct information to the people in accord with ethics to be public media: Senior General

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the occasion of the launching event of MRTV Media Worldwide Mobile Satellite Data Application Services (MRTV App & Web) in Nay Pyi Taw on 4 May 2022.

NOW is the time to enhance the capacity of all media as media influences societies through various ways and means, said State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the launching ceremony of MRTV Media Worldwide Mobile Satellite Data Application Services (MRTV App & Web) of MRTV under the Ministry of Information at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on occasion, the Senior General said that the media sector needs to develop the social, economic life of the ethnic people in accord with the ethics by upholding the interests of the State and the people to enable the people to have democratic knowledge and critical thinking, properly stand on the educational trend and turn out educated youths.

Currently, information technology has advanced. So, moves of media are very effective. As some big countries apply the strategies to control the media of small countries through various ways and means, all the people of Myanmar should do everything under farsightedness and conscience. Freedom of expression, good governance and development are essential for a democratic society. Hence, the media's role is very important.

At a time when powerful political and economic groups dominate the media, attitudes, loss and feelings of the people are under negligence. Some countries in the democratization process and developing countries may face that they fuel the problems without solving them. Now is the time to enhance the capacity of all media as media influences societies through various ways and means.

Currently, MRTV media application has been developed with the use of modern communication technologies similar to HD TV channels so that audiences can enjoy the MRTV programmes on Android and iOS phones, laptops, desktops, iPad and Note Pads, as well as websites at any time.

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
Servicemen need to take care of unity among them due to the possibility of instigations: Vice-Senior General
PAGE-4

NATIONAL
Myancopharm COVID-19 vaccine introduced into targeted groups
PAGE-5

NATIONAL
MoH Union Minister calls for timely treatment of emergency patients
PAGE-6

LOCAL BUSINESS
54 cargo ships to arrive at Yangon Port in May
PAGE-7

NATIONAL
Interview with Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon Lt-Col Hein Latt Win
PAGE-10

Fuel Import, Storage and Distribution Supervisory Committee Reference wholesale prices for Yangon and Mandalay and reference retail prices for cities of regions and states

5-5-2022

Kyat/Litre

Fuel (Retail Price)	Yangon	Mandalay	Nay Pyi Taw	Bago	Magway	Dawei	Monywa	Pathein	Myitkyina	Sittway	Hpa-an	Mawlamyine	Lashio	Taunggyi	Loikaw	Haka	Kengtung
92 Ron	2,035	2,080	2,075	2,045	2,080	2,105	2,090	2,065	2,160	2,175	2,075	2,080	2,115	2,120	2,120	2,340	2,405
95 Ron	2,095	2,145	2,140	2,105	2,140	2,165	2,150	2,125	2,220	2,235	2,135	2,150	2,175	2,175	2,180	2,400	2,720
HSD (500 ppm)	2,360	2,405	2,400	2,365	2,405	2,425	2,420	2,390	2,505	2,500	2,395	2,405	2,440	2,440	2,445	2,660	2,720
HSD (50 ppm)	2,385	2,435	2,430	2,395	2,430	2,455	2,450	2,420	2,530	2,525	2,425	2,435	2,470	2,470	2,470	2690	2,755
HSD (10 ppm)	2,385	2,435	2,430	2,395	2,430	2,455	2,450	2,420	2,530	2,525	2,425	2,435	2,470	2,470	2,470	2,690	2,755

Fuel (Wholesale Price)	Yangon	Mandalay
92 Ron	1,936	2,008
95 Ron	1,994	2,068
HSD (500 ppm)	2,249	2,324
HSD (50 ppm)	2,277	2,352
HSD (10 ppm)	2,277	2,352

Remarks: (1) It's calculation is based on MOPS price.

(2) If people are not satisfied with purchase of fuel, they may safely send complaints to telephone numbers of the committee as follows: -

067-409881 and 09-699611116, 067-411129, 09-440433533

Tatmadaw will strive to achieve Independence longevity and State prosperity

THE Independence Day restored by the unity and effort of all ethnic people will be the 75th Anniversary on 4th January 2023. For the cessation of internal armed conflicts in the period of Diamond Jubilee Independence Day in advance, Tatmadaw will strive to achieve Independence longevity and State prosperity. Tatmadaw made a unilateral ceasefire for over 4 years from 21st December 2018 to the end of 2022.

I would like to impart that Tatmadaw will conform as much as possible under the statement of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) for perpetual peace by offering open-ended peace talks.

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

Media are to give correct information to the people in accord ...

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presses the electric button to inaugurate the MRTV Media Worldwide Mobile Satellite Data Application Services–MRTV App & Web.

FROM PAGE-1

Thanks to broadcasting from four international satellites, 46 Myanmar embassies in foreign countries can enjoy the TV programmes well, and arrangements are being made for those from 181 countries to enjoy the programmes.

In so doing, these programmes will be broadcast in English, Spain, France and German in addition to Myanmar. Ethnic people can know the situation of the State and the government's efforts in time, and the international community can enjoy the programmes on a wider scale.

It is an effort to erect the historical milepost for MRTV in improving its functions using modern techniques. Moreover, it is a milestone for the State Administration Council for its endeavour to result in development undertakings in its tenure.

The Senior General views the Application of the MRTV App & Web.

The Senior General receives the souvenir gift to mark the initiation of the Application.

Media are to give correct information to the people according to ethics to be public media. The Senior General urged all ethnic people to join hands with the government to serve the nation's interest.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn reported on the development of the media sector, including the initiation of the MRTV App & Web.

The Senior General launched the MRTV Media Worldwide Mobile Satellite Data Application Services and viewed the application and web.

Ethnic people can enjoy 11 sectors, including Documentary, Education, Entertainment, Farming, Myanmar Culture and Sports programmes, in addition to breaking news, business news, community news and daily news through the MRTV media application and live stream through the MRTV HD channel as well. MRTV programmes can be enjoyed via mobile phones, laptops, desktops, iPads, Notepads, and www.mrtvmedia.com. —MNA

Servicemen need to take care of unity among them due to the possibility of instigations: Vice-Senior General

SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets service members and families at Mawlamyine Station on 4 May 2022.

THOSE from the military corps need to observe advancements of military technologies and other relevant studies constantly, said Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win in separately meeting with service members and families of Mawlamyine and Dawei stations at respective military station halls yesterday.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General said that only when service members have the full training capacity will they thoroughly apply the modern military equipment and machinery. Those from the military corps need to observe advancements in military technologies and other relevant studies constantly.

The administrative machinery of the Tatmadaw is being operated with pinions of general staff, adjutant and quartermaster. All duties and functions are being undertaken under the procedures, rules and regulations. Administrative measures have been set for fulfilling the needs of service members in addition to health facilities. Officials at different levels must understand these measures to manage the duties and functions to the best.

The Vice-Senior General stressed that the service members need to take care of unity among them due to the possibility of instigations. At present, the Tatmadaw is participating in the undertaking of essential tasks of the State, so service members are to be mentally and physically healthy in order to discharge the assigned duties. Hence, they all need to have a proper lifestyle through individual health awareness. The Vice-Senior General then fulfilled the needs of servicemembers and families individually.

The Vice-Senior General presented foodstuffs to service members and families through officials.

He comforted officers, other ranks, families and people receiving medical treatment at the local military hospital in Mawlamyine.

The Vice-Senior General presented foodstuffs and aid to those patients after asking after them.

The Vice-Senior General and party inspected wards of the hospital, fulfilled the hospital's needs, and presented cash awards to health staff serving at the hospital. — MNA

The Vice-Senior General cordially greets service members and families at Dawei Station.

The Vice-Senior General comforts the patient at the Mawlamyine Station Hospital.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

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

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

Write for us

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

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

Officials need to arrange infrastructures for producing the commercial oil from crude palm oil through initiatives: Vice-Senior General

SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets Mon State government, state, district and township-level departmental officials on 4 May 2022.

WHILE striving to earn income, it is necessary to efficiently use fuel and cooking oil so as to stop the waste of foreign exchange, said State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win in meeting with Mon State government, state, district and township-level departmental officials at the meeting hall of the government office yesterday morning.

Chief Minister U Zaw Lin Tun reported on the administration, economic and social measures of Mon State through PowerPoint, and the Vice-Senior General asked for further information and attended to the needs.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General said that as Mon State's budget needs deficiency annually, the Union supplementary budget is allotted. The Vice-Senior General urged all to educate the people to participate in the development of the public-based economic sector under the leadership of the chief minister and departments concerned with reducing the Union's aid with increased income from all industries in the state.

The Vice-Senior General noted that as the main product of Mon State is rubber, the local people can earn the increased income from the manufacturing of value-added products made of rubber instead of the sale of raw rubber. Officials need to arrange the market for value-added products of the state. Kyaikhtiyoe and Kyaikkhami mid-stream pagodas, Setse beach resort, Death Railway in Thanbyuzayat, the war cemetery, ancient Christian Churches and ancient cities in Mon State can attract the local and foreign travellers. While striving to earn income, it is necessary to efficiently use fuel and cooking oil so as to stop the waste of foreign exchange.

Moreover, the Vice-Senior General continued to say that although fuel as a natural resource can be produced under limitations, Myanmar and the state have a chance to increase the production of cooking oil. As such, it is necessary to strive for efficient use of fuel and cooking oil and increase cooking oil production. Especially, cultivable lands should be placed under sunflower plantations.

All are State service personnel discharging the State duties. So, they have to serve the people for their issues with goodwill.

The Vice-Senior General also met the Taninthayi Region government and departmental officials at the government office in Dawei yesterday afternoon.

Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko reported on the region's conditions through a PowerPoint presentation.

Speaking on occasion, the Vice-Senior General urged officials to arrange the security measures for students to attend the schools and universities to be reopened soon. The regional government needs to encourage the learning of all school-age children to have a KG+9 plan.

If the region changes the crude palm oil to the commercial oil in the region, the local people will have oil sufficiency and earn increased income. Hence, officials need to arrange the infrastructures for producing the commercial oil from crude palm oil through initiatives. Taninthayi Region is plentiful in rare water resources, coral reefs and natural beauties to attract travellers. Efforts must be made to generate good-income jobs for local people and undertake development in systematically carrying out fishery and agricultural tasks. — MNA

The Vice-Senior General meets Taninthayi Region government and departmental officials in Dawei Yesterday.

Myancopharm COVID-19 vaccine introduced to targeted groups

THE Myancopharm COVID-19 vaccine, produced with the Ready to Fill (RTF) system at the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industry under the Ministry of Industry, was introduced to targeted groups after the Ministry of Health received one million doses of the vaccine in April.

Union Minister for Health Prof Dr Thet Khaing Win and officials from the ministry observed and encouraged the Myancopharm COVID-19 vaccination at Zabuthiri Hospital (50-bed) in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday morning. He cordially met the people who came to receive the vaccine and inspected the immunization work.

The Myancopharm COVID-19 vaccine is packaged by the Ministry of Industry in collaboration with the Sinopharm China National Biotec Group (Sinopharm CNBG) of the People's Republic of China. It can be given safely to pregnant and lactating mothers from 5 years of age. It can also be safely used as a booster dose for people aged 18 and older. — MNA

27 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 4 May, total figure rises to 612,951

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **612,951** after **27** new cases were reported on 4 May 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **591,894** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **19,434** without more casualties.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 3-5-2022, a total of **30,782,442** people have been vaccinated. Of them, **23,672,564** people have been fully vaccinated and **7,109,878** people have yet to get the second shots and **1,494,234** people have received booster doses.—MNA

MoC Union Minister receives delegation led by Japan-Myanmar Association Chairman

The Japan-Myanmar Association Chairman calls on the MoC Union Minister.

DR Pwint San, Union Minister for Commerce, met a delegation led by Mr Watanabe Hideo, Chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Association, at the ministry yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, both sides cordially and frankly discussed matters of future plans for further development of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone and cooperation to enhance trade and investment between the two countries. — MNA

MoH Union Minister calls for timely treatment of emergency patients

The MoH Union Minister makes an inspection tour around the Nay Pyi Taw People's Hospital.

UNION Minister for Health Professor Dr Thet Khaing Win said if patients with emergency medical conditions such as gastric bleeding, stroke, and myocardial infarction receive timely medical care, their lives can be saved.

The Union Minister gave the instructions during the meeting with the Medical Superintendent, Professors, and doctors in charge at the Nay Pyi Taw People's Hospital (1,000-bed) yesterday morning. He expressed words of thanks to all the health workers who were working hard to ensure the regular operation of the hospital and the provision of emergency medical care.

"Now is the time to step up efforts to improve access to medical care and human health resources for the people. People's hospitals are the mainstays of the people, and efforts must be made to upgrade the emergency and regular medical services and provide effective treatment," he said.

It is learnt that Nay Pyi Taw People's Hospital (1000-bed) is a affiliate teaching hospital of the University of Medicine Magway but will soon be upgraded to a major teaching hospital. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health provides essential medicines and hospital supplies for medical treatment.

The Union minister called on the professors in charge and specialists to be involved in the development of human resources through academic activities, to provide necessary facilities, including restrooms and classrooms for medical students, to become a teaching hospital, and to upgrade the hospital's medical services to include transplant surgery (example: kidney transplant surgery).

Afterwards, the Union minister and party visited the One-Stop Diabetes Centre for Diabetes and its complications, patients being treated with anti-cancer drugs at the Department of Chemotherapy, installation and maintenance of equipment including SPECT Scan machine in the Nuclear Radiation Department, and Cardiac Catheterization Lab. It is learned that the necessary instructions were given after the inspection. — MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, foodstuffs, medicines, unregistered motorbikes and vehicles seized

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, action is being taken under the law against illegal trades across the country.

On 3 May, a combined inspection team on duty under the supervision of the Kayin State Anti-Illegal Trade Special Task Force conducted inspections at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Checkpoint. It confiscated K24,900,000 worth of foodstuffs and consumer goods that showed no official documents from a six-wheel truck (estimated value of K25,000,000) heading to Mawlamyine from Myawady. The action was taken under the Customs Law.

Similarly, Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint seized K1,300,000 worth of illegally-carried M-150 energy drink bottles from a vehicle heading to Yangon from Thaton and charged them under the Customs Law.

In addition, the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Checkpoint captured K30,425,000 worth of consumer goods, which were not declared in the imported declaration, and the Yangon international airport cargo warehouse captured K65,540,500 worth of medicines that did not show any official documents. The action was taken under the Customs Law.

On the same day, the Magway Region anti-illegal trade team seized 13,500 gallons of illegal crude oil worth K60,750,000 from three trucks (estimated value of K60,000,000) in Pakokku Township. It took action under the Public Property Protection Act.

Moreover, on 4 May, a combined team led by the Bago Region Forest Department confiscated K207,900 worth of 1.3860 tonnes of illegal teak in the Khabaung forest reserve of Toungoo District.

On the same day, the Sagaing Region Forest Department seized K446,940 worth of 1.4898 tonnes of illegal teak doors and charged them under the Forest Law.

The combined inspection team consisting of Myanmar police members also confiscated two vehicles without licences and an unregistered motorbike worth K11,600,000 and took action under the Export and Import Law.

Therefore, on 3 and 4 May, 17 arrests were made (an estimated value of K249,745,340), according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

54 cargo ships to arrive at Yangon Port in May

Export cargoes are loaded onto the container ship at Yangon Port.
PHOTO : KANU

ACCORDING to Myanma Port Authority, the shipping lines are increasing their services to facilitate exports and imports, and 54 cargo ships carrying many containers are to enter Yangon Port in May.

A total of container ships from 12 shipping lines will arrive at Yangon Port. The turnaround time at the Port was designated as approximately three days, under the guidance of the Myanma Port Authority and the cooperation of the ocean liners, exporters and importers. Therefore, the arrival of the ships has increased again.

Myanma Port Authority and Yangon inner terminals provide services to ensure the fast and reliable cargo handling and withdrawal of the containers for trade flow to return to normalcy. A total of 54 ships – 13 cargo ships run by Sealand Maersk Asia, seven by SITC Line, five each by New Golden Sea (COSCO) and Samudra Line, four by I.A.L Line, three each by C.S.L, Ever Green Line, Golden Star Line, MFSL Line, P.I.L Line and R.C.L Line and two by Land and Sea Line – will enter Yangon Port this month. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/ GNLM

Domestic oil price jumps to approximately K2,000 per litre on global cues

FUEL oil prices inched higher, around K2,000 per litre in the domestic market on the devaluation of Kyat against the US dollar and a sharp increase in crude oil prices, the market data in the Yangon Region showed.

According to a market observer, the rumours spreading in the domestic market, setting a sales limit at the retail stations, and panicked consumers' buying are other problems of price hikes.

The prices soared to nearly K2,000 for Octane 92, K2,025 for Octane 95, K2,320 for diesel and K2,350 for premium diesel on 2 May 2022. On 1 January 2022, the prices stood at K1,390 for Octane 92, K1,440 for Octane 95, K1,375 for diesel and K1,385 for premium diesel. According to the local fuel oil market, there is a large gap of K600-960 per litre within four months.

The fuel oil price is highly correlated with the foreign exchange rate. The exchange rate is now pegged at around K2,000 at the unofficial exchanges.

When a dollar was valued at only K1,330 in early February 2021, the fuel oil was estimated at K590 per litre for Octane 92, K610 for Octane 95, K590 for diesel and K605 for premium diesel then in the domestic retail market.

Additionally, domestic oil prices are positively related to the global market. Oil prices jumped in the worldwide market as the Russia-Ukraine crisis escalated, with US$104.2 per barrel for WTI crude and $106.5 for Brent crude at present.

Additionally, the Central Bank of Myanmar has directly sold over $87 million to the fuel oil sector so far.

Myanmar has inventories of about 45 million gasoline and 70 million diesel. According to the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, there is no need to worry about a shortage of fuel oil.

Myanmar imports oil from Singapore, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea. The rumour raised the concerns of the consumers and resulted in panic buying. Consequently, the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department stated that the retail stations were out of hand.

Usually, Myanmar yearly imports six million tonnes of fuel oil from external market, the Ministry of Commerce stated. — GNLM

Pure gold price drops back to below K2 mln per tical

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

THE prices of pure gold fell back to below K2 million per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme), according to the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

At present, 24-carat gold is worth K1,989,000 per tical.

The price dip happens to track the fall in global prices. The gold price stands at $1,865 per ounce in the worldwide market.

When a 24-carat gold hit $1,950 per ounce in the third week of April, the domestic gold fetched K2,085,000 per tical.

Therefore, the global gold price saw price dips of $85 per ounce within two weeks. Consequently, the domestic gold price was down by K96,000 per tical.

In a bid to stabilize the gold market, gold transactions had better made according to the reference foreign exchange rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar (K1,850 per USD), according to the CBM's statement released on 3 April.

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 force yet, said U Myo Myint, chair of YGEA.

Last 23 April, officials from the department concerned, YGEA and Mandalay Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association, discussed gold price stability at the meeting.

Gold transactions on the CBM's reference rate, at sight payment, and avoiding price manipulation were also discussed, according to YGEA.

The current market condition impedes transactions based on the reference rate. Yet, it will be implemented later, U Myo Myint continued.

The US dollar stands at K2,000 in the unofficial black market.

Additionally, 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

Create a chance for consumers to choose the best foods

ONLY when it implements a transparent and firm national food safety policy focusing on the long term interest of the consumers will a system be implemented to realize the strict assignment of duty for respective sectors. If so, the policy will help adopt modern laws and rules in conformity with the policy. It can be said that the national food safety policy will be a historical record in fulfilling these needs.

The policy was schemed to avoid danger for consumers, scheming the standards in respective sectors complying with international standards, flourishing the good practices in agriculture, livestock and manufacturing sectors, and then generating incomes of foreign exchange for the State.

In this regard, all stakeholders are responsible for the implementation of projects in their respective arenas as the national food safety policy has been adopted to comply with the national food risk control laws of the World Food Organization and the ASEAN.

Public awareness should be raised for having knowledge about safe and unsafe foods in the market. If so, the consumer will have the knowledge to choose the best foodstuffs for their daily consumption in order to manage healthy families in the long run. So, introducing the national food safety policy will be reliable for consumers in the future.

The policy will help the emergence of strict duty assignments for service personnel in respective fields, prevent disadvantages of health based on foodstuffs, and establish a reliable food market.

Only when foodstuffs in the chain of foods from the farmlands to consumers are safe and nutritious will all citizens be healthy and fit. Relevant departments and organizations need to take action against those who offended trading and production of unsafe foods in order to protect the consumers against the booming of hazardous food products on the other hand.

Production of safe foods meeting set standards should be increased at home to be able to compete in the international market so that the export foodstuffs market will emerge in order to generate a large number of jobs for the local people.

If so, citizens will have an improved social-economic status by keeping abreast of other countries by joining hands among them to serve the interests of the Union. All stakeholders in the implementation of the plans for the national food safety policy need to cooperate with each other and strive to achieve success in their sectors with responsibility and accountability.

Public awareness should be raised for having knowledge about safe and unsafe foods in the market. If so, the consumer will have the knowledge to choose the best foodstuffs for their daily consumption in order to manage healthy families in the long run. So, introducing the national food safety policy will be reliable for consumers in the future.

■ ■ ■

WHO warns of obesity 'epidemic' in Europe

THE WHO said Tuesday that "epidemic" overweight and obesity rates are linked to over 1.2 million deaths annually across Europe, calling for swift policy changes to reverse the dangerous trend.

Obesity rates in the region have ballooned by 138 per cent in the past five decades, the World Health Organization said in a new report, and are linked to a series of cancers and cardiovascular diseases.

Nearly a quarter of adults are now obese in Europe, higher than in any other region except the Americas, the WHO said.

"Overweight and obesity rates have reached epidemic proportions across the region and are still escalating," the health body's European office said.

Obesity rates in Europe have ballooned by 138 per cent in the past five decades. **PHOTO: MIGUEL RIOPA /AFP**

"Raised body mass index is a major risk factor for non-communicable diseases, including cancers and cardiovascular diseases," WHO regional director Hans Kluge was quoted saying in the report.

Obesity causes at least 13 different types of cancer and is likely responsible for at least 200,000 new cases of cancer per year, it said.

"This figure set to rise further in the coming years," the organization said in the new report.

Excess weight and obesity are estimated to cause more than 1.2 million deaths per year, accounting for more than 13 per cent of deaths in the region, it added.

Pandemic pounds

The latest comprehensive data available, from 2016, shows that 59 percent of adults and nearly one in three children — 29 per cent of boys and 27 per cent of girls — are overweight in Europe.

In 1975, 40 per cent of European adults were overweight.

The prevalence of obesity among adults has risen by 138 per cent since then, with a 21-per-cent increase between 2006 and 2016.

The Covid-19 pandemic is also linked to growing waistlines, especially as lockdowns promoted "an unhealthy diet or sedentary lifestyle", the report found.

It also revealed further health risks associated with excess weight.

"People living with obesity were more likely to experience severe outcomes of the Covid-19 disease spectrum, including intensive care unit admissions and death," Kluge said.

The authors also noted that the causes of obesity "are much more complex than the mere combination of unhealthy diet and physical inactivity".

Environmental factors unique to "modern Europe's highly digitalized societies are also drivers of obesity", it said, including the marketing of unhealthy foods and online gaming — especially among children.

The WHO called for policy changes to prevent obesity and promote healthy lifestyles, such as taxing sugary drinks and subsidizing healthy foods while limiting the marketing of unhealthy foods to children.

"Policy interventions that target environmental and commercial determinants of poor diet at the entire population level are likely to be most effective at reversing the obesity epidemic," it stated.

The WHO's European region comprises 53 countries, including several in central Asia.

SOURCE: AFP

■

Appointment of Republic of Belarus Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Uladzimir Baravikou as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, with residence in Hanoi in succession to Mr Vladimir A. Goshin.

Mr Uladzimir Baravikou was born on 3 March 1975. He studied International Relations at the Belarusian State University in 1997 and earned a Master's Degree in Management and Law from the Academy of Public Administration in 2019. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus in 1997. From 1997 to March 2022, he served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassies of the Republic of Belarus in the Netherlands, Sweden and Poland. He speaks English, Polish and French languages. Since April 2022, he has been serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

He is married and has a daughter.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated, 5 May 2022

China's dynamic zero-COVID policy benefits the world

AS THE Omicron variant has posed severe challenges to the faltering global economic recovery amid surging infections, China's dynamic zero-COVID approach has not only quickly cut viral transmission in the shortest time possible but also brought tangible benefits to the whole world.

The country's economy got off to a steady start in 2022 in the face of global challenges and a resurgence of COVID-19 cases, with its gross domestic product (GDP) growing 4.8 per cent year on year to 27.02 trillion yuan (about 4 trillion US dollars) in the first three months, quickening from a 4 per cent increase in the fourth quarter last year. China's strong economic performance has been a boon for global economic stability and growth, said Cavince Adhere, a Kenya-based international relations scholar.

GLOBAL-ECONOMY STABILIZER

Progress has been made in China's latest battle with COVID-19. After weeks of arduous control and prevention efforts, community transmission has been cut in the cities of Jilin and Changchun in Jilin Province, where life is returning to normal and the resumption of production is accelerating. The number of new infections in Shanghai is also going down.

As the world's second largest economy, China has played a key role in promoting the recovery of the global economy and stabilizing the industrial and supply chains.

"Countries that followed the zero-COVID playbook have done better on every measure, from death rates to economic growth," said British science writer Michael Marshall on the New Scientist in late March. "If more nations had implemented this approach, humanity would be in a better place."

China has seen an accelerated pace of resumption of work and production in key areas and industries. In Shanghai, 86.8 per cent of enterprises of the 666 companies included in the first batch of the "white list" had resumed work by 28 April.

A container ship from Japan is anchored at the container dock of Shanghai's Yangshan Port in east China, 27 April 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/CHEN JIANLI**

US carmaker Tesla's Shanghai factory officially resumed production on 19 April, with about 8,000 employees back to work as of 28 April, the company has said.

Deliveries from the Shanghai Gigafactory stood at 484,130 vehicles last year, an increase of 235 per cent from 2020, accounting for 51.7 per cent of Tesla's global production capacity in 2021.

"By adhering to its dynamic zero-COVID approach, China has spared no efforts in safeguarding people's lives and well-being, and has minimized the epidemic's impact on economic and social development. It also plays a vital role in maintaining the stability of the global supply chain," said Ma Yunjie, head of the factory of the gas springs manufacturer Stabilus's branch in east China's Zhejiang Province.

OVERALL CAPACITY UTILIZATION

Ma said the factory's overall capacity utilization rate now stands at around 85 per cent, and its orders will gradually return to the pre-epidemic situation in about two weeks.

The factories of Xuzhou Construction Machinery Group Co., Ltd. (XCMG), a leading Chinese machinery manufacturer, are busy these days, with international orders from South America and other regions now lining up until November.

"The containment of sporadic COVID-19 resurgences has boosted the construction of overseas infrastructure with undisrupted exports," said Wang Min, chairman of XCMG. "The machinery products of XCMG are actively facilitating the quick resumption of local production."

Shenzhen, a tech hub in southern China and one of the country's major foreign-trade centres, has seen businesses resume work and production.

A worker surnamed Shi from the Shenzhen factory of Foxconn, a major supplier of Apple, attributes the quick resumption to China's dynamic zero-COVID policy. "On 21 March, operations were basically back to normal after several days of shutdown caused by the epidemic, which will ensure a regular supply of iPhones around the world," Shi said.

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Despite mounting domestic and external uncertainties, China still remains a hotspot for foreign investors seeking predictable market opportunities at a difficult time amid the COVID-19 epidemic, thanks to the country's unremitting efforts in optimizing its business environment.

Foreign direct investment into the Chinese mainland, in actual use, expanded 25.6 per cent year on year to 379.87 billion yuan in the first quarter of the year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Customs in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, has maintained 24-hour communication with airports, airlines and freight forwarders, to ensure the smooth clearance of commodities. Now, Nanjing has opened two cargo charter flights to Europe and North America, with six flights a week and single cargo throughput of about 100 tonnes.

SOURCE: XINHUA

■

Military Medical Corps Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon Lt-Col Hein Latt Win.

Interview with Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon Lt-Col Hein Latt Win

Thitsa (MNA)

THE 29th Myanmar Military Medical Conference will be held at the Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) in Mingaladon Township from 9 to 11 May.

The pre-conference workshop under the title of "AO Principle of Fracture Fixation Basic Course" will also be held on 5 and 6 May at Thura Mon Htaw Thet Nyunt Hall of Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed). The local and foreign medical specialists, professors and experts and interested persons will join the event. The officials will accelerate the drive for the Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital to be an international standard.

The MNA interviewed Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon Lt-Col Hein Latt Win as follows: -

Q: What kind of event is this workshop? Please let me know about the workshop.

ANS: The workshop is a Pre-Conference Workshop on the AO Principle of Fracture Fixation Basic Course. In other words, it is being held honouring the 29th Medical Conference, the highest professional medical ceremony of the Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Corps. The main point is that the professor doctors of the Ministry of Health, foreign specialists, and more than 100 military Orthopaedic specialists can exchange their experiences through direct conservation regarding modern treatment. It is the first international workshop.

Q: Please tell me about the title of this Workshop, AO Course.

ANS: AO is the World Association for Orthopedic Studies and Policy. It is formed with international Orthopaedic specialists aiming to improve orthopaedical care successively. It was organized in Switzerland in 1958. The main responsibility of AO is to conduct continuous research on orthopaedic treatment data worldwide, develop treatment guidelines, and conduct AO courses around the world. This current AO Principle of Fracture Fixation Basic Course is a systematic approach to fracture fixation based on the latest techniques. Only then can the patients with broken bones get their Quality of Life in full.

Due to the limited technology and high cost of equipment, such AO courses can be conducted in the developed Western countries in general and are difficult for developing countries. This is the very first achievement of the Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Corps.

Q: What is the purpose of this workshop?

ANS: Orthopaedics plays a very important role in the medical field of Tatmadaw. The role of continuous development is very important. Therefore, this workshop will bring together all the orthopaedic surgeons from all over the country by communicating with the international countries to know the latest concepts and techniques in Continuous Medical Education. Doing so will conform with the instructions of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services at the graduation ceremony of the 20th Intake of DSMA, such as "only when the military members are healthy and fit can they serve the state defence responsibilities dutifully. The members also should understand that medics' skills and healthcare services are also supporting measures to improve the country's defence capability." So, it is conducted aiming to provide the combat power of Tatmadaw and the medical services standards.

Q: Who will join the workshop?

ANS: More than 100 participants — experienced professors from Singapore and Malaysia, orthopaedic professors from local medical universities and consultant orthopaedic surgeons from Pun Hlaing International Hospital, Tatmadaw orthopaedic specialists, postgraduate students of DSMA (Orthopaedic) and PhD students will join the event. About 100 Tatmadaw orthopaedic specialists will join online. The internal and external orthopaedic experts will discuss the participants' practical concepts of the latest international therapies in orthopaedics.

Q: How did you manage to hold that workshop?

ANS: It is difficult to hold an international workshop on orthopaedics successfully. We have to make preparations for all-inclusive local and foreign professors and specialists of the medical corps. Despite the high cost of preparing orthopaedic equipment for practical training and lecture sessions, and it also costs a lot to attend such events internationally, Tatmadaw orthopaedics medics easily grab the international experiences on orthopaedics easily in Myanmar.

Q: What is the benefit of holding the workshop?

ANS: For holding such a workshop, the young orthopaedic specialists of the Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Corps and great specialists in the Tatmadaw orthopaedics field and the Ministry of Health can directly discuss their medical subjects and exchange their experience. Tatmadaw medical corps can keep up with international countries in orthopaedics treatment.

Another thing is that Tatmadaw boasts of the most experience in Combat Injury Management. Therefore, it could lead the Combat Injury related features at ASEAN level Orthopaedics Webinar, and so it can promote the dignity of Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Corps and Tatmadaw.

During the COVID-19 waves, the medics provided suggestions and decisions via the Telemedicine platform to the low-level echelon across the nation. The research on Combat Injury can be carried out any place, and if there are some difficulties in doing so, the new generations of orthopaedics specialists are urged to read out a paper on their research using Telemedicine. We try hard as much as we can to promote our Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital to be an international one.

Q: How is the impact of the workshop on Tatmadaw medical research?

ANS: We have conducted operations since years ago. We also did a series of research on these operations. For example, we produced Combat Gauze and Tourniquet as the results of Combat Injury Research Project jointly conducted by the Tatmadaw medical research unit. Therefore, it effectively provided medical protection in the conflict. To hold this workshop, the medical research can be done by cooperating with the Tatmadaw medical research unit and local medical experts internationally. So, international standard research also can be conducted to support the Combat Power of Tatmadaw.

Q: How will the pre-conference workshop affect the Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Conference?

ANS: The pre-conference for the 29th Myanmar Tatmadaw Medical Conference will significantly impact the Main Conference and raise the prestige of international standards in another way.

Translated.

Public Notification

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

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

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

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

Public Notification

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

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

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

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

ကြေငြာရင်မျှားနှင့် ကြေငြာအေဂျင်စီများ ကြေငြာ ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက
တိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ် ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါတယ်
09 974 424 848

သတင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်
09 454 237 515

PANDEMIC WORLD

COVID-19 pandemic far from over, says Colombian expert

THE COVID-19 pandemic is far from over, so people should still stay vigilant and continue with anti-pandemic measures, a Colombian expert has said.

"The pandemic is not over. SARS-CoV-2 will mutate permanently and new variants may emerge," Carlos Enrique Trillos, senior professor at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences of Colombia's Del Rosario University, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

On 25 April, Colombian President Ivan Duque announced that the country will lift the mandatory use of face masks on 1 May, while the COVID-19 health emergency will be extended until 30 June.

The mask restriction will be removed in closed spaces, except health centres, elderly homes, transportation and closed spaces within educational facilities, and only in municipalities with at least 70 per cent of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and 40 per cent with a booster dose, Duque said.

"The use of masks in closed spaces has not been totally eliminated and shouldn't be seen as a massive nationwide measure," the Colombian expert said. "There are cities such as Medellin, Cali and Bucaramanga that do not meet the 40-per-cent booster dose requirement."

"Projections show that there could be a slight increase in the number of cases in July, which may be due to multiple factors," Trillos said.—Xinhua

People enjoy their leisure time in Lille, northern France, 19 May 2021. **PHOTO: SEBASTIEN COURDJI/XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

New York City raises COVID-19 alert level to medium

NEW YORK City on Monday adjusted its COVID-19 alert level from low to medium, indicating the presence of medium community spread of COVID-19.

The accumulated new cases per 100,000 people in the city in the last seven days moved up to 209.02, which surpasses the threshold of 200 to enter the medium level, according to the official data.

The seven-day average new cases have increased to nearly 2,500 by 29 April from over 600 in early March.—ANI

New Zealand reports 9,109 new community cases of COVID-19

NEW ZEALAND has recorded 9,109 new community cases of COVID-19, the Ministry of Health said in a statement on Tuesday.

Among the new community infections, 2,678 were reported in the largest city Auckland, said the ministry.

In addition, 128 new cases of COVID-19 were detected at the New Zealand border. Currently, there are 481 COVID-19 patients being treated in New Zealand hospitals, including 10 people in intensive care units or high dependency units. The ministry also reported 20 more deaths from COVID-19.—ANI

People walk at a park in Wellington, New Zealand, 14 May 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA/GUO LEI**

75 pct of US children infected with COVID-19: Study

According to CDC, kids infected by Covid-19 may be related to the lowest vaccination coverage. **PHOTO: AFP**

MORE than half of all Americans and about 75 per cent of kids had been infected by COVID-19 by the end of February this year, according to a new study on antibodies by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The CDC examined blood samples nationwide for a certain kind of antibodies, called anti-nucleocapsid antibodies, which are produced in response to COVID-19 infection but are not produced in response to COVID-19 vaccines. The researchers found that signs of past infection rose dramatically between December 2021 and February 2022, when the highly contagious Omicron variant surged across the country. The most striking increase was in children. The percentage of those 17 years old and under with antibodies rose from about 45 per cent in December to about 75 per cent in February.

The reason leading to the greatest increase in this age group may be related to the lowest vaccination coverage, according to the CDC. The older people were, the less likely they had evidence of past infections, the study found. That may be because older adults have higher vaccination rates and they may be more likely to take other COVID-19 precautions, such as wearing masks and avoiding crowds, according to the CDC.—Xinhua

Handmade market in Canberra reopens after two-and-a-half-year disruption by COVID-19

FROM colourful ceramics to street food of various flavours, the handmade market was back to the Australian capital after two and a half years.

The market, recognized as one of Canberra's most popular events which was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to restrictions following the COVID-19 pandemic, was held on Saturday and Sunday with about 250 stall-holders this time.

"Really very emotional," Handmade Managing Director Julie Nichols told Xinhua. "We're really excited that it's back. The support has been overwhelming." Budawang Pavilion of the Exhibition Park in Canberra became packed with people on Saturday, in which the gourmet food hall was teeming with scents of barbecue and pancake.—Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

Greece builds new LNG terminal to boost Europe's energy independence

GREECE on Tuesday started construction of its first liquefied natural gas (LNG) floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) terminal in the northern city of Alexandroupolis.

The project, which is expected to be completed and operational by early 2024, was hailed by European Union (EU) officials as a significant step in strengthening Europe's energy security and independence.

"This project that we inaugurate today sends a clear signal: we are taking our destiny into our own hands," European Council President Charles Michel said, addressing the event that was carried live by Greek national broadcaster ERT.

The new terminal is a geopolitical investment that will help Europe diversify its gas imports and phase out dependence on Russian fossil fuels in the wake of the Ukraine-Russia crisis, he said. "Within the next 20 months, Greece will be able to receive significant, much-increased quantities of liquefied natural gas. Greek LNG stations will be able to fully cover not only the national market, but also to replace a significant part of the supply of Russian gas to the Balkans," Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said.

He also described the terminal as a new energy gateway for Greece, the Balkans and southeastern Europe.—Xinhua

All of Europe's LNG terminals are import facilities, with the exception of (non-EU) Norway and Russia which export LNG. There are currently 28 large-scale LNG import terminals in Europe (including non-EU Turkey). **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Canada to increase grain exports amid global food supply concerns

THE Canadian government announced on Tuesday an investment to support the growth of the country's grain exports, at a time when the demand for Canadian grain products is on the rise on the global markets. "Canadian grain producers are a key link in global food security. Today's investment will help industry organizations build new relationships in international markets so we can continue to feed a growing global population," Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau said in a news release. With funds of up to nearly 4.4 million Canadian dollars (3.5 million US dollars), the Canadian government is supporting the sector by helping three organizations to identify new opportunities for Canadian grain products, including Cereals Canada Inc., Canada Grains Council, and the Prairie Oat Growers Association, according to the news release.

As the demand for Canadian grain exports continues to increase, it is important to ensure new trade opportunities that help strengthen the value chain, the news release said.—Xinhua

As the demand for Canadian grain exports continues to increase, it is important to ensure new trade opportunities that help strengthen the value chain. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE: UNITED GRAIN CORP./XINHUA**

Australian central bank lifts interest rate for 1st time in over decade

AFTER dropping interest rates down to historic low levels during the pandemic, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) has lifted interest rates by 0.25 to 0.35 per cent, the first rise since 2010, in an effort to calm growing inflation.

RBA Governor Philip Lowe said that it was now "the right time" to withdraw accommodative monetary support designed to help the Australian economy through the pandemic.

"The economy has proven to be resilient and inflation has picked up more quickly, and to a higher level, than was expected," said Lowe.

Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) last week showed inflation had reached a two-decade high of 5.1 per cent in the last 12 months.

This has prompted widespread calls for the central bank to step in to deal with inflation that has begun to stretch the budgets of Australians.

Lowe said that while the Reserve Bank expects further rises in inflation in the short-term as supply-side demand is resolved, inflation is expected to return to the RBA's target of 2 to 3 per cent. "The central forecast for 2022 is for headline inflation of around 6 per cent and underlying inflation of around 4.75 per cent, by mid-2024," he said.—Xinhua

Sri Lanka tea exports lowest in 23 years

CRISIS-STRUCK Sri Lanka's vital tea exports have dropped to their lowest level in 23 years, official figures showed Wednesday, hit by a fertilizer ban and the war in Ukraine.

Tea is the island nation's biggest export commodity, bringing in about $1.3 billion annually before the current economic downturn, the worst since independence in 1948.

But a bungled ban on fertilizer imports last year -- introduced in a doomed effort to save foreign currency and avoid a debt default -- hit growers hard, with production falling 18 per cent on-year for the period from November 2021 to February 2022.

Customs data showed that first-quarter exports in 2022 correspondingly plunged to 63.7 million kilos (140 million pounds), down from 69.8 million kilos in the January-March period last year.

The tally was the lowest since the first quarter of 1999, when the country shipped out 60.3 million kilos of tea.

Export earnings for the first quarter also declined, to $287 million from $338 million.—AFP

US manufacturing sees surprise slowdown as China lockdowns bite

US factory activity last month dropped to its lowest level since July 2020 as supply chain snarls intensified amid a new wave of pandemic lockdowns in China, an industry survey said Monday.

The Institute for Supply Management said its manufacturing index dropped almost two percentage points to 55.4 per cent in April, against expectations for a modest increase but still above the 50-per-cent threshold indicating expansion.

The culprit was a renewed flareup in the supply chain woes that have dogged American factories throughout their recovery from the Covid-19 downturn, and in particular China's aggressive moves to stop renewed outbreaks in Shanghai and other major cities.

"Overseas partners are experiencing Covid-19 impacts, creating a near-term headwind for the US manufacturing community," the survey's chair Timothy Fiore said. —AFP

View of the inside of the Tesla Giga Texas manufacturing facility in Austin, Texas. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan Inc. turns to 4-day workweek to offer flexibility to employees

A growing list of Japanese companies have opened the door for employees to work four days a week, instead of five, offering them more flexibility so they can improve their work-life balance to meet responsibilities at home or acquire new skills outside of their workplace.

While companies can benefit from introducing the compressed work schedule as it can help attract more talent or prevent employees from leaving, it remains to be seen whether the relatively new workstyle will gain traction in Japan.

Panasonic Holdings Corp. became the latest company to embrace the four-day workweek, with the industrial conglomerate saying last month it will give some of its employees the option of taking a third day off during the current fiscal year through March.

Panasonic's announcement came after the Japanese government stated in its annual economic policy guideline last year that it encourages firms to offer an optional four-day workweek, as it can benefit workers for various purposes, such as child rearing, taking care of elderly family members and volunteering.

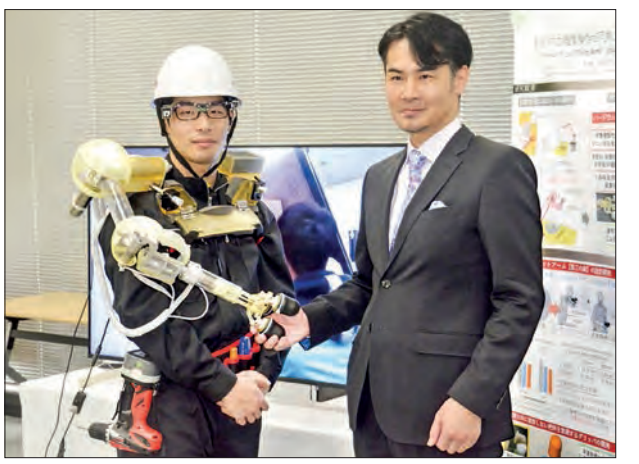
Panasonic, which will introduce the scheme on an experimental basis, joins other firms, including conglomerate Hitachi Ltd., Mizuho Financial Group Inc. and Fast Retailing Co., the operator of the Uniqlo clothing chain, to accept the four-day workweek.

"It is our responsibility to ensure a work-life balance to our diverse workers," Panasonic President Yuki Kusumi told a press conference in January.

Hiromi Murata, a senior researcher at Recruit Works Institute, said, "Companies see the four-day workweek as a way to hold onto skilled employees as it takes time to hire someone new and raise them to the same level."

"There are many skilled workers, including mothers with small children, who cannot work five days a week. So firms can improve their chances of hiring someone with good qualifications if they implement the four-day workweek," she added.

As of last year, 8.5 per cent of companies were giving employees more days off than under a five-day workweek, according to a survey conducted on over 4,000 companies by the labour ministry. — Kyodo



This indispensable solution in the "age of automation" is highly versatile and contributes to labour-saving efforts. A man wearing an arm-shaped robot poses with its developer, Waseda University professor Hiroyasu Iwata, in Tokyo on 25 Jan 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

Finland power firm takes 2.1-bn-euro Russia hit

FINNISH state-owned utility Fortum said Tuesday it would take a 2.1-billion-euro ($2.2-billion) hit due to "geopolitical tensions and uncertainties" related to its Russian operations.

While the energy producer announced in March it would stop all new investments in Russia following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, it said current operations would continue there "as normal".

Fortum said Tuesday it would record pre-tax impairments of around 2.1 billion euros related to its operations in Russia in the first quarter.

With 12 power plants and 7,000 employees in Russia, the value of Fortum's assets in Russia after the write-down amounted to 3.3 billion euros, the company said.

Hundreds of Western firms have suspended operations in Russia in the wake of the 24 February invasion.

Finland's Prime Minister Sanna Marin said 9 April that all Finnish companies "should leave Russia very soon", but she noted that Russian legislation and attempts at nationalization could make exits challenging.

On March 7, Fortum's subsidiary Uniper announced a write-down related to the Nord Stream 2 project — a natural gas pipeline from Russia to Germany — of 987 million euros.—AFP

Ads
TradeMark
Call
09251022355
09974424848

PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGE ADVERTISING

The following three pesticides distributed by **ROYAL SHIN THANT CO.,LTD** and here we would like to pesticide trade name change advertising. Anyone who would like to object or inquiry about new trade name contact within 14 days to Joint-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon.

ROYAL SHIN THANT CO.,LTD 09-444461516

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	AP Shal 11 EW	Daung Pyo May 11 EW	Fenoxaprop-P-ethyl 11% EW	F2021-3250

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORDBORG MAERSK VOY.NO. (215W/218E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORDBORG MAERSK VOY.NO. (215W/218E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-5-2022** 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.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK AISA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALVAN VOY.NO. (SCY1127)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALVAN VOY. NO. (SCY1127)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-5-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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 LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

North Korea fires what appears to be ballistic missile: Japan gov't

NORTH Korea fired a ballistic missile eastward on Wednesday, the Japanese government said, with the missile believed to have fallen into the Sea of Japan off the North's eastern coast.

The missile, fired at around 12:02 pm from near North Korea's western coast, is believed to have traveled to an altitude of around 800 kilometers and covered a distance of around 500 km before falling into waters outside Japan's exclusive economic zone, senior vice-defence minister Makoto Oniki told reporters.

The South Korean military said the missile, which was launched from around the Sunan area of the capital Pyongyang, flew 470 km at speeds of 11 Mach after reaching 780 km in altitude, according to Yonhap News Agency.

The news agency said the military is analyzing the launch, including the possibility it was an intermediate-range ballistic missile or a longer-range intercontinental ballistic missile.

The latest launch "absolutely cannot be condoned as it threatens the peace and safety of the international community," Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters in Italy, where he is currently visiting.

Bronze statues of late North Korean leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il at Mansu Hill Grand Monument in Pyongyang, in a file photo. **PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO/FILE**

Japan lodged a protest with North Korea via its embassy in the Chinese capital Beijing, and the premier instructed relevant government agencies to confirm the safety of ships and aircraft as well as provide information to the public in a timely manner, according to the government.—Kyodo

China's North Korea envoy in Seoul for talks

China's Special Representative on Korean Peninsula Affairs Liu Xiaoming (L) and South Korea's Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs Noh Kyu-duk. **PHOTO: AFP/HEO RAN**

CHINA will play a "constructive" role in resolving tensions on the Korean peninsula, Beijing's top envoy to Pyongyang said Tuesday.

Beijing is Pyongyang's most important ally and economic benefactor, their relationship forged in the bloodshed of the Korean War in the 1950s.

China's special representative on Korean peninsula affairs, Liu Xiaoming, is in Seoul this week for his first visit to the South since taking office. He met his South Korean counterpart, Noh Kyu-duk, on Tuesday.

The two envoys discussed the "grave situation" on the Korean peninsula and measures for "stable management", Seoul's foreign ministry said.

Liu expressed "the Chinese side's willingness to play a constructive role for the peaceful resolution of the Korean peninsula issue", the ministry added in a statement.

North Korea has carried out more than a dozen weapons tests this year, including launching its most powerful missile since 2017.

Pyongyang had paused long-range and nuclear tests while leader Kim Jong Un met then-US president Donald Trump for a bout of doomed diplomacy, which collapsed in 2019. Talks have since stalled.

Analysts warn of further missile tests, likely timed around the inauguration of South Korea's new president next week or US President Joe Biden's visit to the country later this month.

Recent signs of new activity at North Korea's key nuclear testing site have also raised concerns over a possible resumption of nuclear tests.— AFP

UN chief urges investment to help Niger fight jihadists

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday urged the international community to "fully invest" to help impoverished Niger fight jihadist insurgents threatening the government in Niamey and neighbouring countries.

"Today I believe, looking at the remarkable performance of Niger's army, the international community must fully invest to strengthen the capacity of Niger's army," said Guterres, alongside the Sahel nation's President Mohamed Bazoum.

Equipment and training are needed, Guterres said.

"Niger cannot face all these multiple challenges alone," he added, listing major organizations such as the African Union and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) who are key actors for peace and development in the region.—AFP

Japan's 'womenomics' pioneer says mindsets must change

THREE million women joined Japan's workforce in the past decade, and it's at least partly thanks to top executive Kathy Matsui, who coined the "womenomics" catchphrase that inspired government policy.

But with many women holding precarious part-time jobs, often in sectors hit hard by Covid-19, she says the world's third largest economy must try harder to tap underused talent.

That means chipping away at managers' sexist attitudes and challenging Japan's long-hours work culture, as well as encouraging start-ups with "more diverse founders".

"We have a very low ratio of female entrepreneurs in this country," Matsui, the former vice-president of US investment bank Goldman Sachs in Japan, told AFP.

"But if you want to be driving your own destiny, becoming an entrepreneur is one of the best ways to do that."

Matsui, 57, is one of the few women at the top of Japan's male-dominated business world, as co-director of a firm founded last year that invests in ethically minded young companies.

The Japanese-American was at Goldman Sachs in 1999 when she began publishing studies on the economic benefits of boosting female participation in the Japanese workforce, which she dubbed "womenomics".

To her surprise, the ideas were adopted by former prime minister Shinzo Abe in 2012 as part of his signature plan to revive the ailing Japanese economy.—AFP

Three million women joined Japan's workforce in the past decade, and it's at least partly thanks to top executive Kathy Matsui, who coined the "womenomics" catchphrase that inspired government policy. **PHOTO: AFP**

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Japan PM Kishida meets pope to discuss efforts for nuclear-free world

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida met Pope Francis at the Vatican on Wednesday to possibly discuss their mutual goal of realizing a world free of nuclear weapons, as well as Russia's war against Ukraine.

The visit by the leader of the only country to suffer the devastation of atomic bombings comes as Russian President Vladimir Putin has raised fears he may use nuclear weapons as the war drags on.

The meeting is the first since 2014 between a Japanese prime minister and the pope at the Vatican.

Francis has continued to be vocal about eliminating nuclear weapons, including through his 2019 addresses in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the two Japanese cities over which the United States detonated atomic bombs in World War II.

After meeting with Francis, Kishida will hold talks with Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi, during which Russia's invasion of Ukraine will also be a major agenda item, according to Japanese officials.

Since Friday, Kishida has been on an eight-day tour of five countries in Southeast Asia and Europe. He is scheduled to hold talks with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Thursday.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida speaks to reporters in Rome on Wednesday. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The trip, which has also taken him to Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand, comes in advance of the summit of the Group of Seven major developed countries to be held in Germany in June.

With the two leaders of the European countries, which are part of the G-7, Kishida is likely to discuss their response to the war, including humanitarian aid for Ukraine and punitive measures against Russia, and North Korea, which again fired a ballistic missile on Wednesday in violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions. Kishida is also seeking to strengthen cooperation toward a "free and open Indo-Pacific" region in the face of China's rising assertiveness in regional waters.—Kyodo

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS

Russian forces press Ukraine offensive

RUSSIAN forces have launched a major assault on the holdout Azovstal steel plant in the devastated port city of Mariupol while pounding sites across eastern Ukraine, as the European Union moves to punish Moscow with oil sanctions.

An aerial view taken of the destroyed Hotel Ukraine in Chernigiv. **PHOTO: AFP**

Three months into the war, Moscow has focused its fresh offensive on Ukraine's east and south, while Western allies continue to provide Kyiv with cash and weapons in a bid to force Russian leader Vladimir Putin to pull back. In one of a series of assaults Tuesday, 21 civilians were killed and another 28 wounded in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, local authorities said.

Regional governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said 10 of the 21 dead were killed in the shelling of the Avdiivka coke plant, one of Europe's largest, calling it the highest daily death toll since a Russian strike on a train station in Kramatorsk about a month ago.— AFP

Putin tells Macron West must stop supplying weapons to Ukraine

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin told French counterpart Emmanuel Macron Tuesday the West must stop supplying weapons to Ukraine and accused Kyiv of not taking talks to end the conflict seriously, the Kremlin said.

Accusing Ukrainian forces of committing war crimes and claiming the EU was "ignoring" them, Putin told Macron "the West could help stop these atrocities by putting relevant pressure on the Kyiv authorities, as well as halting the supply of weapons to Ukraine". Putin also said Kyiv was not being consistent or ready for "serious work" on ending the conflict.

"The Russian side is still open to dialogue," the Russian leader told Macron, according to the Kremlin readout.

Macron for his part, according to the Kremlin, said global food security was under threat due to the Ukraine conflict. Putin linked the situation to Western sanctions against Russia and "noted the importance of the unimpeded functioning of the global logistics and transport infrastructure", the Kremlin said.—AFP

Pope wants to meet Putin

POPE Francis said in an interview published Tuesday that he requested a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin over Ukraine.

The pontiff told Italy's Corriere Della Sera newspaper that he had sent a message to Putin around 20 days into the conflict saying that "I was willing to go to Moscow".

"We have not yet received a response and we are still insisting, though I fear that Putin cannot, and does not, want to have this meeting at this time," Francis said.—AFP

Convoy of over 100 civilians from Azovstal reach Zaporizhzhia

THE International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has said that a convey of civilians evacuated from the Azovstal steel plant in besieged Mariupol has reached Zaporizhzhia.

In a statement, the ICRC said: "A convoy of buses and ambulances accompanied by ICRC and UN teams was joined by families and individuals in private vehicles along the way. More than 100 people, including some who were wounded, reached Zaporizhzhia on Tuesday. Other people from the plant went elsewhere; the ICRC did not organize nor accompany these civilian movements."—AFP

Moscow accuses Israel of backing 'neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv'

MOSCOW on Tuesday accused Israel of supporting "the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv," doubling down on an allegation from the Russian foreign minister that Adolf Hitler may have "had Jewish blood" which sparked international outrage. Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid on Monday condemned his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov for making an "unforgivable and outrageous statement as well as a terrible historical error" and summoned Moscow's ambassador for "clarifications".— AFP

Japan PM Kishida meets pope to discuss efforts for nuclear-free world

PAGE-15

5 MAY 2022
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

SPORT

Myanmar men's football team follows the coach's strategic training in Viet Nam ahead of the SEA Games. **PHOTO: MFF**

SEA Games men's football tourney kicks off on 6 May

THE 31st SEA Games men's national football tournament to be hosted by Viet Nam will be launched on 6 May, according to the SEA Games Organizing Committee.

The men's football tournament will feature all 10 Southeast Asian countries except Brunei and will be divided into two groups of five.

Defending champion and host Viet Nam is placed in Group A with Myanmar, Indonesia, the Philippines and Timor-Leste, while Thailand is falling in Group B with Malaysia, Singapore, Laos and Cambodia.

Group matches will be played from 6 to 16 May, starting with Group A matches involving host Viet Nam. The Philippines will take on Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam will play against Indonesia in the openers on 6 May.

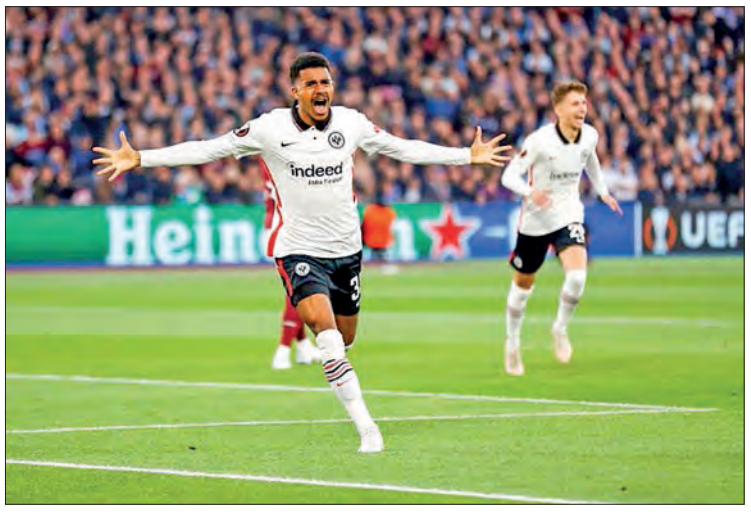
Myanmar will play the first match of the group on 8 May against Timor-Leste. Team Myanmar will take on the Philippines on 10 May, Viet Nam on 13 May and Indonesia on 15 May.

"The matches against Vietnam and Indonesia could be decisive for the semi-finals," Myanmar Football Federation officials said.

Team Myanmar is the first team to arrive in Viet Nam for the SEA Games and has been taking training with a full range of players since 3 May.

The SEA Games National Football Tournament will be held from 6 to 22 May. — Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

Dortmund loanee Knauff becoming Frankfurt's star



Ansgar Knauff celebrates scoring after just 51 seconds at West Ham. **PHOTO: IKIMAGES/AFP/FILE**

ANSGAR Knauff only joined Eintracht Frankfurt on loan in January, but his goals against Barcelona and West Ham have helped put Eintracht Frankfurt on the verge of the Europa League final.

Frankfurt need only a draw at home to West Ham in Thursday's semi-final second leg to reach their first European final in 42 years.

Knauff joined on an 18-month loan from Borussia Dortmund in January, shortly after his 20th birthday, and has already scored two key goals in Europe.

He needed just 51 seconds to head the visitors into the lead at West Ham as the Germans claimed a 2-1 win in last week's first leg.

That followed his brilliant strike at home to Barcelona in the quarters, as the first leg ended in a 1-1 draw before 30,000 Frankfurt fans managed to get tickets for Camp Nou to cheer the Germans to a historic 3-2 win in the return leg.

"Since he has been here, he has made a huge step forward and is on a good path," Frankfurt coach Oliver Glasner said of Knauff. — 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 hopeful of Rome appearance despite back trouble

Emma Raducanu was beaten in the third round in Madrid. PHOTO: AFP/File

EMMA Raducanu revealed she has been dealing with back pain and "some niggles" throughout the week in Madrid but is not too concerned any injury will keep her out of next week's tournament in Rome. The British world number 11 suffered a tight 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 defeat to Ukrainian Anhelina Kalinina on Tuesday and said her back was restricting her from moving wide on the court in the opening set. Raducanu received some treatment for her back and managed to move better as she levelled the match and forced a decider and says she leaves Madrid feeling positive about her game and progress on clay. "I would have given myself a five per cent chance of winning that match, and for it to almost happen, I think that was a positive thing," said the US Open champion.—AFP