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.

Brochures, media and websites of the Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development (MJTD) must have more attractions to catch the interest of international investors: Vice-Senior General

State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets the Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee officials in Thanlyin Township on 6 May 2022.

UPON completion of projects in phases, SEZ will create more than 300,000 jobs, up from 13,300 at present, said State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win while meeting officials from the Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee yesterday afternoon.

First, the Chairman of the management committee, U Ye Naing Tun, reported to the Vice-Senior General on the progress of the zone and work undertakings. Chairman of the Myanmar Special Economic Zone Work Committee of the zone Union Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint San presented the current situation of the zone, efforts of the State in solving the problems, and future plans.

After coordinating the reports, the Vice-Senior General said that more than 17,000 Myanmar shareholders from nine Myanmar companies and three Japanese companies operate the Thilawa SEZ established in the 2015-2016 financial year with 10 per cent investment from the Myanmar government, 41 per cent from Myanmar citizens company, 10 per cent from the Japanese government and 39 per cent from Japanese companies, respectively. With regard to the work procedures, the management committee needs to coordinate necessary measures for implementing the work projects in the remaining land plots among the sold land plots of more than 5,000 acres of allowed land areas. Upon completion of the projects in phases, the SEZ will create more than 300,000 jobs, up from 13,300 at present. Hence, it is necessary to coordinate the various measures systematically.

The Vice-Senior General pointed out that the spending of funds of the SEZ must follow the monetary policy in line with the SEZ Law 2014 and the notification 12/2022 issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar dated 3-4-2022. It is necessary to prove the firmness of monetary policy for forthcoming investors. Brochures, media and websites of Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development (MJTD) must have more attractions to catch the interest of international investors. Necessary assistance must be given to the companies showing interest in processing Seintalone mango and butter bean in the zone through the CAN system. If each company or each zone generates electricity from solar and wind power to curb the purchase of electricity in foreign exchange for the Thilawa SEZ, electricity consumption of the State and private companies will reduce.

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Central Bank of Myanmar Notification No 27/2022

7th Waxing of Kason 1384 ME

6 May 2022

1. 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, exporters must deposit their export earnings to their accounts in foreign currency within three months from the date of shipment of their goods. The holder of a foreign currency trading licence (AD banks) shall inspect whether exporters receive export earnings within three months from the shipment of their goods according to the evidence of actual exports.
2. All export earnings received from the exports to Asian countries must deposit into the accounts of exporters in foreign currency in Myanmar within 45 days from the date of the shipment while within 90 days for the exports to other countries except for Asian countries. If the exporters fail to do so, they will be taken action under Section 42-a of the Foreign Exchange Management Law.

Than Nyein
Governor

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 46/2021of the Central Bank of Myanmar.
2. The exporters/importers' registration certificates of 346 export companies were revoked in 2021 for failing to follow the orders of the CBM.
3. Therefore, if the export/import companies do not deposit their export earnings within the fixed period of CBM, the exporters/importers' registration certificates will be revoked.

Ministry of Commerce
6-5-2022

52 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 6 May, total figure rises to 613,017

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 613,017 after 52 new cases were reported on 6 May 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 591,928 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 19,434 without casualties. —MNA

Palm oil wholesale reference rate set at K6,025 per viss in Yangon

THE Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been issuing the basic wholesale reference price to be traded in the domestic market in line with the changes in international rates.

Palm oil prices in the world's palm oil exporters have risen this week, and based on a week-long FOB price hike, the reference rate this week (from 9 to 15 May) in Yangon is set at K6,025 per viss, the same as the previous week.

In addition, it has been announced that action will be taken under the Important Goods and Services Law if retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous efforts to manipulate the market.

These basic wholesale quote prices can be found on the Department of Consumer Affairs website: www.doca.gov.mm and on the Facebook page of the Myanmar Oil Traders and Oil Entrepreneurs Association, it is reported. — MNA

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

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

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

On 5 May, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 2,050 people from twelve townships in Kachin State, 4,774 people from thirteen townships in Shan State (North), 5,532 people from fourteen townships in Mon and Kayin States, 275 people from Tamway Township in Yangon Region, 19,838 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 8,724 people from fourteen townships from Rakhine and Chin States, 142 people from Khamti Twonship in Sagaing Region, 45,000 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region and 420 people from Htandabin Township in Bago Region, respectively.

A local in Myintkyina Township, Kachin State seen receiving a COVID vaccine.

Similarly, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 68 students from five townships in Shan State (North) on 5 May.

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

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

We will strive to end the armed conflicts across the country

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

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

Brochures, media and websites of the Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development (MJTD) ...

FROM PAGE-1

He viewed the products manufactured from Thilawa SEZ and gave instructions to officials.

The Vice-Senior General also viewed round LS Gaon Cable Myanmar Factory, which produces electronic cables and CP Hsinbyutaw Factory, which produces fertilizers, and fulfilled the needs.

A total of 94 companies from 21 countries invested in the Thilawa SEZ. Eighty-nine companies suspended their operations in the third wave of COVID-19 in 2021. Due to the efforts of the Work Committee and the Management Committee, 82 companies resumed operations, and the remaining companies will operate their businesses soon.—MNA

State Administration Council Vice-Chair Vice-Senior General Soe Win viewed the products made by the Thilawa SEZ.

MIFER's FERD holds its Golden Jubilee Ceremony

THE Foreign Economic Relations Department (FERD), established on 15 March 1972, fell its 50th Anniversary on 15 March 2022. The commemorative ceremony was held in the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER) yesterday.

At the outset of the ceremony, Lieutenant-General Moe Myint Tun, a member of the State Administration Council cum Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), addressed the opening speech in honour of FERD's Golden Jubilee. Next, U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, delivered a congratulatory remark on the historical performance of the FERD. Then, U Tin Naing Thein, former Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development and President Office, gave advice on behalf of retired Ministers.

SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun makes the opening remarks.

Afterwards, Dr Malar Myo Nyunt, Director-General of the FERD, made a presentation regarding the relentless efforts of the FERD staff since 1972, the evolution of the FERD, the best endeavour made for the interest of the country and the nation in the role where the FERD has to play, and the historic milestones with successful accomplishment.

Following the presentation, the Economic and Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of the Russian Federation, Mr Andrei Iunak conveyed the congratulatory message for the Golden Jubilee of FERD from Dr Nikolay Listopadov Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar.

After that, a video clip of FERD's activity records throughout the period of 50 years was shown, and the programme for the release of the Milestone Book as a memento for the Golden Jubilee was conducted. The book contains the performance and cooperation activities with Development Partners, United Nations agencies, International and Regional Organizations, the implementation process of the ASEAN Free Trade Area, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and FTAs with ASEAN's dialogue partners, and the activities beneficial to the public and of the department since the establishment of the FERD.

Later on, guests of honour, special guests, retired staff and the new generation of the FERD posed for a group photo. The civil servants who have been working for more than 25 years of service, who took their responsibilities with the best effort without absence throughout their hardship and the award winners of the article contest were finally awarded at the ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by Lieutenant-General Moe Myint Tun, a member of the State Administration Council cum the chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), Mahn Nyein Maung, a member of the State Administration Council, Dr Yin Yin Nwe, advisor to the Chairman of State Administration Council, U Tin Naing Thein, former Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development and President Office, U Win Shein, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Dr Thida Oo, Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Attorney-General of the Union, Dr Kan Zaw, Auditor-General of the Union, members of Myanmar Investment Commission, Deputy Ministers and former Deputy Ministers, representatives from foreign embassies in Myanmar, Permanent Secretaries, Senior Officials, retired staff and the new generation of FERD. — MNA

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspects motivation hall of local military unit, local training depot in Thanlyin Station

The Vice-Senior General inspects the Naval Dockyard Command Headquarters in Thanlyin Station yesterday.

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win inspected the Naval Dockyard Command Headquarters in Thanlyin Station yesterday afternoon.

At the Motivation Hall of the headquarters, the Vice-Senior General viewed documentary photos of naval vessels which are being operated at the Tatmadaw (Navy).

The Vice-Senior General inspected training on practical and theoretical works to the trainees at the local training depot and gave necessary instructions. He then viewed the damage control simulator at the depot, inspected trainees' practical training, and attended to the needs. — MNA

Union Minister for International Cooperation and Chairman of the Task Force to facilitate provision of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar through AHA Centre attends the Consultative Meeting on ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar

A Myanmar Delegation led by U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for International Cooperation and Chairman of the Task Force to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar through the AHA Centre, accompanied by members of the Task Force Dr Aye Tun, Deputy Minister for Health, U Aung Tun Khaing, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and officials from relevant Ministries attended the Consultative Meeting on ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar held on 6 May 2022 in Phnom Penh.

The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia in his capacity as the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair and Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN in his capacity as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator. The Meeting was also attended by the Head of Missions of ASEAN Member States in Phnom Penh, the Representatives of UN Agencies, the External Partners of ASEAN and the AHA Centre.

The Meeting discussed the provision of Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar with the principle of "Leaving no one behind", the operational challenges to ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar and the Framework for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration in Myanmar, especially for hard-to-reach areas.

The Meeting also welcomed the implementation of the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Delivery Arrangement in the areas identified by the Myanmar Task Force based on actual needs and gaps.

The Meeting reaffirmed commitments from Myanmar Task Force, ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Secretariat and the AHA Centre to facilitate swift and effective implementation of Phase 2 Humanitarian Assistance under Point 4 of the Five-Point Consensus of the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting. The Meeting also discussed the expedition of continued provisions of humanitarian assistance by conducting the pilot projects in mutually agreed areas. —MoIC

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MoI Union Minister discusses ways to resolve difficulties faced in cinema reopening

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn presided over a coordination meeting on resolving difficulties faced in the reopening of cinemas at the IPRD office in Yangon yesterday.

In his opening remark, the Union Minister said the cinemas were allowed to reopen to improve people's living in the filming industry, get normal for the nearly collapsed movie industry, and provide the producers and cinema owners. However, due to some difficulties, it is still far from the expected target.

Unscrupulous people are obstructing the activities of the government in various ways. Some of the artistes faced threats, and the people with negative thoughts are also hindering the movie industry from getting alive. Therefore, all artistes should cooperate like before and report on the difficulties so that the ministry can provide the needed things.

Then, Chairman U Kyi Soe Tun of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization pledged that the association work together with the ministry to develop the film industry and reopen cinemas.

Afterwards, the meeting attendees coordinated the discussion, and the Union minister instructed the necessary things. — MNA

The MoI Union Minister chairs the coordination meeting to resolve difficulties faced in reopening cinemas.

MoL Union Minister receives Japan-Myanmar Association Chairman

UNION Minister for Labour U Myint Kyaing received Chairman Mr Watanabe Hideo of the Japan-Myanmar Association-JMA and delegates at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Deputy Minister for Labour U Win Shein and relevant officials, Secretary-General of the Japan Myanmar Association-JMA Mr Watanabe Yusuke, Head of Indo-Pacific Economic Development Councillor Ando Haruhiko and Secretary to the Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Association U Thet Sein attended the meeting.

The Union minister discussed dispatching trainee employees by signing an MoC between the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan and the Ministry of Labour of Myanmar through the G-to-G programme.

He also talked about the human resource development in Myanmar, providing Japanese assistance to Myanmar on-job and skilled workers while working in Japan and bilateral cooperation.

The Japan Myanmar Association-JMA also discussed the willingness to hire more trainee workers from Myanmar by Japanese entrepreneurs, plans to cooperate with the Ministry of Labour in Myanmar to send more trainee workers and worker dispatching programmes between the two countries. — MNA

ERIA, Myanmar tourism experts hold videoconferencing meeting

THE Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia-ERIA and Myanmar tourism representatives from the government and private sectors held a meeting yesterday through videoconferencing. It aims to get feedback on the current tourism activities in Myanmar as the ERIA has been drawing up the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Tourism Professionals (ASEAN MRA-TP).

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung said Myanmar, along with other ASEAN countries, signed the amendment agreement on the expansion of MICE (meeting, incentive, convention, exhibition) and event jobs, in addition to 32 types of hotels and tourism-related jobs, on 25 April 2022.

The Union minister called for a roundtable discussion to provide necessary suggestions for practical support to the ASEAN MRA-TP.

Senior Business Advisor to the ERIA said 2022 marks the 10th anniversary of the signing of the ASEAN MRA-TP. The discussion aims to identify strengths and weaknesses in the implementation in each member state, develop hotels and tourism human resources with better suggestions, make the skills assessment procedures clearer and easier, and make the migration process for skilled workers more effective.

Attendees discussed challenges encountered in the implementation of the MRA-TP in the government and private sector, including awareness-raising activities, suggestions to facilitate the procedures of producing skilled workers at tourism schools, facilitation of the migration of skilled workers, and points to emphasize the need for equal opportunities for all member states. — MNA

Over 1,400 new tutors, demonstrators from 49 universities, degree colleges warmly welcomed

A total of 1,479 new tutors and demonstrators who will perform their duties at 49 universities and degree colleges under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, were warmly welcome with ceremonies yesterday.

Yesterday, welcoming ceremonies for new instructors and demonstrators were held at some other universities in Yangon Region, including Yangon University. At Dagon University, the rector and administrative officials warmly welcomed 34 new tutors and demonstrators yesterday morning.

Dagon University Rector Dr Tha Tun Maung gave a welcome address at the ceremony. He said the meeting with teachers who would produce the most precious human resources in a country is a blessed day. He added that teachers are the people working for the common good rather than self-interest, serving ed in all parts of the country and sacrificing their lives for the future jewels of the country. He urged them to be proficient in the subjects they have chosen to teach and be role models for teaching and society.

Afterwards, heads of university departments delivered welcome speeches warmly to new tutors and demonstrators. Dagon University will admit students from the first to the third year who will study 20 subjects from 2 May. The university will also open master's courses, and about 3,000 students will be admitted. — MNA

Dagon University. **PHOTOS : KANU**

Yangon University.

Haka University.

Myitkyina University.

Hpa-an University.

Maubin University.

Yenangyoung University.

Lashio University.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar's foreign trade goes up by $42 mln last month

MYANMAR'S external trade between 1 and 22 April of the 2022-2023 Financial Year rose to US$1.558 billion, showing an increase of $42.9 million as against the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures climbed up from $1.515 billion in the corresponding period last year.

Myanmar's export was worth over $744 million, whereas the country's import was valued at $814 million last month.

The border trade dropped owing to the closure of the border post by the main trade partner China amid the coronavirus impacts, with a sharp drop of $133.665 million as against the year-ago period. However, the maritime trade registered a significant increase of US$176 million last month.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on reducing the trade deficit, export promotion, import substitution and market diversification.

The external trade stood at $15.5 billion in the past mini-budget 2021-2022 (October-March) period and $29.58 billion in the 2020-2021 FY, as per the Commerce Ministry's statistics. — KK/GNLM

Mandalay market sees brisk sales of canola seeds

TRADERS report brisk sales of canola seeds (oil crops) produced in Bhamo, Katha, Htigyaing and Moemeik areas in the Mandalay market.

The prices of canola seeds were valued at only K1,800 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the year-ago period. The prevailing price rises to K2,900 per viss. The seeds are also highly demanded, said U Soe Win Myint, an owner of the Soe Win Myint depot in Mandalay.

Those oil crops are commonly found in hill regions - southern and northern Shan State and Kachin State and upper Sagaing Region. Those seeds are delivered to the other regions and states through the Mandalay market.

"That oil crops fetch higher prices this year. There are two types of mustard family of flowering plants (Brassicaceae) containing oil seeds and vegetables. Canola crops can be cultivated only once a year. They are grown in November and harvested in January. The seeds are commercially valued, so the growers should increase the acreage of the mustard family. Those oil crops are more fertile in hilly areas. However, the Canola vegetables can be cultivated anywhere," he elaborated.

Those oil crops are commonly found in hill regions – southern and northern Shan State and Kachin State and upper Sagaing Region. Those seeds are delivered to the other regions and states through the Mandalay market. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Myanmar ships over 142,000 tonnes of various pulses in April

MYANMAR exported US$108 million worth of over 142,241 metric tons of multiple pulses in April 2022, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

India is the leading buyer of Myanmar beans, especially black beans, green grams and pigeon peas. Besides India, Myanmar's beans are purchased by Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, UAE, Malaysia, Indonesia, China (Taipei), Japan, and European countries. But, the volume of demand by those countries is small, according to the domestic bean market.

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

The prices of pulses and beans remain stable these days, according to the traders from Bayintnaung Commodity Wholesale Centre.

Myanmar conveyed US$830.625 million worth of over 1.09 million tonnes of various beans and pulses to foreign trade partners between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022 in the mini-budget period.

The price of black gram hit an all-time high of K2 million per tonne on 29 September 2021, following Kyat weakening against the US dollar. A US dollar exchange rate is now around K2,000 in the unofficial exchange source. The price of black beans (Fair Average Quality) plummeted to K1.46 million per tonne. Similarly, the cost of pigeon peas decreased slightly to K1.375 million per tonne.

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

Myanmar's agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy, and it contributes to over 30 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product. The country primarily cultivates paddy, corn, cotton, sugarcane, various pulses and beans. Its second-largest production is the pulses and beans, accounting for 33 per cent of agri-products and covering 20 per cent of growing acres. Among them, black beans, pigeon peas and green grams constitute 72 per cent of bean acreage. Other beans, including peanut, chickpea, soybean, black-eyed beans, butter bean and rice beans, are also grown in the country. — KK/GNLM

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

OPINION

Analyze complete apology in daily life

ALL persons in the daily routine have experienced committing mistakes. At a time when they decide something for their life, they might face mistakes. If so, they made excuses for their mistakes. In fact, everybody will have right and wrong as a universal truth.

But they have to analyze the nature of the apology. Do they apologize to themselves for the mistakes? Do they keep the promise not to make more mistakes in the future? Do they try to keep the promise for the mistakes? Indeed, everybody needs to sustain their promises for the mistakes.

A complete apology is a nature not to repeat similar mistakes. So, those who make mistakes and those who suffer the impacts of mistakes should understand the nature of the world and the nature of the apology. Both of them need to forgive the mistakes and keep the promise not to do so. If so, both sides can solve the problems easily.

Everybody commits mistakes not only over themselves but on others. These mistakes were made intentionally or unintentionally. Whatever it may be, if they remember their mistakes, they must apologize to the losers for their mistakes. So, it is not enough the word sorry. It is inadequate to use the word apology.

They have to express their apology to others for committing their mistakes heartily. Whenever they know they have made mistakes, they should not delay in saying their word of apology to the losers. But such a word must be a complete apology which means not just a promise. Those making mistakes must change their behaviours in line with the apology with an arrangement not to make such kinds of mistakes anymore. They have to keep the promise without fail deeply.

A complete apology is a nature not to repeat similar mistakes. So, those who make mistakes and those who suffer the impacts of mistakes should understand the nature of the world and the nature of the apology. Both of them need to forgive the mistakes and keep the promise not to do so. If so, both sides can solve the problems easily.

If mistake-makers do not repeat similar mistakes and apologize to victims of mistakes, if the victims of mistakes uphold forgiveness for their losses, society will be pleasant. If a complete apology flourishes in society, people from society will build a better world.

All the persons commit many mistakes in their life. At first, they have to apologize to themselves. Moreover, they have to analyze the root cause of mistakes with the optimism of changing their behaviours and mindsets to be able to enjoy a better future. Let's make a complete apology along with the life of society participants.

■ ■ ■

ARTICLE
Weather Report

UN meets to help reverse tourism slump

ABDULLA Shahid, president of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), on Wednesday highlighted the need to build a more sustainable, resilient, and responsible global tourism sector as part of the "long journey" to recover from COVID-19.

At the first-ever High-Level Thematic Debate on Sustainable Tourism held at the UN headquarters in New York, Shahid said that the COVID-19 pandemic halted the entire tourism industry, dealing a "devastating blow to the global economy".

"In 2019, prior to the pandemic, tourism contributed 3.5 trillion U.S. dollars to global GDP. The precipitous drop during the pandemic is estimated to have cost up to 120 million jobs," the UNGA president noted.

Though easy to sum up the devastation in numbers, capturing the overall toll on people, communities and services, is much harder, particularly for many small island states and least developed countries, which remain heavily reliant on tourism to fuel public spending, he said.

Looking beyond the numbers, tourism plays a deeply human role: "Travel and tourism connect and unite us…builds bridges and facilitates inter-cultural exchanges… (and) fosters peace and solidarity across continents and borders," Shahid added.

Inventive efforts were made

Inventive efforts were made to help tourism weather two years of COVID, including "travel bubbles," "vaccine passports" and "resilient corridors".

Visitors take pictures of the gold-plated stupa at Wat Phra That Doi Suthep Buddhist temple in Chiang Mai, Thailand in November 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

"As the pandemic wanes, the tourism sector is rebounding," he said, speaking of "the human need to connect, to explore, to experience."

"However, as it rebounds, it is important that we reflect on its future direction."

Shahid noted that tourism is important economically, but its effects on the planet, such as carbon emissions, oceans brimming with plastic, and human impacts on ecosystems and wildlife, must also be considered. "We know that many of the communities and historic sites around the world that are beloved by tourists are climate and disaster prone and need support to build resilience," he added.

According to the UN Environment Programme's Green Economy Report, a "business-as-usual" scenario predicts that by 2050, tourism will generate an increase of 154 per cent in energy consumption for the sector, 131 per cent in greenhouse gas emissions, 152 per cent in water consumption, and 251 per cent in solid waste disposal.

"We cannot allow this to continue. We must not reboot global tourism in a business-as-usual manner, we must be more ambitious than that, more responsible than that," Shahid said.

Throughout the discussions, Shahid encouraged participants to address their commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and enhance the inclusion and empowerment of women, youth, indigenous and other marginalized communities.

"Today, I call on all stakeholders to seize every opportunity to transform the tourism sector, and to target a more sustainable, inclusive and responsible approach," he said.

Current energy crisis

Zurab Pololikashvili, chief of the World Tourism Organization, commented that the current energy crisis contributes to the vulnerability of the tourism sector, while asserting that investments in tourism are also investments in peace.

Tourism was especially important to the livelihoods of women, youth, and rural communities, he said, urging for a sustainable balance between the short-term needs of tourists and the long-term needs of communities.

Pololikashvili said tourism can drive positive change, and commended the various sectors for participating in the "landmark" sustainability conversation.

Sameh Wahba, director of the World Bank's Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice, spoke about inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities. According to him, tourism creates opportunities for rural communities, small businesses and women, since it employs 10 percent of the global workforce.

SOURCE: Xinhua

WHO estimates 14.9 million excess COVID associated deaths in 2020, 2021

NEW estimates from the World Health Organization (WHO) show that the full death toll associated directly or indirectly with the COVID-19 pandemic between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2021 was approximately 14.9 million (range 13.3 million to 16.6 million).

"These sobering data not only point to the impact of the pandemic but also to the need for all countries to invest in more resilient health systems that can sustain essential health services during crises, including stronger health information systems," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

"WHO is committed to working with all countries to strengthen their health information systems to generate better data for better decisions and better outcomes."

Photo taken on May 23, 2021 shows the graffiti drawn on a building which is converted into a care center with oxygen support for COVID-19 patients in Kolkata, India. **PHOTO: STR/XINHUA**

Excess mortality is calculated

Excess mortality is calculated as the difference between the number of deaths that have occurred and the number that would be expected in the absence of the pandemic based on data from earlier years. "Excess mortality includes deaths associated with COVID-19 directly (due to the disease) or indirectly (due to the pandemic's impact on health systems and society). Deaths linked indirectly to COVID-19 are attributable to other health conditions for which people were unable to access prevention and treatment because health systems were overburdened by the pandemic," the WHO said in a press release.

The estimated number of excess deaths can be influenced also by deaths averted during the pandemic due to lower risks of certain events, like motor-vehicle accidents or occupational injuries.

Most of the excess deaths (84 per cent) are concentrated in South-East Asia, Europe, and the Americas. Some 68 per cent of excess deaths are concentrated in just 10 countries globally. Middle-income countries account for 81 per cent of the 14.9 million excess deaths (53 per cent in lower-middle-income countries and 28 per cent in upper-middle-income countries) over the 24-month period, with high-income and low-income countries each accounting for 15 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively.

A breakdown of excess mortality

The estimates for a 24-month period (2020 and 2021) include a breakdown of excess mortality by age and sex. They confirm that the global death toll was higher for men than for women (57 per cent male, 43 per cent female) and higher among older adults. The absolute count of the excess deaths is affected by the population size. The number of excess deaths per 100,000 gives a more objective picture of the pandemic than reported COVID-19 mortality data.

"Measurement of excess mortality is an essential component to understand the impact of the pandemic. Shifts in mortality trends provide decision-makers information to guide policies to reduce mortality and effectively prevent future crises. Because of limited investments in data systems in many countries, the true extent of excess mortality often remains hidden," said Dr Samira Asma, Assistant Director-General for Data, Analytics and Delivery at WHO. "These new estimates use the best available data and have been produced using a robust methodology and a completely transparent approach." "Data is the foundation of our work every day to promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the vulnerable. We know where the data gaps are, and we must collectively intensify our support to countries, so that every country has the capability to track outbreaks in real-time, ensure delivery of essential health services, and safeguard population health," said Dr Ibrahima Soce Fall, Assistant Director-General for Emergency Response.

SOURCE: ANI

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 6 May 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30) hrs M.S.T today, the lowpressure area over south Andaman Sea and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move northwestwards and intensify into a Depression in the evening of (7.5.2022), into a Cyclonic Storm in the evening of (8.5.2022). It is forecast continuous to move northwestwards and reach to west Central Bay and northwest Bay of Bengal (off north-Pradesh Odisha coasts, India) at (10.5.2022). Weather is cloudy over the Andaman Sea and south Bay and a few cloud over the north Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 7 May, 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Region and Eastern Shan, Kayin, Mon States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, southern Shan, Chin, Kayah States, scattered in Bago Region and isolated in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kyain, Mon States.Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squall with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (35-40) mph. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (8-10) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and (5-8) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay,Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 May, 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 May 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Yangon real estate market sees high rentals, slack in transactions

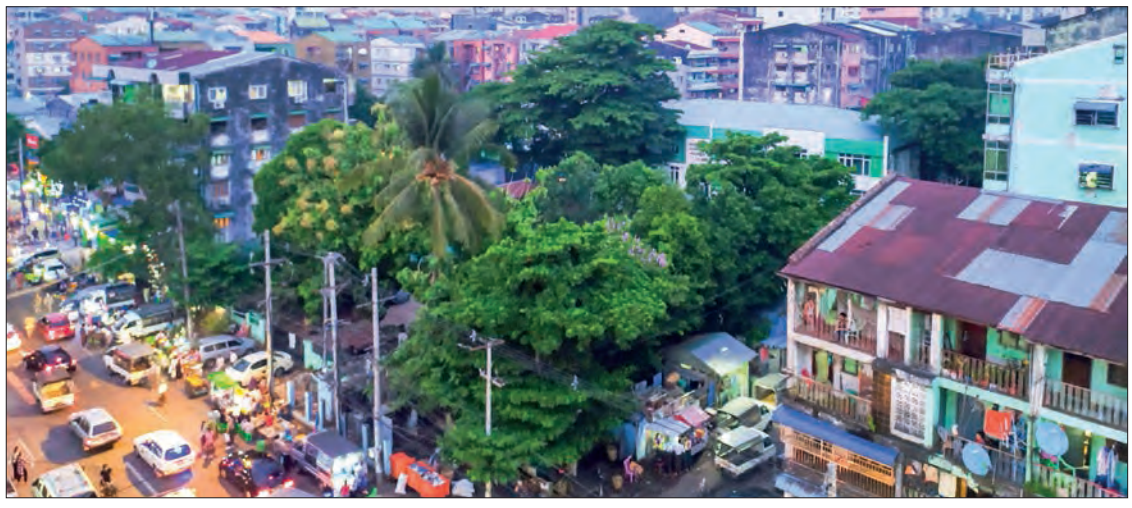
THE market for rental property is in good condition and the transactions have been slack in Yangon, according to real estate agencies.

"The rentals are in high demand. We have to try our best to sell just one apartment in one month," Ma Swe Myint, a real estate broker told the GNLM.

The tenants mostly chose the townships where have proper transport system, she continued.

Although some enquire the apartment that costs between K150,000 and K200,000 of rental fee, most of them do not prefer the high-rise building, said Ma Wai Mar from Thingangyun Township.

Most of the people prioritize the apartments depending on their family members and some choose the places located near the market, bus stop and schools and so on.



The market for rental property is in good condition and the transactions have been slack in Yangon, according to real estate agencies.

"If the prices of apartment and stand-alone house are not much different, the renters are mostly interested in the stand-alone houses. If the rental fee for the 3rd floor unit is K200,000 and the stand-alone house is K220,000, they choose the stand-alone house," Ma Swe Myint said.

In real estate market, the people are mostly interested in the apartment at the prices of between K20 million and K50 million, and the apartment about K40 million are in high demand.

"The fully furnished apartment is above K50 million. Some decorate the room but there is no interior room that just like the hall, and the customers do not spend large amount of money for such room," said Ko Wai Tun, a real estate agent.

The household moving service companies provide services at a fee of between K40,000 and K100,000 depending on the locations and floors.

In property transactions, the people who will spend K50 million compare the properties with the stand-alone houses in Shwepyitha, Hlinethaya and Dagon Myothit (north, east and south), according to the real estate agencies. — TWA/GNLM

Myawady-Mae Sot friendship bridge (1) to reopen soon

OFFICIALS from Myanmar and Thailand held a meeting on 5 May to reopen the Myawady-Mae Sot Friendship Bridge (1) on 15 May.

The bridge located at the two countries' border was closed due to COVID-19 on 23 March 2020. After two years of the closure, the two sides discussed reopening the bridge. The meeting discussed issues of reopening the bridge and controlling illegal border crossing, drugs and arms smuggling, and cross-border crimes.

"It's possible to reopen before 15 May. It's also announced in the Thai media. Still, border crossing near the bridge is restricted in Thailand, making it difficult for Myanmar migrant workers to return home, said Ko Min Min Tun, a migrant worker.

When the bridge was opened, about 2,000 people and hundreds of vehicles used the bridge. The Thai government plans to reopen 17 border crossings, including the Myawady-Mae Sot Friendship Bridge. It is also learned that plans are underway to run passenger bus lines from Mae Sot to Bangkok.

Travellers will need to make a border pass and passport to pass through the bridge and will be allowed in line with the COVID-19 health regulations. — TWA/GNLM

The Myawady-Mae Sot Friendship Bridge (1).

CRIME NEWS

Chinese man jailed for illegally marrying underage Myanmar girl

A Chinese man was illegally marrying an underage Myanmar girl without embassy and court permission and was sentenced to three years in prison for human trafficking, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

Ma Hla Hla Nwe (alias) Ma Maya Nwe from Ale Village, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region pursued 17-year-old Ma … from Pyapon District, Ayeyawady Region that her boss Yangxiaq Ming (alias) Yaung Myint was falling in love with Ma … and she will get K15 million if she marries the Chinese man.

Yaung Myint lived together with Ma … without the permission of the embassy and the court.

The case was filed by Hlinethaya Police Station (P) 2426/2019, under Sections 24/32 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law and sent to the Yangon North District Court.

Yangxiaq Ming (alias) Yaung Myint, a Chinese national, and Ma Hla Hla Nwe (alias) Maya Nwe were sentenced to three years in prison each on 3 May under Sections 26/32 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. — MNA

Illegal timbers, clothes, consumer goods, office equipment, household appliances, phone accessories, electronics 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 5 May, a combined inspection team on duty under the supervision of the Customs Department conducted inspections at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint. It confiscated K6,400,000 worth of consumer goods without any official documents from an express bus heading to Yangon from Myawady. The action was taken under the Customs Law.

Similarly, the inspection team led by Lashio Township Customs Department under the supervision of Shan State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force seized K159,455,000 worth of clothes, consumer goods, phone accessories and electronics, which had no official documents, from three six-wheel trucks (estimated value of K51,000,000) heading to Mandalay from Lashio. The action was taken under the Customs Law.

In addition, the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Checkpoint captured K104,588,100 worth of office equipment, clothes and household appliances, which were not listed in the imported declaration, and the action was taken under the Customs Law.

Moreover, on 6 May, the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Agents seized K161,120 worth of 1.6112 tonnes of illegal timbers in Pyu Township of Toungoo District and took action under the Forest Law. On the same day, a combined team led by Police Force confiscated K6,000,000 worth of an unregistered Mitsubishi Canter six-wheel vehicle and K200,000 worth of an unregistered Zongshen motorbike in Sagaing and Shwebo Township. The action took action under the Export and Import Law.

Therefore, on 5 and 6 May, 13 arrests were made (an estimated value of K327,804,220), according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

PANDEMIC WORLD

Health experts say anti-COVID-19 pill Paxlovid could reduce hospitalization risks

ANTI-COVID-19 pill Paxlovid could reduce risks for COVID-19 related hospitalization, and early treatment with Paxlovid and other available authorized therapeutics could make a difference for high-risk patients, according to health experts.

Paxlovid is now widely available at community pharmacies in the United States, said the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Wednesday.

"There is strong scientific evidence that it reduces the risk of hospitalization and death in patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 at high risk for progression to severe disease," said John Farley, director of the Office of Infectious Diseases in the FDA's Centre for Drug Evaluation and Research.

Paxlovid is also expected to be effective against the Omicron variant, Farley said. The FDA authorized Paxlovid in December 2021 for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in adults and pediatric patients 12 years of age and older weighing at least 40 kilogrammes, with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing who are also at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death. Although the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations has decreased dramatically since early 2022, some high-risk patients are still getting sick enough to require hospital admission.

Paxlovid is now widely available at community pharmacies in the United States. **PHOTO: HEALTHYDUCK.ORG/XINHUA**

Early treatment with Paxlovid and other available authorized or approved therapeutics could make a difference, according to the FDA. Last week, US Vice-President Kamala Harris was prescribed Paxlovid after she tested positive for the virus. She tested negative on Monday this week for COVID-19 on a rapid antigen test.

Paxlovid contains nirmatrelvir and ritonavir. Paxlovid is now supplied in two different dose packs, one for standard dosing and one for moderate renal impairment dosing, according to the FDA. In patients with moderate renal impairment, the dosage of Paxlovid is 150 mg nirmatrelvir and 100 mg ritonavir twice daily for five days. Patients with mild renal impairment should receive the standard dose of 300 mg nirmatrelvir and 100 mg ritonavir with all three tablets taken together orally twice daily for five days, according to the FDA.—Xinhua

Two Omicron sub-variants driving S. Africa Covid spike: WHO

TWO new Omicron sub-variants are driving an increase in reported Covid cases in South Africa, the World Health Organization said Wednesday, stressing the importance of testing to monitor virus mutations and spread.

The heavily mutated and highly transmissible Omicron variant of Covid-19, which was first detected in southern Africa in November last year and rapidly spread globally, is now the dominant variant, accounting for almost all new cases.

Omicron has long been known to have several sub-variants, with BA.2 by far the most dominant.

But now the South African scientists who first identified Omicron are pointing to two other Omicron sub-variants, BA.4 and BA.5, "as the reason for a spike in cases" in the country, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a press conference.

In its latest epidemiological report, the UN health agency said the sub-lineages "have acquired a few additional mutations that may impact their characteristics".

Tedros said Wednesday that it was "too soon to know whether these new sub-variants can cause more severe disease than other Omicron sub-variants".

However, he said, "early data suggest vaccination remains protective against severe disease and death."

With a total number of laboratory-confirmed cases of nearly 3.8 million and more than 100,000 deaths, Covid-19 has hit South Africa harder than any other country on the continent.

The nation, where fewer than 45 per cent of adults have received two Covid vaccine jabs, saw a steep decline in the virus, allowing it in March to go two full days without reporting any Covid deaths -- for the first time in nearly two years.

In early April, the country lifted all Covid restrictions, but since then, cases have surged back up, jumping by close to 50 per cent in the past week, according to WHO data.

Essentially blind

"The best way to protect people remains vaccination, alongside tried and tested public health and social measures," Tedros insisted Wednesday.

The WHO has officially recorded more than 6.2 million Covid deaths worldwide since the start of the pandemic, but the true toll is believed to be far higher.—AFP

With a total number of laboratory-confirmed cases of nearly 3.8 million and more than 100,000 deaths, Covid-19 has hit South Africa harder than any other country on the continent. **PHOTO: AFP**

Bharat Biotech seeks DCGI's permission to conduct Covaxin booster trials in 2-18 age group

HYDERABAD-BASED pharma company Bharat Biotech has sought permission from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to conduct trials of Covaxin as COVID-19 vaccine booster dose in the 2-18 age group, sources said.

The company has applied for permission a week ago. It has already conducted trials in the age group of 2-18 for two doses of Covaxin.

Recently, Bharat Biotech has also received an Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) approval for 6-12 years old children for two doses.

Bharat Biotech has also applied for the EUA for the 2-5 years old but Subject Expert Committee (SEC) has asked for more data.

Bharat Biotech is the first company in India who had applied for permission from DCGI to conduct trials of a booster dose in the 2-18 age group.

Currently, the Covaxin is under the national COVID vaccination programme for the above 15-18 age group for two doses and above 18 years old for a precaution dose.—ANI

China's services activity plunges as zero-Covid drags

CHINA'S services sector activity slumped in April to the second lowest on record, independent data showed Thursday, in a further sign of an economic slowdown caused by the country's Covid-linked restrictions.

The figures come as China's leaders battle the highly infectious Omicron variant that has led to the locking down of major cities including Shanghai, the biggest in the country.

The purchasing managers' index (PMI) released by Chinese media group Caixin came in at 36.2 in April, significantly lower than analysts expected and the worst since February 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic.

It is also the second straight month of decline, and below the 50-point mark separating growth from contraction.—AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

Bulgaria industry on tenterhooks after Russia gas cut

Bulgaria, which was cut off by Russia last week, has received more than 90 per cent of its gas supplies from Russia for decades. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE halt of Russian gas supplies to Bulgaria last week has left companies big and small scrambling as they fear halts in deliveries and rising prices.

"We are already on the brink. We'll have to raise our prices further," said Valery Krastev, who owns a bread factory in the northern town of Montana.

"How will people pay for this bread?" he worried.

The government has insisted Bulgaria has "alternative choices" to Russian gas and won't reduce supplies to consumers, calling Moscow's move to halt deliveries "blackmail".

While natural gas supplies had escaped punishing European sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, Moscow sought to sow division among European nations by exploiting their dependence on its gas.

Russia demanded that Gazprom customers have to pay in rubles rather than US dollars or euros, which would be a violation of Western sanctions.

The Russian energy giant cut deliveries to Bulgaria and Poland on 27 April.

Since then, Bulgaria's neighbours have stepped in, shoring up deliveries to the country, which has received more than 90 per cent of its gas from Russia for decades.

Diversification

But the lack of a long-term solution to secure the Balkan EU member's annual needs of about 3.0 billion cubic metres of gas is keeping large industrial consumers as well as smaller businesses on tenterhooks.— AFP

Global air cargo demand drops over Russia-Ukraine war, Omicron concerns

A decline in global air cargo markets was witnessed in the month of March, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) data showed amid COVID variant Omicron's influence in Asia and the Russia-Ukraine war that is leading to a challenging operational background.

"The war in Ukraine led to a fall in cargo capacity used to serve Europe as several airlines based in Russia and Ukraine were key cargo players. Sanctions against Russia led to disruptions in manufacturing. And rising oil prices are having a negative economic impact, including raising costs for shipping," IATA said.

The effects of Omicron in Asia, the Russia-Ukraine war and a challenging operating backdrop contributed to the decline. Global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometres (CTKs), fell 5.2 per cent compared to March 2021 (-5.4 per cent for international operations).

"Global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometres (CTKs), fell 5.2 per cent compared to March 2021 (-5.4 per cent for international operations). Capacity was 1.2 per cent above March 2021 (+2.6 per cent for international operations). While this is in positive territory, it is a significant decline from the 11.2 per cent year-on-year increase in February. Asia and Europe experienced the largest falls in capacity," IATA data read.— ANI

The effects of Omicron in Asia, the Russia-Ukraine war and a challenging operating backdrop contributed to the decline. **PHOTO: ANI**

Heatwave-hit India says no plans to curb wheat exports

INDIA has no plans to curb wheat exports — needed to help plug the gap left by the Ukraine war — despite the current heatwave hitting output, the government said.

The world's number two wheat producer has major buffer stocks and has said it is ready to increase exports to countries hit by falling supplies from Ukraine and Russia.

But its hottest March on record and a heatwave in recent days have sparked speculation that India might instead prioritise domestic supplies in the country of 1.4 billion people.

Local media quoted Sudhanshu Pandey, India's food secretary, as saying on Wednesday that wheat production was expected to fall at least five per cent this year from 110 million tonnes in 2021.

But he added: "I don't see any controls on exports."—AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Biden heads to Ohio to tout industrial renewal plan

US President Joe Biden will travel to political battleground state Ohio on Friday to announce the launch of a new industrial renewal plan that his administration hopes will revive the country's manufacturing sector.

The initiative, dubbed "AM Forward" (Additive Manufacturing Forward), is aimed at increasing the use of 3D printing and other next-generation production technologies among US companies, a White House statement said.

Several top US firms, including GE Aviation, Honeywell, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and Siemens Energy, have committed to a voluntary pact to support US-based suppliers in adopting new parts manufacturing technologies, the statement said.

Small and medium enterprises that choose to take up the initiative will be able to avail the support of federal programmes to boost their competitiveness in the sector, the administration promised. Biden will announce the plan in the US midwestern state of Ohio — a political battleground that has often been a bellwether in US presidential polls -- ahead of a general election in November.—AFP

Ukraine's farmers risk death in bomb-strewn fields

It's spring planting season in Ukraine, but this year farmers require more than fuel and fertiliser -- they also need flak jackets and deminers to destroy the bombs that have already killed or maimed others in their fields.

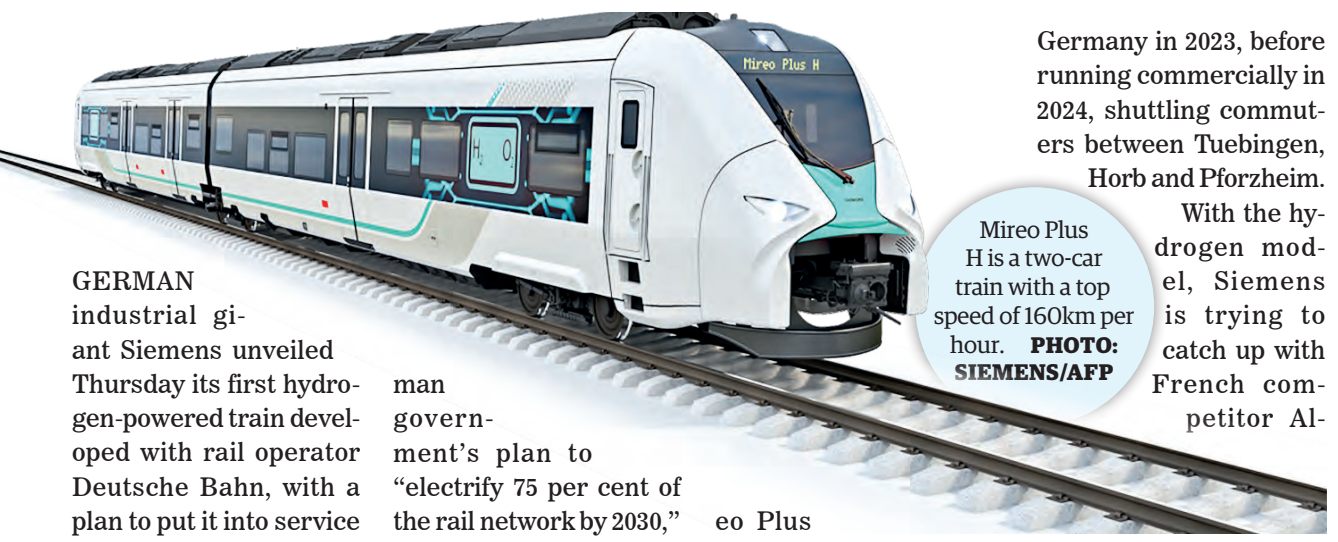
One of the unexploded rockets lay on an island of undisturbed black soil in Igor Tsiapa's field in the nation's southwest and posed a deadly threat to getting his corn crop planted on land that was otherwise ploughed and waiting.

"We first spotted the projectile a week and a half ago but just didn't touch this part of the field and continued on getting ready for planting," he told AFP on Thursday, a few metres from the deminers prepping the device for destruction.

"Everything has to be done on schedule if you want to have a more or less proper harvest... We had to keep working," the nearly 60-year-old added in the area of the village of Grygorivka.

Farmers in Ukraine have found themselves on the front line of a Russian invasion that has tainted swathes of the country with undetonated mines, shells and rockets.— AFP

Siemens unveils hydrogen-powered train



Mireo Plus H is a two-car train with a top speed of 160km per hour. **PHOTO: SIEMENS/AFP**

GERMAN industrial giant Siemens unveiled Thursday its first hydrogen-powered train developed with rail operator Deutsche Bahn, with a plan to put it into service regionally in 2024.

The locomotive which runs on electricity produced by a hydrogen fuel cell "should replace diesel powered trains in regional traffic and reduce carbon emissions on rails to zero," Deutsche Bahn said in a statement.

Hydrogen-powered trains is part of the German government's plan to "electrify 75 per cent of the rail network by 2030," said Michael Theurer, state secretary at the transport ministry.

Fuel cells generate clean electricity from reactions using hydrogen and oxygen as the only emission is water.

While most hydrogen currently comes from the gas industry, the Siemens train model called Mireo Plus H will use "green hydrogen" from sustainable energy.

"Each train delivered will save up to 45,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide for a lifetime of 30 years," said Michael Peter, who heads Siemens Mobility.

If all goes to plan, Mireo Plus H will begin its trial in southwestern Germany in 2023, before running commercially in 2024, shuttling commuters between Tuebingen, Horb and Pforzheim.

With the hydrogen model, Siemens is trying to catch up with French competitor Alstom, which already has such trains on the market.

Two German states have placed orders with Alstom for 41 trains and trials have already been carried out in several countries including Austria, Poland and France.— AFP

JAL forecasts return to profit in FY 2022 on travel recovery hopes

JAPAN Airlines Co. said Friday it sees a return to the black in the business year ending next March on expectations that travel demand will recover as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have begun to ease.

JAL reported a net profit forecast of 45 billion yen ($345 million) in the current fiscal year, noting that its expectations outweigh uncertainties stemming from the Ukraine crisis and elevated fuel prices.

Fiscal 2022 sales are projected to more than double from a year earlier to 1.39 trillion yen.

In fiscal 2021 through 31 March, JAL posted a net loss for the second consecutive year of 177.55 billion yen, while its sales rose 41.9 per cent to 682.71 billion yen.

The net loss narrowed from 286.69 billion yen a year earlier, thanks to cost cuts and its strong cargo business. However, a surge in the Omicron variant across the country and restrictions related to the pandemic left the airline in the red.

JAL expects demand for domestic flights to recover to 90 per cent of pre-COVID levels through the year. In comparison, international travel is seen staying at around 45 per cent due to remaining border controls.—Kyodo

BMW shrugs off supply chain woes to lift profits in first quarter

GERMAN automaker BMW said Thursday that strong demand for its premium brands enabled it to lift profits in the first quarter even though supply chain bottlenecks and pandemic lockdowns weighed on sales.

BMW said in a statement that its bottom-line net profit soared by 260 percent to 10.2 billion euros ($10.8 billion) in the period from January to March.

The rise was attributable to the consolidation of BMW's Chinese joint venture, BMW Brilliance Automotive, the carmaker said.

This photo taken on 8 June 2019 shows people looking at BMW cars in the 18th Shenyang, International Automobile Industry Expo in Shenyang, in China's northeastern Liaoning province. **PHOTO: AFP /FILE**

Stripping out that effect, underlying earnings — as measured by operating profit — were also higher, rising by 12.1 per cent to 3.4 billion euros in the January-March period.

"The BMW group further strengthened its competitive position as well as its profitability in the first quarter of 2022, thanks to sustained demand for its premium vehicles," the statement said.

"However, despite full order books, global supply bottlenecks for components meant that customer demand could not be met in full," BMW said.—AFP

Croatia iconic biscuit name change leaves bitter taste

HOUSEHOLD chores should be divided equally: that's what a Croatian company said it was promoting by adding job titles to the name of a popular biscuit. Instead, it sparked outrage among women.

Zagreb-based Kras has produced the biscuit with a chocolate topping since 1957. Popular in the Balkans, its name never upset anyone — until now. Last week, shoppers discovered the cookie, known as "Domacica" (housewife in Croatian), on supermarket shelves with a longer name that included job titles such as "Housewife and programmer". Others were "Housewife and manager" or "Housewife and lawyer". The company said Thursday it wanted to highlight that "women in addition to their work… are most often also the ones who take care of the household on a daily basis".—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (055N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (055N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-5-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Pilots say new Mexico City airport causing safety issues

Felipe Angeles International Airport, located north of Mexico City, is one of President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's flagship projects. **PHOTO: RODRIGO ARANGUA/ AFP/FILE**

THE opening of a second international airport for Mexico City has resulted in safety incidents including warnings that aircraft were in danger of flying into the ground, a pilot association said.

Air traffic controllers appear to have received little training and support on how to operate the new configuration, the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) said in a safety bulletin dated 4 May.

The organization said it had "been made aware of several incidents involving aircraft" at Mexico City International Airport, since Felipe Angeles International Airport opened north of the capital on 21 March.

They included planes arriving "with low fuel states due to unplanned holding, diversions for excessive delays, and significant GPWS (ground proximity warning system) alerts," it said.

"One crew almost had a controlled flight into terrain," it added.

The International Air Transport Association defines such an incident as "an in-flight collision with terrain, water, or obstacle without indication of loss of control."

IFALPA urged crews to consider carrying additional fuel in case they have to wait for permission to land or divert to another airport, and to exercise heightened terrain situational awareness.

Experts have previously highlighted the challenges of operating two airports in a city surrounded by mountains and at an altitude of more than 2,200 metres (around 7,300 feet) above sea level.

So far airlines are operating only a small number of daily flights from Felipe Angeles International Airport, a flagship project of President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador built at a military air base north of the capital.

The existing Mexico City International Airport, also known as Benito Juarez, is one of the busiest airports in Latin America.—AFP

Colombia military bristles at rise of leftist presidential hopeful

HISTORICALLY aligned to a succession of rightwing governments, Colombia's top military echelon has broken a long-standing rule of political neutrality to lash out against a perceived leftist threat.

With former guerrilla fighter Gustavo Petro standing a good chance of becoming Colombia's next president, the army chief and defence minister have taken to social media to brand him a "liar" and corrupt.

Petro, a former enemy of the state security apparatus as a guerrilla in the 1970s and 80s, is leading in opinion polls ahead of the 29 May first round of presidential elections.

If he wins, he will become Colombia's first leftist leader and the first former guerrilla to oversee the armed forces of a country still battling the violent aftermath of six decades of civil conflict.

Petro's rise has so riled up the military establishment that they have risked contravening the law to slam him publicly.

A constitutional provision bars those in uniform from voting or expressing political opinions.

"There are those within the military who perceive that the war (against guerrilla forces) was won on the battlefield but is being lost politically," Carlos Alfonso Velasquez, a military analyst and ex-colonel told AFP.—AFP

Palestinians lose two-decade court battle over land

ISRAELI civil rights groups on Thursday denounced a High Court decision that approved the eviction of roughly 1,000 Palestinian villagers to make way for a military training zone.

Residents of eight villages had been in court for around 20 years fighting Israeli government efforts to evict them.

The case of Masafer Yatta — or Firing Zone 918 — an agriculture area near Hebron in the occupied West Bank, has been one of Israel's longest running legal battles.

In the early 1980s the army declared the 3,000-hectare (30 square kilometre) territory a restricted military area and claimed it was uninhabited.

The roughly 1,000 Palestinians living there said it was their people's home long before Israeli soldiers set foot in the West Bank, which the Jewish state has occupied since 1967.

European Union officials and Israeli rights group representatives visit Palestinian communities in the Masafer Yatta area, in October 2020. **PHOTO: HAZEM BADER/AFP**

It captured the territory from Jordan in the Six-Day War and the West bank is now home to more than 475,000 settlers — Jewish Israelis living in communities widely regarded as illegal under international law.

In its decision late on Wednesday the High Court said the villagers "failed to prove" their claim to permanent residence before its declaration as a training zone.—AFP

Arrivals from Britain – Spain's largest market – stood at 1.8 million, nearly 30 times the figure in 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

British tourists boost Spain's holiday arrivals

THE number of tourists coming to Spain rose over eightfold during the first quarter compared to last year, boosted by returning British holidaymakers, the national statistics agency INE said Thursday.

Tourist arrivals reached 9.7 million between January and March, up from 1.2 million a year back, it said.

Arrivals from Britain — Spain's largest market — stood at 1.8 million, nearly 30 times the figure in 2021.

"Month after month, tourism continues its consolidation," Tourism Minister Maria Reyes Maroto said in a statement, adding she was "optimistic" for the rest of the year.

While the number of tourists flocking to Spain in March hit 4 million, up from 491,000 in the same month last year, the figure was still 71 per cent of the number recorded in March 2019 before the Covid-19 pandemic.

The world's second most visited country before the pandemic with 83.5 million visitors in 2019, Spain welcomed just 19 million tourists in 2020.—AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

EU hands police agency new powers over personal data

THE European Parliament on Wednesday voted to hand the EU's police agency new powers to gather and use data, provoking an angry response from privacy activists.

The chamber overwhelmingly approved a proposal that allows Europol to work more closely with non-EU governments and share personal information with private companies.

The European Union said the new regime was needed to help coordinate the fight against terrorism, child sex abuse and other serious crimes.

But activists warned that oversight was too weak and the reforms would turn the police agency into a "data black hole".

"Europol will be allowed to collect and share data left, right, and centre without much restriction or control," said Chloe Berthelemy of the NGO European Digital Rights.

The group, along with a coalition of other NGOs, said the reforms created serious risks of violations of the right to a fair trial, privacy and data protection, non-discrimination and freedom of expression.

The European Commission had argued the new powers were needed because terrorists often used private companies to recruit, and insisted the reforms would respect fundamental rights.

European Parliament overwhelmingly backed the proposal to give Europol more power on data use. **PHOTO: AFP**

A European Parliament statement stressed that people would be able "to consult personal data related to them" and oversight would come from a new post of Fundamental Rights Officer and the European Data Protection Supervisor.

The regulation was "a substantial leap forward in the capabilities of the agency", said rapporteur Javier Zarzalejos following the vote, which was carried with 480 MEPs in favour and 143 against.— AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS

Russia threatens to attack NATO vehicles delivering military supplies in Ukraine

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu holds a meeting with top defence officials on 4 May 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

ANY vehicle of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) that arrives in Ukraine with weapons or material for the needs of the Ukrainian armed forces is considered by Russia as "a legitimate target for destruction," Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said Wednesday, reported Xinhua.

Shoigu made the remarks at a meeting with Russia's top defence officials, noting the United States and its NATO allies are continuing to supply weapons to Ukraine.

Russian troops together with the forces of Lugansk and Donetsk are controlling more areas of Donbass, and they will continue to fulfill their tasks, according to the minister. —Xinhua

Zelensky invites Scholz and Steinmeier to Kyiv: German president's office

Ukrainian soldiers in a trench at the frontline in Lugansk province on 11 April. **PHOTO: AFP**

UKRAINE'S President Volodymyr Zelensky has invited German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and President Frank-Walter Steinmeier to visit, the German president's office said on Thursday, three weeks after Steinmeier was snubbed by Kyiv. Zelensky made the invitation during a telephone call with Steinemeier on Thursday, a source from the president's office told AFP, during which "past irritations were cleared up" and Steinemeier expressed his "solidarity, respect and support" for Ukraine.— AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

'Almost 500 civilians' evacuated from Mariupol in continuing operation: Ukrainia

ALMOST 500 civilians have been evacuated from the battered city of Mariupol and its besieged Azovstal steel plant since a UN-led rescue operation began, the head of Ukraine's presidential office said Friday. "We have managed to evacuate almost 500 civilians," Andriy Yermak said on Telegram. He said Kyiv will "do everything to save all its civilians and military" stuck in the devastated city, adding that the evacuations would continue.

Putin apologized for Russia Hitler claims: Israel PM's office

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has apologized for remarks made by his Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, who claimed Adolf Hitler may have had "Jewish blood", Israel said on Thursday.

Lavrov's comments sparked outrage in Israel, which has sought to maintain ties with Russia following the invasion of Ukraine.

"The Prime Minister accepted President Putin's apology for Lavrov's remarks and thanked him for clarifying his attitude towards the Jewish people and the memory of the Holocaust," Bennett's office said in a statement.

UN sends new Mariupol convoy to rescue civilians from 'bleak hell'

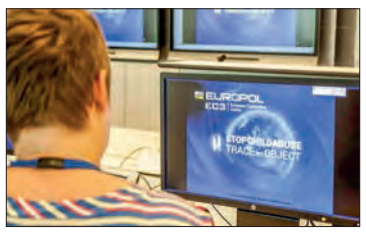
A new UN convoy was expected in Mariupol Friday to evacuate civilians from the "bleak hell" of a besieged steel plant that has become the last pocket of resistance against invading Russian forces in the southern port city. The Russian military had announced a three-day ceasefire at the site starting Thursday but a Ukrainian commander said there was still heavy fighting at the sprawling Azovstal complex, where hundreds of soldiers and civilians have been holed up for weeks under heavy bombardment.

Russian oligarch's yacht seized in Fiji on US request

AUTHORITIES in Fiji have seized the $300 million yacht of Russian oligarch Suleiman Kerimov after the US Justice Department requested the vessel be held for violating sanctions and for alleged ties to corruption, the department said Thursday.

The five-year-old, 348-foot (106 metre) "Amadea" was berthed in Lautoka, Fiji in the South Pacific when local authorities took control of it based on a US warrant and a Justice Department request.

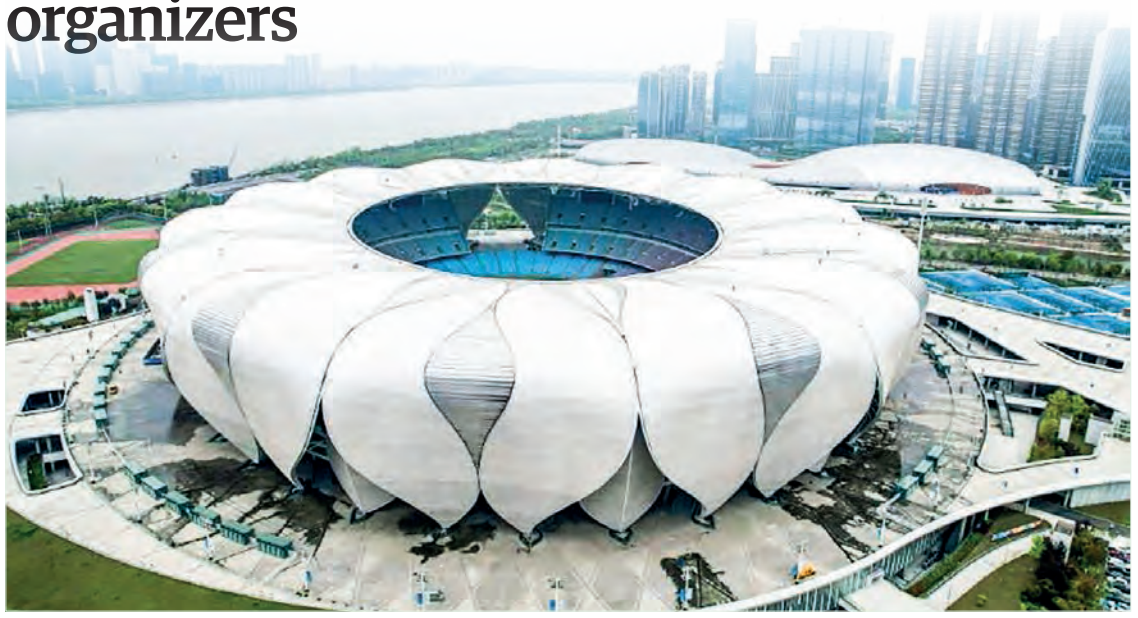
SOURCE: AFP



7 MAY 2022
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

SPORT

Asian Games 2022 in China postponed: organizers



The Asian Games due to take place in Hangzhou in September have been postponed. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE Asian Games due to take place in Hangzhou in September have been postponed indefinitely, organizers said Friday, as China battles a resurgence of Covid cases. No reason was given for the delay, but China is racing to extinguish its largest outbreak of Covid-19 since the early days of the pandemic.

"The Olympic Council of Asia has announced that the 19th Asian Games, originally scheduled to be held in Hangzhou, China from September 10 to 25, 2022, will be postponed," said a statement on the official Games website, first posted on Chinese state media.

The new dates for the sporting contest "will be announced at a later date", the statement added. The host city of Hangzhou lies near the country's biggest city, Shanghai, which has endured a weeks-long lockdown as part of the ruling Communist Party's zero-tolerance approach to the virus. Organizers said last month that Hangzhou, a city of 12 million in eastern China, had finished constructing some 56 competition venues for the Asian Games and Asian Para Games.

At the time, they indicated that they planned to hold the events under a virus control plan that "learns from the successful experience" of the Beijing Winter Olympics, which were held in February in a Covid-secure bubble.— 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.

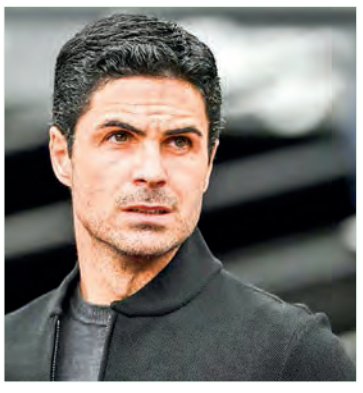
3. Social affairs

(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.

Mikel Arteta signs new contract at Arsenal



Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta has signed a new three-year contract that will keep him at the Emirates until 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

MIKEL Arteta said he wants to take Arsenal to the "next level" after signing a new contract that will keep him at the Premier League club until 2025. The 40-year-old, who took over at the Emirates in December 2019 following the dismissal of Unai Emery, is close to leading the Gunners back into the Champions League after a five-year absence.

Arsenal are fourth in the Premier League table, two points clear of north London rivals Tottenham with just four games to go. The Spaniard said Friday he was "really happy" to have signed his new deal at the club that he captained when he was a player. "We want to take the club to the next level and to compete really with the top teams," he said.

"In order to do that, we have to be playing in the Champions League. We have to be able to evolve the team, improve our players, improve all departments, generate even more connection with our fans, improve the atmosphere at the Emirates, be able to recruit top, top talent and the best people for this club to drive this project to that level."—AFP

Myanmar beat Thai Kasem Bundit futsal team 1-0

THE Myanmar women's futsal team, taking training in Thailand to prepare for the SEA Games, won a friendly match against Kasem Bundit University women's futsal team by 1-0 on 6 May.

The women's squad is still taking training in Thailand after the Thai Invitational Women's Futsal Championship and played its second test match.

The team Myanmar also defeated Nonthaburi Women's Futsal Team 5-3 on 29 April and played its second test match a week later.

The Myanmar women's team and Kasem Bundit University women's futsal team were goalless in the first half, and Nan May Thazin scored the winning goal for the Myanmar team in the second half. The team Myanmar has won both friendly matches despite poor results in the Thai Invitational Cup. The Myanmar squad will continue taking training in Thailand until 11 May. —Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Myanmar team player (No 13) tries to block the attack of Kasem Bundit University women's futsal team in their friendly match played on 6 May. **PHOTO: MFF**