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.

Virgin islands – natural beauties in Kawthoung District attract local and foreign travellers

A total of 135 islands along the coast of Kawthoung District are abundant with natural beauties, live bio-diversities and coral reefs. Some islands are attractive to travellers for taking relaxation.

KAWTHOUNG area in Taninthayi Region is naturally endowed with long coasts, various sizes of islands formed with soft and white sand beaches, varieties of plants, mangrove forests, amphibious animals, birds and coral reefs.

The location of the islands is in series, free from impacts of natural disasters and least habitation by human beings. As such, these islands are virgin with beautifully natural resources, favourable weather and the natural existence of sandbanks for all islands.

Kawthoung District is formed with two townships, three towns, 21 wards and 162 villages from 38 village-tracts inhabited by various national races.

A total of 135 islands along the coast of Kawthoung District are abundant with natural beauties, live biodiversity and coral reefs. Some islands are attractive to travellers for taking relaxation. Hence, local and foreign travellers may take relaxation and exploration on Satan Island, Nyaung Oo Phee Island, Macleod Island, Nga Khin Nyo Gyee Island, Kyun Phi Lar Island, 115 Island, Bo Cho Island, Cock Comb Island, Lampi Island or Kyun Tan Shey and Wa Ale Island.

Those travellers may choose diving, snorkelling and adventure types for paying visits to those islands in Kawthoung District so as to enjoy the beautiful nature of coral reefs, sea fans, sea snakes, sea eels, fishes, hogs, jaws, lobsters, herbal plants, rare underwater animals, evergreen forests and other natural resources. — GNLM

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Interim order given to one special civil appeal case; judgements passed on 9 special civil appeals; 5 special civil appeals heard

THE special appeal court comprising Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo and Judges U Kyi Thein, U Khin Maung Gyi, U Tin Hone and U Thein Ko Ko passed an interim order on one special civil appeal case and also passed judgements on nine special civil appeal cases yesterday.

Moreover, they heard five special civil appeal cases in line with COVID-19 health rules. — MNA

3 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 9 May, total figure rises to 613,056

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 613,056 after 3 new cases were reported on 9 May 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 591,981 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 19,434 without casualties. —MNA

Public Notice

1. Since it is important to get the full revenue from exports, the main source of foreign exchange into the country, Section 38-b of the Foreign Exchange Management Law and Paragraph 35 of the Foreign Exchange Management Rules stipulate that the exporter is required to have foreign currency into his/her bank account within six months from the date of shipment (within three months from 10-11-2021).
2. Therefore, in order to ensure that export earnings of the exporters who exported during 2016, 2017 and 2018, are credited back to their bank accounts in foreign currency within six months from the date of shipping, the Central Committee on Ensuring the Smooth Flow Trade and Goods, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, the Ministry of Legal Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce, the Central Bank of Myanmar, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), and the Foreign Exchange authorized dealer (AD) licenced banks, have already done the following:
   (a) Clarification by AD Banks (within three years)
   (b) Clarification by the UMFCCI (60 days)
   (c) Announcing to clarify in the newspapers and the website of the Central Bank of Myanmar (60 days)
   (d) The Ministry of Commerce closes the registration certificate of importers and exporters (Pa-Tha-Ka) for those who do not clarify (30 days)
   (e) Five meetings with exporters led by the Central Committee
3. Exporters are required to comply with Section 38-b of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, which states, "No one shall fail to deposit all export earnings into their bank account in the country in foreign currency within the stipulated period," and "Violation of this prohibition is punishable by imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or a fine or both punishments must be imposed under Section 42-a of the law."
4. Sending notification, revocation of the business registration licence, and holding meetings were done to discuss several times under paragraph (2) above, but there are 158 companies that exported within 2016, 2017, and 2018 and they still remain to enter the revenue.
5. The 158 companies (attached list) are being prosecuted under Section 42-a of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, and the boards of directors of the companies and the listed companies have been blacklisted, and the remaining companies are still under investigation for additional export earnings.

Central Bank of Myanmar
9-5-2022

The list of companies still remain to enter the revenue for 2016.

Sr	Company	BoD members	Company Address	CSC number
1	AVISTA TRADING COMPANY LIMITED.	U Min Thein U Sai Kyaw Tin	No.30/34(A), First Floor, 39th Street, Lower Block, Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region.	12/Ou Ka Ma (N)131877 13/La Ya Na (N)023976
2	CUBIC STAR COMPANY LIMITED.	U Min Lwin Oo Daw Thida Tin U Ye Naing Oo Daw Su Su Myat	No.(79), Ra Za Thingyan Street, Ward(114), Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region.	12/Da La Na(N) 029625 12/Ma Ya Ka (N) 040633 12/Ma Ga Da(N) 021778 4/Pha Kha Na (N) 199170
3	GREEN MAST TRADING CO., LTD.	U Soe Aung Daw Khin Than Myint Daw Khin Su Su Htwe	No.(1572), May Kha Road, (63) Quarter, Dagon Myothit (South) Industrial (2), Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region.	9/MaKaNa(N) 008779 9/MaKaNa(N) 081025 9/MaKaNa(N) 097283
4	HANUMAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING MYANMAR COMPANY LIMITED.	U Lappa Rao @ Mg Myint Daw Nilar Mr.Md Shahid	No.(13), 5th Floor, 87 Street, Daw Thein Tin Road, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region.	12/Ma Ga Ta(Phyu) 000040 12/Ma Ga Ta(N) 068461 Indian K 0508610
5	MOUNT VEBHARA TRADING COMPANY LIMITED.	Daw Thida Aye Daw Yin Yin Win	Building(239), Room No.3, Seinpanmyaing Street, (25) Ward, Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region.	12/Tha Ga Ka(N) 083018 12/Ta Ta Na (N) 223184
6	MYA THIRI TRADING CO., LTD.	U Maung Maung Daw Hla Sein U Kyaw Win	No.150, Ground Floor, Seikkantha Street, Ward No.7, Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region.	12/Ka Ta Ta (N)003005 6/Ka Tha Na (N)015657 12/Ma Ga Ta (N)065434
7	MYANMAR OCEAN STAR CO.,LTD.	U Kyaw Htwe U Kyaw Kyaw U Yan Pu (a) Kyaw Sein	No.22(A), Thingaha Street, Tamway T/S, Yangon Region.	13/La Ya Na(N)-088771 13/La Ya Na(N)-088097 13/La Ya Na(N)-096893
8	RUBY TIGER TIMBER LIMITED.	U Tun Maung U Than Htut	No.(38), Kyun Shwe War Street, Shwe Nanthar Ywama Ward, Pearl Myothit, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region.	4/Pa La Wa(N) 023454 12/Ou Ka Ma(N) 124223
9	SHENG XING DA COMPANY LIMITED.	Daw Kyawe Chin U Aung Kyaw Zaw	No.(41), Pan Whar Street, Yangon Thit Quarter, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region.	13/La Ya Na (N)217700 10/Ma La Ma (N)128056
10	TIAN CI TRADING COMPANY LIMITED.	U Sa Nay Aung Daw Hinn Ei Khaing	No.(42/8+9), Kanaung (2) Street, Shwe Pyi Thar Industrial Zone (1) Ward, Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region.	5/Ya Ba Na (N)-203107 5/Ya Ba Na (N)-220748
11	U KAUNG TRADING CO.,LTD.	U Thar Oo U Aung Zay Yar Oo	Building No.10/12, Room-103/D, 35th Street, Kyauktada T/S, Yangon Region.	12/Sa Kha Na(N)-052851 12/Ka Ma Ya(N)-011575

TO BE CONTINUED

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 personnel need to fight false information and misinformation while abiding by ethics

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn met the Myanmar Press Council and National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committees' members yesterday.

During the meeting with the Myanmar Press Council, the Union minister said those who do not want peace and stability in the country are conducting various activities at present, especially, since the civilian people are accused of being informers and killed them without any reason. Due to the untrue incitements of some people, the youths who are not familiar with democracy at all are heading the wrong way and that affects their future.

The meeting between the MoI Union Minister and the Myanmar Press Council, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committees' members in progress.

The ministry also adopts proper media related measures to ensure the knowledge and thoughts of the people in their daily life. But unscrupulous persons are obstructing the activities in various ways. In other words, the saboteurs are obstructing the media activity such as spreading information of ministry to propaganda of their false news. Efforts are being made in various ways despite such negative activities.

The Union minister also said that the ministry will broadcast civics education and the 38-principle Mingala programme soon by cooperating with the theatrical artistes and the council should work for the interests of the country and people knowing the actual situation of the country.

Then, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein discussed the measures conducted in the region to ensure State stability and the media personnel need to fight false information and misinformation while abiding by ethics.

Afterwards, MPC Vice-Chairman (1) U Myo Tun (Maung Sein Naung-Lewe) and members reported on their cooperation work in the fight against false information and misinformation.

At noon, the Union minister discussed the information-related matters, a Sarso Beikman building construction, arrangement for the young generations, construction of buildings for the arts centre following the directives of the Prime Minister and plans to publish better literacy while meeting the literati of National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committees.

Then, Yangon Region Advocate-General U Htay Aung and relevant officials also focused on the selection of the National Literacy Award. — MNA

MoSWRR Union Minister gives instructions regarding Severe Cyclonic Storm Asani at Emergency Operation Centre

The MoSWRR Union Minister inspects the work procedures at the Emergency Operation Centre.

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine inspected the work procedures of the Emergency Operation Centre of the Department of Disaster Management yesterday.

During the visit, she mainly examined the announcement of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology and disaster management activities through continuous access to the world meteorological websites.

The Union minister talked about the preventive measures for a severe cyclonic storm Asani and timely report to National Disaster Management Committee Chairman and regions/states officials.

At noon, the Union Minister and party attended the launching ceremony of Disability Classification and Implementation of the Disability Registration Pilot Project.

The pilot project for disability classification and registration is conducted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, General Administration Department, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disability (acting central executive committee), organizations of disabled people and welfare organizations and will be implemented in Pobbathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw, Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Region, Nyaunglebin Township of Bago Region and Hpa-an Township of Kayin State. — MNA

Efforts should be made in various ways to spread true information and fight false news among the people, says MoI Union Minister

The MoI Union Minister meets publishers at the Department of Printing and Publishing in Yangon on 8 May.

UNION Minister for Information Maung Maung Ohn said it was very upset to see the hate speech and writings that provoke the conflict on social media. No matter how much the Ministry of Information's media activities are obstructed, he would make every effort to ensure that the public receives accurate information and to fight false information, he said.

He remarked during the meeting with publishers at the Department of Printing and Publishing in Botahtaung Township, Yangon, on 8 May.

He also urged them to work together to do the right thing for the future of the country and the future of Myanmar society. He also added the prosecution of the publishers of the pornographic book under the law, saying that such a lawsuit is not a violation of the right to freedom of expression, but a legal action due to the violation of the provisions of the Printing and Publishing Law. He said, "I would like to say that such action is systematic censorship of unethical writings that are unacceptable in our Myanmar society." The Union minister added that today, the media activities aimed at disseminating accurate news and combatting false information in the country are being obstructed by unscrupulous persons in various ways.

He also stressed the need to take the writings seriously as today's publications will remain as records in the future, calling on the printing/publishing business to act as per the relevant rules, regulations, and code of conduct. — Htun Htun/GNLM

Myanmar to participate in "World's Best Tourism Village Programme-2022"

MYANMAR will try to apply for the Best Tourism Village Programme as per the terms and conditions.

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung made the remarks yesterday afternoon at the Briefing Session of the Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO Online Meeting related to the application of the second time Best Tourism Village Programme-2022 under the leadership of the World Tourism Organizations.

In addition, the Union minister added that Myanmar would cooperate with the World Tourism Organization for the sustainable development of Myanmar's tourism industry, and asked to continue to provide technical assistance as needed.

At the meeting, Director Mr Harry Hwang of the Asia-Pacific Regional Department said that the Best Tourism Village Programme has been implemented as a pilot project since 2021, and 44 villages from 10 member countries of the World Tourism Organization have been selected as the best tourism villages. He said that today's online meeting was to prepare for good opportunities for member countries for the second implementation.

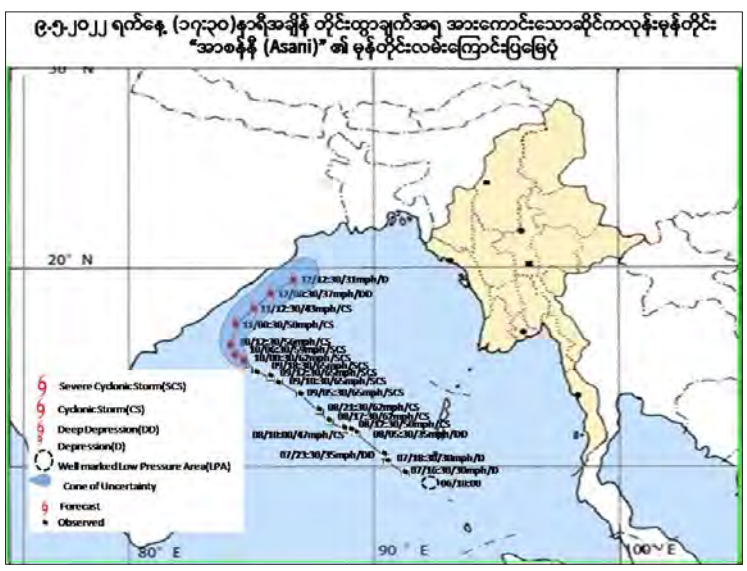
Head of Tourism Market Intelligence and Capacity Department of the WTO Ms Sandra Carvao explained issues related to best tourism village planning; vision and objectives; benefits of the programme, and things to follow and assess when applying for the best tourist village selection programmes.

The MoHT Union Minister joins the UNWTO Online Meeting yesterday.

The meeting was organized to discuss the information required to apply online, and programmes to be submitted by participating villages. — MNA

Severe Cyclonic Storm "Asani"

ACCORDING to the observations at (17:30)hrs MST 9 May, the Severe Cyclonic Storm "Asani" over West Central Bay and adjoining South Bay of Bangal has moved Northwestwards and now lies over West Central Bay of Bengal.It is centered at about (475) Nautical miles West-Northwest of Port Blair, (215) Nautical miles South-Southeast of Vishakhapatnam, (315) Nautical miles South of Puri (India), (475) Nautical miles Westof Coco-Island and (540) Nautical miles West-Southwest of Hainggyigyun (Myanmar).



Direction diagram of the severe cyclonic storm "Asani".

It is not moving towards Myanmar coasts, the present stage of the Severe Cyclonic Storm "Asani" is coded yellow stage.

Position of Severe Cyclonic Storm "Asani", centre pressure and wind

The Severe Cyclonic Storm "Asani" is located at Latitude (14.5) degree North and Longitude (85.4) degree East, centre pressure of Severe Cyclonic Storm "Asani" is (988) hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is (65-70) miles per hour at (17:30)hrs MST 9 May.

During next (72) hrs forecast

The Severe Cyclonic Storm "Asani" is forecast continuous to move Northwestwards and reach to West Central Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal (off north Andhra Pradesh-Odisha coasts, India) around (10-5-2022) and recurve to North-Northeastwards and reach to Northwest Bay of Bengal (off Odisha coast, India). It is likely to weaken gradually into a Cyclonic Storm "Asani" during next (24) hrs and into a Deep Depression around (11-5-2022).

General caution

Due to the Severe Cyclonic Storm "Asani", rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavyfalls in some Regions and States from tonight to (13.5.2022).Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph Wave height will be about (8-12) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

Due to the Severe Cyclonic Storm "Asani", people should be aware rain or thundershowers with strong wind and domestic flight, trawlers, vessels and ships in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

— Department of Meteorology and Hydrology

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Domestic tourism back in operation almost as usual

AMID the COVID-19 control activities, domestic travel services are back in operation almost as usual in Myanmar, particularly during the Thingyan holidays in April. It is learnt that the number of tourists who are travelling with their own itinerary is increasing.

"At present, there are only office staff who have to travel for work," said Ma Ni Ni Maw, a ticket seller of a Yangon-Mandalay express. She added that returnees before the Thingyan period and pilgrims are more likely to travel on their own as a group than by a group service vehicle. Due to fewer travellers before the Thingyan period, passenger buses had to rely on goods every day.

The Directorate of Hotels and Tourism carries out the survey on Bagan travellers.

Due to COVID-19 preventive measures, only about 12 passengers are allowed in a Yangon-Mandalay VIP bus, which cannot even cover the fuel expense, Ko Win Tun, a Yangon-Mandalay passenger bus driver, told GNLM.

As passenger buses have to rely on the goods, it costs a lot to freight forwarders, according to an online clothes seller, Ko Arkar Oo. He also added that a minimum of K3,000 need to be paid for the shipping fees, depending on the weight of the goods, there are various prices.

During the Thingyan period, ticket fees were about K35,000, and they reduced to K25,000 after the period. In April, Rakhine State, Chaungtha Beach, Ngapali Beach, Bagan, Taunggyi, and Inlay were the most crowded areas, with 16,000 local/international tourists in Rakhine State and 15,000 tourists per day in Bagan, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. — TWA/GNLM

Youths keen on going overseas for work

Myanmar passport.

MOST young people want to go overseas for work as the jobs available in the country decline.

The youths are interested in labour exports under MoU to the neighbouring countries. On the other hand, they are waiting for the time to work in Japan and Korea.

When the government offices are reopened with COVID-19 rules, the rates of application for passports become high. The officials conduct an online booking system for passport application processes to prevent the disease infection rate now.

"We are waiting for the chance to work in Thailand via road under the plan of the Ministry of Labour. They will send 200 workers tomorrow for the first time. I am not included in that group this time," Ko Kaung Myat Win from Hline Township told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

The Mae Sot based media expressed that the Thai government provides vehicles to welcome the Myanmar migrant workers under the MoU system.

"Now, I am studying the Japanese language and waiting for the time that Japan will call workers officially," said Ko Ko Soe Lwin from Mayangon Township.

As the COVID-19 infection rate was high, most of the job opportunities and businesses were suspended starting last July, and now almost all the businesses resume their operations.

The youths join computer and mobile phone repair services, language, cooking and hospitality training.

"I paid the fees for the hotel cooking class since September 2020. The class was not open for various reasons. I did not lose my training fee but it wasted the time and occurred delays in teaching," the Global New Light of Myanmar quoted Ko Khin Maung Lin from Myingyan Township as saying. —TWA/GNLM

Green gram, pigeon pea prices drop within one week

IN the local bean market, the prices of beans including the green gram and pigeon pea drop within one week, according to data from the Bayintnaung Wholesale Market on 9 May.

On 6 May, it was K47,140 per basket of green gram and K44,212 per basket of pigeon pea, while the price of green gram was K46,785 per basket and the pigeon pea K44,130 per basket on 9 May.

"The price of green gram dropped to K355 per basket, while the pigeon pea by K82 per basket during one week. The price of chickpeas is high. The bean season is over. They were left only in the hand of merchants. The bean prices will keep declining," said Ko Oo, a bean merchant.

The bean prices have fallen since the exchange rate was fixed at K1,850 per dollar.

According to the Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre, the price of mung bean was between K2,080 and K2,670 per viss, between K3,215 and K4,250 per viss of lablab bean and between K1,750 and K1,870 per viss of black-eyed peas.

The beans are mostly grown in Ayeyawady, Bago, Magway and Mandalay regions. More than 142,000 tonnes of pulses were exported in April amounting to $830.625 million from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022, according to the ministry. — TWA/GNLM

Multiple beans and pulses in the market.

Illegal timbers and unregistered vehicles seized

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

An inspection team led by Traffic Police Force under the Ayeyawady Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted the inspections at the Koezu Checkpoint in Pathein Township. A Toyota Ractis vehicle estimated at K2,500,000 without a vehicle registration certificate was seized on 6 May. Police opened a file on this case under the Export/Import Law.

Similarly, a combined inspection team led by the Region Forest Department under the supervision of the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force seized K102,300 worth of 0.6820 tonne of illegal teak in the Saiya reserved forest in Yedashe Township of Toungoo District and charged them under the Forest Law.

In addition, Police Force seized two unregistered Dump trucks estimated at K8,000,000 and action was taken under the Export/Import Law.

The Forest Department inspection team confiscated K10,861,850 worth of 12.3904 tonnes of illegal timbers and action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, on 6 and 9 May, six arrests were made (an estimated value of K21,464,150), according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Seized car in Ayeyawaday Region.

Confiscated items in Sagaing Region.

Seized timbers in Sagaing Region.

Confiscated teak logs in Bago Region.

Traffickers sentenced to jail for human trafficking

YANGON'S South District Court sentenced a man to six years imprisonment with labour for his role in trafficking a man to a fishing bamboo raft (Kyaphaung) work site on 5 May.

The victim U…, aged 30, from Dala Township of Yangon Region, was sent to a fishing bamboo raft work site by Balaji (aka) Aung Bala from Pyapon Township of Ayeyawady Region. Balaji exploited the salary of the victim-K600,000 that he told the victim to earn K80,000 a month.

The trafficker was prosecuted at Dala Myoma police station under Section 25 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law.

Similarly, Yangon's North District Court sentenced two traffickers to 10 years imprisonment with labour under Sections 24/32 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law on 6 May.

The victim Ma …, aged 18, from Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Region was sold to a Chinese man by Ma Paing Paing Soe (aka) Ma Soe Soe and Taw Thargyi (aka) Tin Ko Oo from Shwepyitha Township of Yangon Region. The two traffickers exploited K6,000,000 that they told the victim to earn K1,500,000 a month.

The two traffickers were prosecuted at Shwepyithar police station under Sections 24/32 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. — MNA

Ketamine worth over K500 million seized in Kunhing Township

OVER K500 million worth of ketamine were seized in Kunhing Township, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force conducted an inspection in Kunhing Township at 9 pm on 7 May. A search of the Mitsubishi Colt vehicle driven by Sai Naw Shen from Kali to Mongpyin at the Takaw Joint Inspection Station turned up 61 kilogrammes of ketamine worth over K500 million.

According to the investigation, the ketamine was transported from Kali to Mongpyin, so he was prosecuted and the perpetrators are still under investigation. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Sugar mills in Katha District produce over 63,000 tonnes of sugar

PRODUCTION of sugar mills in Katha District, Sagaing Region is estimated at over 63,000 tonnes, according to a statement released by Sagaing Region Consumer Affairs Department.

The close season of sugarcane is at the end of May 2022. Over 580,000 tonnes of sugarcane by Great Wall Wilmar Co., Ltd, 25,000 tonnes by Mya Taungtha mill, and 30,000 tonnes by UTP sugar mill were processed, totalling over 630,000 tonnes of sugarcane.

One tonne of sugar is produced if ten tonnes of sugarcane are milled. Therefore, a total of over 63,000 tonnes of sugar were produced by those three mills.

There were over 120,000 acres of sugarcane in 2021 in Katha District, with the yield rate estimated at 2.4 million tonnes of sugarcane.

Three mills in Katha and Htigyaing townships crushed over 600,000 tonnes of sugarcane. The remaining was delivered to the mills in Mandalay Region and the syrup manufacturing plants.

The milling period for that sugarcane produced in the 2021 season is from January to May 2022.

The millers faced banking restrictions to pay the growers. Nevertheless, they reached an agreement with the growers to practice a barter trade system. The refined sugar is given in return for sugarcane price and worker wages. The sugar is conveyed to the Mandalay depot. The sugar fetches K1,950 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes). — Lu Lay/GNLM

Three mills in Katha and Htigyaing townships crushed over 600,000 tonnes of sugarcane. The remaining was delivered to the mills in Mandalay Region and the syrup manufacturing plants.

Minbu market sees onion bustling trade

The retail prices stand at K700-800 per viss at present and the wholesale price is at K500-600 per viss.

THE prices of onions are slightly rising and the Minbu market sees brisk sales, onion brokers said.

"Onion growers earlier struggled to survive with the collapse of the onion market, with the prices of K150-200 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes). The retail prices stand at K700-800 per viss at present and the wholesale price is at K500-600 per viss," said U Tun, an onion buyer.

The stocks have declined in the market. When onions were priced around K1,700-1,800 per viss in the previous year, the demand significantly dropped, traders said.

The prices regain in April and May. The onions are highly demanded at K500-600 per viss, U Thar Paw, an onion trader.

The inflows of onions are seen regularly in Minbu depot, with an estimated volume of 60,000 visses per day, a depot owner Daw Lei Lei said.

The onion growers, as well as traders, experienced market fallouts during the COVID-19 pandemic since the foreign demand dried up.

Next, Bangladesh's demand for Myanmar's onions coupled with high demand in the local market hiked up prices, soaring up to K4,000 per viss on 15 November 2019, according to the Mandalay commodity depot.

The prices of domestic onions exceeded K3,000 per viss in 2015, 2018, and 2019.

The onions are primarily grown in Mandalay, Magway and Yangon regions, Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State. — Zeyar Htet, KK/GNLM

4 enterprises pump $5.99 mln of FDI into manufacturing sector in April

ONLY the manufacturing sector attracted foreign direct investment in April 2022 of the 2022-2023 financial year, as per the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Four enterprises from China and Hong Kong SAR put an estimated capital of US$5.99 million into the manufacturing sector last month.

Manufacturing enterprises and businesses that need a large labour force are prioritized to create job opportunities for the local community, according to the Myanmar Investment Commission.

Although some labour-intensive enterprises faced financial hardship amid the COVID-19 negative impacts and the political changes, the industry is now returning to normal after the COVID-19 vaccination programme for workers, as per the HIS Markit's September report.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garments and textiles produced on the Cutting, Making, and Packing basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

Myanmar has drawn foreign direct investment of more than $647.127 million from 49 enterprises during the October-March period. Of them, 40 foreign enterprises put investments in the manufacturing sector, pumping the estimated capital of $202.667 million in the past mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022). Additionally, the agriculture sector drew one project worth of $5 million. The livestock and fishery sector attracted two enterprises with investments of more than $19 million. Power, construction and hotels and tourism sectors have one new project each in the past mini-budget period and three other enterprises invested in other service sectors. — KK/GNLM

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.

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Create employment opportunities for socio-economic development

TODAY'S progress can be seen in all arenas as the government is striving for the development of the nation amid difficulties, disturbances and destructions. Currently, the government is practically benefiting the interests of the State and the ethnic people, so the entire people are to participate in the nation-building endeavours through the united strength.

Nowadays, the State Administration Council is making utmost efforts for fulfilling the requirements for the basic needs of the people with the peaceful living, ensuring economic growth, restoring the perpetual peace throughout the nation and resurging the businesses which faced the downtrend in the outbreak of COVID-19.

The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic still bring losses of employment opportunities to the private businesses and the majority of the people. To be able to remedy these businesses to have recovery, the government and the people are to work in concert for resuming the production of their businesses with modern techniques.

As Myanmar is abundant in labour, it is necessary to effectively utilize the job opportunities. Both the government and the businesspersons need to increase the interests of the State and themselves with the correctness of morals, confidence and attitude, regarding the jobs, learning skills and knowledge about the entrepreneurship, and keenness to operate businesses.

As such, the creation of job opportunities in the top requirement for successfully implementing the national work procedures of the State. Currently, not only the globe but Myanmar is facing impacts of economic sector triggered by COVID-19 in the situation of instability of job opportunities and reduction of labour numbers. Hence, the government allows local and foreign businesspersons to operate Cutting-Making-Packaging-CMP businesses with their investments.

The CMP businesses can generate jobs for local people, arrange economic development with the least capital and turn out skilled workers. Moreover, the government manages the improvement of small and medium scale enterprises, further flows of local and foreign investments into the country to develop technology, market and employment and ensure good contributions of investment.

In Myanmar, Myanmar citizen businesspersons and foreign investors primarily put their investments in industries, textile, service, hotels and tourism and electrification sectors. Hence, these sectors now show progress with the capacity to earn an income from foreign changes not only for the State but for businesspersons.

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In line with the motto: "The strength of the nation lies within", the government is laying the sound foundations for surging the State economy. As such, now is time for implementing the national vision: the prosperity of the nation and food sufficiency.

China's effective anti-pandemic efforts bespeak institutional strength

As the highly contagious and latent Omicron variant is sweeping the world, multiple Chinese regions have been overshadowed by the current COVID-19 resurgence. But China has been rising to the challenge.

WHILE China is still checking new epidemic flare-ups with its dynamic zero-COVID approach, some Western bigots sensed a chance to talk badly about the country's anti-pandemic efforts and heap scorn on the Chinese government's epidemic control policies.

For example, in its latest rant against Shanghai's anti-epidemic fight, The New York Times (NYT) has gone to great lengths to depict an inept Chinese government and question the "legitimacy" of the Communist Party of China (CPC) "in a time of crisis".

But all those jabs have crumbled in the face of facts. As China has struck a fine balance between pandemic control and economic development, its way of taming the virus has proven to be scientific and effective, and has testified to the country's institutional strength.

For more than two years, China has been putting people's lives and well-being first and sticking to its dynamic zero-COVID approach. In the meantime, it has been making dynamic conditions-based adjustments to its targeted epidemic control measures. All these efforts, coupled with an epidemic prevention focus to guard against both inbound cases and domestic resurgence, have enabled the country to restrict the spread of the virus and minimize the epidemic's impact.

As the highly contagious and latent Omicron variant is sweeping the world, multiple Chinese regions have been overshadowed by the current COVID-19 resurgence. But China has been rising to the challenge.

Through a resolute and full implementation of the dynamic zero-COVID approach, and with the whole-hearted support of the Chinese people, Shenzhen in southern China resumed normal work and production in late March as the resurgence subsides, while community transmission has been cut in Jilin Province since mid-April. Racing against time, Beijing has carried out multiple rounds of nucleic acid testing, and has grasped the basic picture of hidden transmission in society.

Besides, data shows the epidemic situation is steadily improving and under effective control in the city of Shanghai. Daily new COVID-19 cases have fallen from a peak of 27,000 to under 5,000, and nearly two-thirds of the infections have recovered in the city. Over 70 per cent of Shanghai's 1,800-plus major enterprises have resumed work and production, and the resumption rate of the first batch of more than 660 key industrial enterprises in the city has exceeded 90 per cent.

China's capability of successfully arranging massive nucleic acid tests, building makeshift hospitals, dispatching medical staff and delivering much-needed supplies have all demonstrated the country's systemic ability to pool strength behind significant undertakings and the solidarity of the Chinese people.

Under the guidance of the Chinese central government, Shanghai has mobilized nucleic acid testing teams with a daily handling capacity of 2.38 million test tubes. More than 30,000 medics from 22 provincial-level regions nationwide have rushed to the city to aid in the anti-epidemic battle. To many experts, such prompt actions in Shanghai are a miniature of China's unprecedented mobilization and organization abilities made possible out of the strong and wise leadership of the CPC, which has firmly stood as the most reliable backbone of the Chinese nation and people.

According to preliminary statistics in late April, more than 720,000 Party members volunteered to report for duty during the current resurgence in Shanghai. As of 30 April, Party members have also helped set up 164 nucleic acid testing sites in the city.

Support from the people makes a difference in the anti-epidemic response, noted a meeting convened on Thursday by the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, stressing the need to make sure that the Chinese people are well-informed, and to timely respond to their concerns.

Source : Xinhua

A sanitation worker disinfects subway carriages in east China's Shanghai, 5 May 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/CHEN JIANLI**

Jordan's tourism witnesses signs of recovery

People visit the Citadel archaeological site in Amman, Jordan, on 28 December 2021. **PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ABU GHOSH/ XINHUA**

JORDAN'S pandemic-hit tourism industry has shown signs of recovery for the first quarter of 2022 and the Eid al-Fitr holiday, following massive campaigns to promote the kingdom's tourism profile and the eased COVID-19 restrictions.

"All figures indicate that the tourism sector is undergoing a recovery ... The holiday season during Eid al-Fitr saw a large increase of visitors to various sites across the country, while occupancy rates in hotels of Aqaba and the Dead Sea area exceeded 90 per cent," Abeer Nauman, economic news editor at the Jordan Press Foundation, told Xinhua.

Archaeological and tourist sites in Jordan have received about 190,000 visitors home and abroad for the four-day Eid holiday that marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, state-run Petra news agency reported.

Jordan's tourism revenues rose by 251 per cent during the first quarter of 2022, reaching 893 million US dollars, the Tourism Ministry's spokesman Ahmad Rifai told Xinhua.

Meanwhile, some 780,000 people visited the kingdom in the first quarter, up by 298 per cent year-on-year, the state-owned Al-Mamlaka TV reported, citing Tourism Minister Nayef Fayez.

"We are on the right track toward the recovery of tourism, and we have exceeded our targets for the first quarter already," the minister was quoted as saying.

According to Rifai, the ministry's massive promotional campaigns and the adjustment of pandemic-related restrictions in the kingdom have contributed to the recovery.

Noting tourism's 14-per-cent contribution to Jordan's GDP, Nauman called for more promotional efforts to revitalize tourism and stimulate hotels, restaurants, and transport consumptions.

According to figures by the Economic and Social Council of Jordan, the number of workers in the tourism industry in 2020 reached 21,000, of whom 73 per cent were Jordanians. Abdel Hakim Al-Hindi, head of Jordan Hotel Association, said the hotel occupancy may continue to increase in the near future, because of eased coronavirus restrictions and mild climate of the kingdom.

Source : Xinhua

MPC joins World Association of Press Councils' General Assembly

A delegation of the Myanmar Press Council (MPC) has attended a five-day General Assembly last week at the gathering of the press councils of the world.

U Ohn Maung, MPC Chairman, had a chance to present to WAPC members on the current state of the Union in Myanmar and clarified some misconceptions about Myanmar among some member countries at the WAPC General Assembly.

Participants discussed WAPC's past, present and future activities, together with the current urgent issues facing the media industry, including the digital media. Each member country also presented their own country reports on the press freedom and general issues facing the media industry.

The event was inaugurated by the Information Minister of the host country Kenya. More than fifty representatives from the press council of member countries attended the GA.

Members of GA also joined the World Press Freedom Day celebration activities together with Kenya Press Council. The gathering also included knowledge exchange visits to Kenya Broadcasting Corporation and Nations Media Group, the largest government and private media groups, respectively, in Kenya.

Last but not least Myanmar has contributed significantly to the drafting of the WAPC Declaration following the GA.—GNLM

MYANMAR Daily Weather Report

(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Monday 9 May 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (17:30) hrs MST today, the Severe Cyclonic Storm "Asani" over West Central Bay and adjoining South Bay of Bangal has moved Northwestwards and now lies over West Central Bay of Bengal. It is centred at about (475) Nautical miles West-Northwest of Port Blair, (215) Nautical miles South-Southeast of Vishakhapatnam, (315) Nautical miles South of Puri (India), (475) Nautical miles West of Coco-Island and (540) Nautical miles West-Southwest of Haing-gyigyun (Myanmar). Weather is cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 10 May 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Kachin, Kayah, Kayin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine and Kayah states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasionally squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Wave height will be about (8-12) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

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

ENVIRON WORLD

COP15 talks open facing 'emergency' over Earth's degraded land

A Nigerien farmer sits in the shade of a tree in the Great Green Wall site in Simiri, about 100km north of Niamey, on 13 November 2021. **PHOTO : AFP**

NINE African heads of states attended Monday's opening session of the UN's COP15 talks to fight desertification and land degradation that have devastated large swathes of the continent amid climate change.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), 196 countries plus the European Union — is meeting for the first time in three years, in Abidjan.

Decades of unsustainable agriculture have depleted soils worldwide and accelerated both global warming and species loss, the UNCCD says, with an estimated 40 per cent of land degraded globally.

"Our summit is taking place in the context of the climate emergency which harshly impacts our land management policies and exacerbates drought," Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara announced. "Our people put great hope in us,. We don't have the right to disappoint them.

"Let us act swiftly, let us act together to give new life to our lands," he urged.

Nigeria's Muhammadu Buhari, Niger's Mohamed Bazoum and DR Congo's Felix Tshisekedi were among the continent's leaders listening to the Ivorian host.

French President Emmanuel Macron was to address the gathering by videoconference later in the day. Ouattara presented the Abidjan Initiative to raise $1.5 billion over five years to restore Ivory Coast's "degraded forest eco-systems" and promote sustainable soil management.

Ivory Coast is among numerous African nations badly affected by desertification. Forest cover has fallen by 80 per cent since 1900 — from 16 million hectares to just 2.9 million last year.

"At the current rate, our forest could totally disappear by 2050," Ouattara warned.

COP15 runs until 20 May and is due to hear new proposals to try to halt the spread of desertification and deteriorating land quality. The conference will pay particular attention to the restoration of one billion hectares of degraded land by 2030, future-proofing land use and drought resilience, the UNCCD said.

Debate is expected to include the question of the "Great Green Wall" scheme to restore 100 million hectares of arid land from Senegal in the west of Africa to Djibouti in the east by 2030. —AFP

Southern Mongolian province to plant 70 mln trees by 2030 to combat desertification

THE southern Mongolian province of Umnugovi aims to plant at least 70 million trees by 2030 to combat desertification.

"Our province is planning to plant at least 70 million trees by 2030 within the framework of the 'Billion Trees' national tree-planting campaign initiated by Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh," said Nasanbuyan Enkhbat, deputy governor of the province, on Monday.

The provincial governor's office is urging every household to plant at least nine trees and every organization at least 90.

Last year, Mongolia launched a nationwide tree-planting campaign as President Khurelsukh told the United Nations General Assembly that the campaign could combat climate change and desertification. Almost 77 per cent of Mongolian territory has been struck by desertification, according to the country's Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

Umnugovi, located in the Gobi Desert region of southern Mongolia, is one of the provinces most affected by desertification. — Xinhua

Chinese mainland registers tallest tree in Tibet

CHINESE researchers have found a 76.8-metre tree in Medog County in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, the tallest ever registered in the Chinese mainland, local authorities said Monday.

The tree, belonging to Pinus bhutanica, or Bhutan white pine, was measured by a research team led by Peking University in April. The final measurement beats the previous height record of 72 metres.

The team used laser radar, which can obtain a 3D point cloud model of the tree directly, rapidly and accurately, said Guo Qinghua, a professor at Peking University, adding that it is the most advanced method for measuring the height of trees.

The research team has found a total of eight trees measuring over 70 metres tall in the survey in Gelin Village in Medog. The height ranges from 70.2 metres to 76.8 metres.

Gesang Bachug, head of the forestry and grassland administration in Medog, said it is hoped that the collected data and analysis by researchers will shed light on the conditions and mechanisms of the tall trees' growth to offer a scientific basis for local conservation efforts. — Xinhua

Aussie conservation group hires drones to monitor species

A team of conservationists from Australian conservation group, the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC), have begun using remote control drones to track populations of native Australian wildlife.

Details of the new wildlife monitoring programme, revealed to the public on Monday, showed how drones could add a new dimension to the way conservationists monitor endangered species in Australia.

Mahalia Booth-Remmers, AWC field ecologist, told Xinhua on Monday that their tests give proof of concept to a process that could be used for conservation across Australia.

"Using a thermal drone, you've got more likelihood of actually detecting the animal and getting a more accurate population estimate," said Booth-Remmers.

"Coming up with new and innovative ways of actually surveying for our wildlife, I think is really critical."

The team's initial test saw a human-operated drone fitted with a thermal camera fly over a 480-hectare breeding area in Molly Cliffs National Park in southwest New South Wales (NSW) five separate times.

The footage was sent back to researchers who were able to determine the population of bilbies, a native Australian marsupial, with similar accuracy to traditional population monitoring methods like live-trapping which for the same area took a team of researchers five nights out in the field.

Booth-Remmers said at this stage the largest limiting factor on drone capabilities was their battery life.

"At the moment, it's limited by the battery life, which is only 20 minutes. So, you can only cover a small area, that 480 hectares was a good size, any bigger than that... and it became really difficult."

Booth-Remmers said going forward the team would be looking to scale up operations and use the method on different species. Most recently the team took their fleet of drones to Scotia, a larger reserve in NSW's north. — Xinhua

PANDEMIC WORLD

Downtown Beijing goes quiet as zero-Covid policy smothers capital

A health worker takes a swab sample from a man to be tested for Covid-19 coronavirus at a makeshift testing site along a street in Beijing on 7 May 2022. **PHOTO : AFP**

MILLIONS of people in Beijing stayed home on Monday as China's capital tries to fend off a Covid-19 outbreak with creeping restrictions on movement. Beijing residents fear they may soon find themselves in the grip of the same draconian measures that have trapped most of Shanghai's 25 million people at home for several weeks.

Officials there have said the eastern powerhouse city is winning its battle against China's worst outbreak since the pandemic began.

Yet the Shanghai lockdown has intensified, causing outrage and rare protest in the last major economy still glued to a zero-Covid policy. In Beijing, subway stations and offices were empty during rush hour Monday morning across Chaoyang — the city's most populous district — after officials stepped up a work-from-home order on Sunday over rising Covid cases.

Non-essential businesses in the district, home to 3.5 million people, were shuttered, with even the Apple store in the popular Sanlitun shopping area ordered to close after opening briefly in the morning. "I feel very uncomfortable seeing so few people around," Wang, a middle-aged cleaner waiting outside a restaurant for her shift to start, told AFP.

Beijing has reported hundreds of infections in recent weeks, with 49 new Covid-19 infections confirmed on Monday, a relatively tiny number but enough to stir restrictions in the political heart of the country. Shanghai has borne the brunt of the country's Omicron surge, with more than 500 deaths, according to official numbers. The financial hub has ordered multi-day curfews for residents of multiple neighbourhoods, according to notices seen by AFP, even as daily case numbers have dwindled into the low thousands. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

India reports 3,207 new COVID-19 cases

INDIA'S COVID-19 tally rose to 43,105,401 on Monday with 3,207 new cases registered during the past 24 hours across the country, showed the federal health ministry's latest data.

Of the new cases, 1,422 were reported from Delhi. Presently there are 5,939 active cases in the national capital, and the positivity rate stands at 4.98 per cent.

Besides, as many as 29 deaths were reported across the country due to the pandemic since Sunday morning, taking the total death toll to 524,093.

There are still 20,403 active COVID-19 cases in the country, a rise of 232 during the past 24 hours.

So far 42,560,905 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals, out of which 3,410 were discharged during the past 24 hours. — Xinhua

New Zealand reports 6,407 new community cases of COVID-19

NEW Zealand recorded 6,407 new community cases of COVID-19, the ministry of health said on Monday.

Among the new community infections, 2,066 were reported in the largest city Auckland, the ministry said in a statement.

A further two people who have travelled from overseas to New Zealand have been confirmed as having the BA.5 variant of Omicron, it said.

Both people travelled to New Zealand and subsequently returned positive RAT and PCR results. Whole-genome sequencing subsequently confirmed the BA.5 variant. Following the first BA.5 case reported on Sunday, there are now three people who are confirmed to have the variant, all of whom travelled from South Africa, the statement said.

Both BA.4 and BA.5 have been reported in Southern Africa and Europe, and both variants have been detected in Australia. The arrival of the BA.5 sub-variant in New Zealand is not unexpected, it said. — Xinhua

Australia in midst of COVID-19 reinfection wave: expert

A leading expert has warned of a COVID-19 reinfection surge across Australia in the lead-up to winter.

Adrian Esterman, an infectious diseases expert from the University of South Australia, on Monday said reinfections were on the rise as natural immunity from the peak of Australia's Omicron wave in December and January begins to wane.

Governments across Australia do not have systems in place to track reinfection rates, which Esterman said has left experts relying on data from overseas. "We can't say hand over heart the same thing's happening here, but there's no reason why we wouldn't be seeing a reasonably large number of reinfections in Australia as well," he told The Canberra Times. According to the Canberra Times, the subvariants have proved adept at avoiding immunity from vaccination or prior infection, and Australians are increasingly testing positive to COVID-19 for the second time.

Australia's rate of COVID-19 infection has remained stable at approximately 40,000 new cases per day since mid-April. In the Australian Capital Territory, the number of cases being treated in hospitals hit an all-time high of 76 on Sunday.

However, Esterman said the expected winter spike in cases would not have the same impact on the hospital system as previous waves. The federal, state and territory governments have urged all Australians to receive their influenza vaccinations to avoid the risk of a double blow to the health system. — Xinhua

Strict pandemic control in Shanghai buys time for full vaccination coverage: study

CHINESE epidemiologists said in a peer-reviewed medical journal that the strict, comprehensive pandemic control strategies in Shanghai will buy time for full vaccination coverage.

Without strict public health measures, the number of severe to critical cases and the resulting death toll could be high among unvaccinated older people, according to a study published recently in Lancet. Those measures include large-scale viral nucleic acid and antigen screening, quarantine of infected cases and close contacts in shelter hospitals and hotels, respectively, and lockdown of districts with severe outbreaks, according to the study.

The researchers from the National Research Centre for Translational Medicine and Fudan University compared the fatality rate in Hong Kong during its recent wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and that in New Zealand. In Hong Kong, the crude case fatality rate among those older than 60 years was 2.7 per cent, and 19.3 per cent of this age group has not been vaccinated. Comparatively, only 2 per cent of New Zealand's population older than 60 years has not been vaccinated, and they reported a low COVID-19 crude case fatality rate of 0.07 per cent. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

China's April exports slump to lowest in two years as virus bites

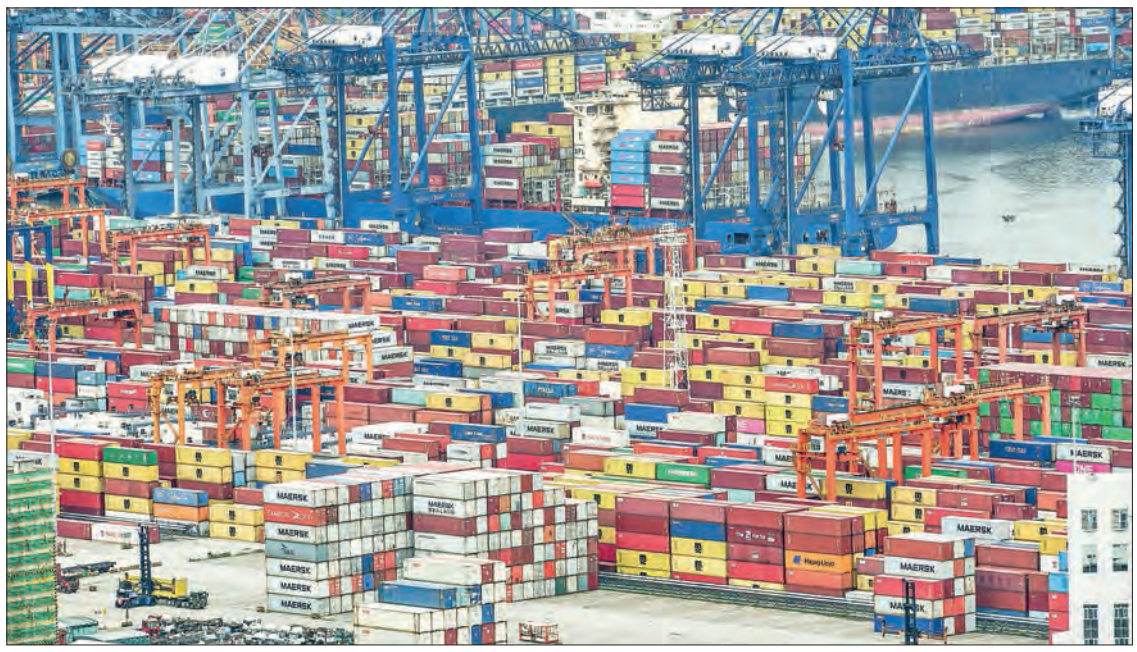
CHINA'S export growth slumped in April to its lowest level in almost two years, customs data showed Monday, as a Covid resurgence shuttered factories, sparked transport curbs and caused congestion at key ports.

The data shows the extent of growing damage to the world's second-largest economy as millions are confined to their homes — particularly in key business hub Shanghai — to stamp out its worst Covid resurgence since the early days of the pandemic.

Beijing has persisted with a strict zero-Covid policy involving lockdowns and mass testing, but the economic costs are mounting as manufacturing hubs and supply chains atrophy under gruelling restrictions.

Export growth plunged to 3.9 per cent on-year last month, the Customs Administration said Monday.

While this was above analysts' expectations of 2.7 per cent growth according to a Bloomberg poll, it marked the lowest rate since June 2020.



(FILES) This file photo taken on 22 June 2021 shows cargo containers stacked at Yantian port in Shenzhen in China's southern Guangdong province. China's export growth slumped in April to its lowest level in almost two years, customs data showed on 9 May 2022, as a Covid resurgence shuttered factories, sparked transport curbs and caused congestion at key ports. **PHOTO : AFP**

Import growth was flat in April, an improvement from a 0.1 per cent contraction in March, as Chinese consumers remain hesitant under a welter of restrictions across the country.

Customs spokesman Li Kuiwen tried to strike an upbeat note on Monday saying the economy still has room to make a turnaround and that its "positive fundamentals" remain unchanged.

But analysts are less optimistic.

"Export growth could get worse in the next couple of months due to the pandemic and China's stringent Covid containment measures, falling external demand, and loss of orders to other regions," Nomura chief China economist Ting Lu told AFP.

Export growth was among the key economic drivers of the last several quarters but could turn into a "drag" on the economy, he warned

Last month, China's trade surplus came in at $51.1 billion, according to official data.

A dilemma

In April, China's biggest city Shanghai was almost entirely sealed off as it became the epicentre of the country's worst coronavirus surge, with many factories halting production and trucker shortage causing goods to pile up at its port.

Restrictions also appear to be looming in other cities, including the capital Beijing.

"Lockdowns in large cities like Shanghai and rising input costs are major reasons" behind the underwhelming trade figures, analyst Zhaopeng Xing of ANZ Research said.— AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vietnam's cloth import up 10.3 pct in first 4 months

VIETNAM spent over 4.8 billion US dollars on cloth imports in the first four months of this year, posting a rise of 10.3 per cent year on year, according to the General Statistics Office on Monday.

Between January and April, Vietnam imported some 469,000 tonnes of cotton worth more than 1.2 billion dollars, down 18.6 per cent in volume and up 23.4 per cent in value year on year.

Over the period, the country also spent 928 million dollars importing 370,000 tonnes of yarn, up 6.1 per cent and down 9 per cent respectively year on year. Last year, Vietnam spent nearly 14.4 billion dollars importing cloth and earned more than 32.7 billion dollars from exporting garments and textiles, according to the office.— Xinhua

ECB should raise rates as soon as July: Finland bank chief

FINLAND'S central bank chief Olli Rehn said Monday the ECB would have to raise its key interest rate as soon as July, as the bloc battles soaring inflation spurred by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The ECB has kept interest rates at rock bottom over the last years to prop up a weak European economy.

But with consumer prices bounding up dramatically, calls have grown for the ECB to end its stimulus and follow other central banks in raising its key rates.

Unlike in the US where wages have risen by six per cent for the year, in Europe, the increases have been limited to between 1.5 and 2.5 per cent, Rehn noted in an interview with Welt daily.

However, he said there were already signs of such second-round effects of inflation.— AFP

Indonesia maintains steady growth in first quarter thanks to exports

INDONESIA'S economy maintained steady growth in the first quarter of 2022 despite global tensions, official data showed on Monday, as the nation reaped the benefits of soaring commodities prices and an easing of Covid restrictions.

This photo taken on 7 April 2022 shows workers transferring crude palm oil to tanker trucks at the Tanjung Emas seaport in Semarang, before being distributed to cooking oil packaging factories. **PHOTO : AFP**

Indonesia was badly affected by the coronavirus pandemic, with its exports and tourism-reliant economy taking a massive hit in 2020 as GDP shrunk by 2.07 per cent — its first recession since the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

But Southeast Asia's largest economy has picked up in recent months, and the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) on Monday reported an on-year expansion of 5.01 per cent in January-March.

"The high economic growth for the first quarter of 2022 is caused by the recovery of public activities," head of the bureau Margo Yuwono said during a press conference.

"Public mobility in the first quarter of 2022 has been really good."

Exports showed an especially impressive growth of 16.22 per cent in the first quarter of 2022 as prices for Indonesia's palm oil, nickel and tin soared on the global market.

Moody's Analytics said Indonesia's first-quarter showing exceeded their forecast.

"The result indicates that Southeast Asia's largest economy is on track to achieve the government's full-year growth target of 4.5 per cent to 5.3 per cent," it said in a note released Monday.

Indonesia in March had dropped quarantine requirements for all travellers with a negative PCR test.

It has also seen a tripling of foreign tourist arrivals between January to March this year, compared to the same period in 2021. — AFP

BIZ
WORLD/AD

"Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" tops North American box office on debut weekend

DISNEY'S presentation of Marvel's superhero film "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" took the top spot at the North American box office on its debut weekend with a three-day estimate of 185 million US dollars, according to studio figures released by measurement firm Comscore on Sunday.

It's the biggest opening weekend of any film released in North America so far this year and the second best of the COVID-19 pandemic era, only after another superhero film "Spider-Man: No Way Home," which opened with a massive 260 million dollars at the end of last year.

Based on Marvel Comics featuring the character Doctor Strange, the blockbuster is the sequel to 2016's "Doctor Strange." Directed by Sam Raimi, the film stars Benedict Cumberbatch as the title role, along with Elizabeth Olsen, Benedict Wong, Rachel McAdams, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Xochitl Gomez. Hollywood and US news outlets applauded the film's successful debut.

The film "showcases the global demand for big-screen events, premium formats, and shared experiences in a movie theater," Shawn Robbins, chief analyst at the Boxoffice website, was quoted as saying by CNBC.—Xinhua

Asian stocks tumble on global anxieties over inflation and China lockdowns

ASIAN stocks fell on Monday as investors remained anxious over inflation and the ongoing impact of China's Covid lockdown policies, despite an initial Wall Street bounce thanks to a solid US jobs report.

Global markets have taken a beating over a series of crises including surging inflation, rising interest rates, China's economic slowdown and the war in Ukraine.

Investors were given more bad news on Monday as China's April exports slumped to their lowest level in almost two years, due to Beijing's strict zero-Covid policy which has pushed millions under lockdowns and halted manufacturing hubs. Exports plunged to 3.9 per cent on-year, while imports were stagnant for April.

Chinese customs spokesman Li Kuiwen tried to strike an upbeat note by saying the economy still had room to make a turnaround but experts were less optimistic.

"Asian equities are down heavily in the red today as regional markets react to tightening Covid-19 restrictions in China and fears of a prolonged slowdown in the world's second-largest economy," Jeffrey Halley, a senior market analyst at OANDA Asia Pacific, said.

Lockdowns across dozens of Chinese cities —from the manufacturing hubs of Shenzhen and

A financial data screen in Tokyo shows the Nikkei Stock Average falling over 600 points at one point on 9 May 2022. **PHOTO : KYODO**

Shanghai to the breadbasket of Jilin—have wreaked havoc on supply chains over recent months, crushing small businesses and trapping consumers at home. The jitters reverberated across Asian equities Monday, tanking in Australia, Singapore and Seoul. Tokyo's Nikkei index closed down more than 2.5 per cent, while China's two mainland indices — Shanghai and Shenzen—saw a slight bump throughout the day. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (754N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (754N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-5-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ZIM AUSTRALIA VOY.NO. (06S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ZIM AUSTRALIA VOY.NO. (06S/N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-5-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S GOLD STAR LINES PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3208S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3208S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-5-2022** 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

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (193W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (193W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-5-2022** 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

HAPPY 46th BIRTHDAY TO SAYARMA MAYFLORA (10th May 2022)

U.S.A (Ko Ko)

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(7/2022-2023)

Open Tenders are invited for the following operation in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr. No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	OS-001 (2022-2023)	24" Yadana Offshore Domestic Gas Pipeline Intelligent Pigging	MMK

Tender Closing Date and Time : 15th July, 2022 (15:00 Hrs)

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 16th May, 2022 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Building No. 44 (Complex), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Tender Documents shall be submitted in person to Offshore Oil and Gas Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Bilding No. 44 (Complex), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar before tender closing date and time.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Phone: +95-67-411275/411331

The Global New Light of Myanmar
www.gnlm.com.mm
ကြော်ငြာရုပ်မျှားနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအေဂျင်စီမျှား ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက
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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue (3rd from L) speaks during a meeting with city assembly members in Nagasaki on 9 May 2022. **PHOTO : KYODO**

Nagasaki mayor to attend 1st UN nuclear ban meeting in June

NAGASAKI Mayor Tomihisa Taue will attend the first meeting of parties to a UN treaty banning nuclear weapons in Vienna next month to rally the global community against the use of such armaments, the city government said Monday.

"We need to raise international public opinion on halting the use of nuclear weapons," amid drastic changes to the security situation following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Taue said during a meeting with city assembly members.

His remarks came ahead of his participation in the three-day meeting of the signatory states to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons from 21 June. He will be joined by Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, who has expressed his intent to take part.

Nagasaki and Hiroshima were the two Japanese cities attacked separately by US atomic bombs in August 1945 in the final stages of World War II. Their mayors have been actively campaigning for a nuclear-free world.

Taue has been calling on the Japanese government to sign and ratify the treaty and participate in the meeting as an observer.

The Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations has also said it will send some A-bomb survivors, known in the country as hibakusha, to the June meeting.

The treaty is the first international pact outlawing the development, testing, possession and use of nuclear weapons. It came into effect in January last year with the support of many non-nuclear states.

But nuclear-weapon states, such as the United States, are not part of it, while Japan has not signed the pact due to its security alliance with the United States, which offers the shelter of its nuclear umbrella.

Concerns linger over Russia possibly using nuclear weapons during its war in Ukraine, which began in late February, although the United States has said it does not see an increased risk of Moscow doing so. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

6.3-magnitude quake strikes off Taiwan's coast

A 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Taiwan on Monday afternoon, the US Geological Survey said, with buildings in capital Taipei sent swaying. Local television news said the shake was felt across the island, though there were no immediate reports of damage.

According to USGS, the offshore quake hit at a depth of 27 kilometres (17 miles), about 70 kilometres southwest of Yonakuni, a Japanese island just off Taiwan. Taiwan and the surrounding area are regularly hit by earthquakes as they sit near the junction of two tectonic plates.

In March, a 6.7-magnitude earthquake that struck off Taiwan's eastern coast rattled buildings and roused people from their sleep, leaving one injured and causing a half-constructed bridge in the island's east to collapse. — AFP

Jetliner aborts landing in Mexico to avoid another plane

A jetliner attempting to land in Mexico City aborted its approach at the last second to avoid hitting a plane taxiing on the runway, an airline official said Sunday. Video circulating on social media showed the near-miss involving two Airbus jets belonging to low-cost Mexican carrier Volaris Saturday night at Benito Juarez Airport, the busiest in Latin America.

The airline did not disclose the flight numbers, exact model of aircraft or how many passengers were aboard.

"Thanks to the training of our pilots ... no passenger or crew member was at risk during the incident reported the night of 7 May," Volaris CEO Enrique Beltranea wrote on Twitter. Mexican news organizations said Victor Hernandez Sandoval, a senior communications ministry official who redesigned air traffic patterns over the sprawling city so it could operate two airports, had tendered his resignation. The video shows one plane about to land when it suddenly pulls up to avoid hitting the jetliner taxiing on the ground.

Because of saturation at the current facility, the previous government began construction of a second airport in Texcoco, a suburb of the city. — AFP

Iran says EU nuclear coordinator to visit this week

THE European Union's coordinator for talks between Iran and world powers over restoring a 2015 nuclear deal will visit Tehran this week, Iran's foreign ministry said Monday.

"The agenda for talks (with Enrique Mora) in Tehran is nearly finalised," foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said at a weekly press briefing.

"He will meet with Ali Bagheri, the Islamic Republic of Iran's chief nuclear negotiator."

The date of Mora's arrival in Iran's capital has not been confirmed, but local press reported he is expected on Tuesday.

The 2015 deal gave Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear programme to guarantee that it could not develop a nuclear weapon, something Tehran has always denied wanting to do.

It was agreed between Iran and the five permanent United Nations Security Council members China, Russia, the United States, United Kingdom and France, alongside Germany.

But the US unilaterally withdrew in 2018 under then-president Donald Trump and reimposed biting economic sanctions, prompting Iran to begin rolling back its own commitments.

Talks in Vienna have over the last year focused on bringing the US back into the deal and lifting its sanctions, while ensuring Tehran's full adherence to its own commitments.

Adversaries for decades, Iran and the US have been engaged in negotiations only indirectly, even while Tehran has negotiated directly with the remaining parties to the deal. Tehran and Washington have been exchanging views through the EU's Mora. The Vienna talks have been stalled since March. — AFP

An unidentified International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspector disconnects the connections between the twin cascades for 20 per cent uranium production at nuclear research centre of Natanz, some 300 kilometres south of Tehran on 20 January 2014 as Iran halted production of 20 per cent enriched uranium, marking the coming into force of an interim deal with world powers on its disputed nuclear programme. **PHOTO : KAZEM GHANE / IRNA / AFP**

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Marcos Jr leads in Philippine presidential election as votes counted

FORMER senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr, the son and namesake of the late Philippine dictator, was in the lead Monday evening as votes were being tallied in the Philippines' presidential election.

The elections to pick the country's new leaders, including the vice president, were held amid hopes they will guide Southeast Asia's third-largest economy as it navigates a recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

Marcos Jr was ahead of opposition candidate and Vice-President Leni Robredo by 10.5 million votes, with 61 per cent of the votes counted, according to local television station GMA.

Polling stations closed at 7 pm, but those already in line were allowed to vote past the deadline.

Marcos Jr has vowed to carry on President Rodrigo Duterte's policies, including his anti-drug campaign that has seen thousands of innocent people reportedly killed. In contrast, as a human rights lawyer, Robredo has criticized the so-called war on drugs. Recent pre-election surveys had shown Marcos Jr holding a wide lead over Robredo.

Popularly known as Bongbong, Marcos Jr, 64, is running with Sara Duterte-Carpio, the daughter of Duterte, as his vice-presidential running mate. Sara Duterte-Carpio, 43, is considered a shoo-in as vice-president. While the Marcos-Duterte alliance has plenty of support, some victims of the atrocities committed while Marcos senior was in power have expressed concerns. The dictator's 21-year-long administration was marked by rampant human rights abuses, torture, killings and embezzlement until he was overthrown by the 1986 pro-democracy "people power" revolution. During the election campaign, Marcos Jr said he will focus on promoting small and medium-sized businesses and agriculture as well as accelerating industrialization, as his father's government had worked on the areas in the 1970s. Although the Philippines faces its deepest economic downturn since the 1980s and a record high debt of 12.68 trillion pesos ($242 billion), Marcos Jr has said the Philippines is in a "relatively good position" in terms of the ratio between debt and gross domestic product. Meanwhile, Robredo, who is also an economist, pledged to work for more efficient tax collection and provide a three-month subsidy as well as vocational training for the unemployed. She has gained endorsement from a number of economists for her "solid" career in economics and the law.

Other presidential candidates include retired boxing star Sen. Manny Pacquiao, Manila Mayor Francisco Domagoso and Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former national police chief. — Kyodo

Former senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr exits a polling station in Batac in the Philippines on 9 May 2022. **PHOTO : KYODO**

Mexican President presses for end to US sanctions on Cuba

MEXICO'S President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador called Sunday for an end to US sanctions against Cuba as he concluded a migration-themed tour of Central America and the Caribbean.

During the trip, which has also taken him to Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Belize, Lopez Obrador urged the United States — where many migrants are headed — to help solve underlying economic problems fuelling the wave.

Cuba has seen its own exodus accelerate, with more than 78,000 of its nationals arriving in the US via Mexico from October 2021 to March this year, according to US customs data.

The wave has been fuelled by the communist nation's worst economic crisis in nearly three decades, which it blames in large part on six decades of US sanctions that were tightened under Donald Trump.

On Sunday, Lopez Obrador said he would continue to insist that the United States lift what he called a blockade against the island nation.

Many thousands of US-bound undocumented migrants, most of them Central Americans, cross Mexico's southern frontier with Guatemala each year fleeing poverty and violence.

In 2021 alone, Mexican authorities detected more than 300,000 irregular migrants.

US Customs and Border Protection officials have registered 7,800 undocumented migrants a day along the border with Mexico in recent weeks — almost five times the average in 2014-2019. Lopez Obrador argued on his trip that migration from Latin America was "the result of the difficult conditions in our countries, from the Rio Grande to the south."

"The will of Latin Americans is not enough; we also need the United States to become clearly involved in solving a problem that also affects it and to contribute to financing job creation projects," he said in Honduras.

And in El Salvador, Lopez Obrador argued that "the United States, a protagonist of the migration phenomenon, must, therefore, be jointly responsible for solving it, modifying its migration policy."— AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Putin calls Russia's military operation in Ukraine "right decision"

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Monday stressed the "special military operation" in Ukraine was the "only right decision" for his country during a speech at an annual event to mark the 77th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in World War II.

In a public address during Victory Day celebrations at Red Square in central Moscow, Putin justified sending troops into Ukraine as a "pre-emptive rebuff to aggression" from member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, saying the security bloc had created an "absolutely unacceptable threat".

Again labelling the Russian invasion a "special military operation," he did not use the highly symbolic anniversary to formally declare war on Ukraine as some had expected.

More than two months after invading Ukraine, Putin instead blamed the West for not responding to Russia's calls for "honest dialogue", and criticized the provision of weaponry and other military equipment to Ukraine.

His speech was followed by a military parade featuring around 11,000 troops and around 130 military vehicles, including new tanks and intercontinental ballistic missile launchers. — Kyodo

Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a military parade during the 77th anniversary of the Victory Day in Red Square in Moscow on 9 May 2022. **PHOTO : ANADOLU AGENCY/GETTY/KYODO**

West continues to ramp up sanctions on Russia, increase strain on global economy

THE United States and its Western allies on Sunday announced new sanctions against Russia over the Ukraine crisis, a move that aims to further cripple Moscow's economy but poses severe challenges for global economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Group of Seven (G7) said Sunday that the bloc will phase out or ban the import of Russian oil following a video conference.

According to its statement, the group will carry out the oil ban over a period of time in order to find alternative supplies. It will also take further actions against Russian banks, and continue sanctions against additional individuals.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky attended the G7 meeting, during which he asked the Western countries to provide more weapons and financial support for Ukraine. Zelensky said Ukraine is interested in getting the M142 high mobility artillery rocket system and M270 multiple launch rocket system from the G7 countries, the presidential press service reported. — Xinhua

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

(a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.

(b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

(c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

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

(b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international inves tment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.

(c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

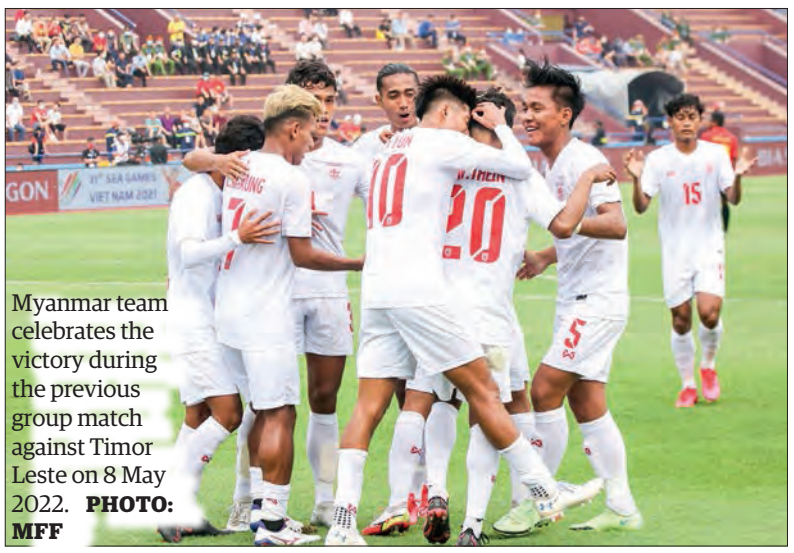
3. Social affairs

(a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.

(b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.

(c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

SEA Games Men's Football: Myanmar to face the Philippines today



Myanmar team celebrates the victory during the previous group match against Timor Leste on 8 May 2022. **PHOTO: MFF**

MYANMAR men's national football team will play against the Philippines today in the Group A match of the SEA Games men's football tournament which is being held in Viet Nam.

Team Myanmar match will be played at 3:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time. Similarly, Indonesia will take on Timor-Leste at 6:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

Today's two matches are crucial for each of the four teams, with Indonesia and Timor-Leste still looking to advance to the next round.

Myanmar beat Timor-Leste in the opening match, but will likely struggle in this match due to the Philippines' ability.

As the Philippines drew Viet Nam in the previous match, the Myanmar team will only be able to advance to the next stage if the performance is better than in the first match.

Team Myanmar needs to win two games in a row before meeting Indonesia, and Viet Nam to have a semifinal dream.

"We will continue to watch the performance and tactics of Myanmar head coach Popov. Those who play in foreign clubs are trained in tactics, so good results can only be obtained by adapting the method," a team Myanmar fan said.

Myanmar has collected three points in the previous group match against Timor-Leste. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Milan close in on title glory after Tonali double sinks Verona

SANDRO Tonali fired AC Milan closer to the Serie A title with a brace in Sunday's 3-1 win at Verona which maintained their two-point lead over Inter Milan at the top of the league.

Italy midfielder Tonali struck with almost identical goals created by Rafael Leao either side of half-time before Alessandro Florenzi completed the scoring near the end to leave Milan needing four points from their final two games to claim a first Scudetto since 2011.

Their superior record in this season's Milan derbies gives the seven-time European champions an advantage which would keep them ahead of champions Inter should the two local rivals end the season level on points.

"I'm in love with my players," said coach Stefano Pioli to DAZN. "I see the effort they put in every day and I know the journey we've been on... we've got to keep this concentration, determination and belief in the final two games."

Milan overcame the toughest test of their run-in against ninth-placed Verona and now host Europe-chasing Atalanta next weekend before travelling to Sassuolo on the closing weekend of what has been an enthralling campaign.

Inter meanwhile are in Sardinia on Sunday against a Cagliari team fighting for its Serie A life, with their final opponents Sampdoria and the small matter of the Italian Cup final against Juventus on Wednesday further complicating matters. — AFP

SEA Games Women's Football: Myanmar to play Laos today

MYANMAR national women's football team will take on the Laos team today at the SEA Games women's football tournament which is being held in Viet Nam.

Team Myanmar match will start at 3:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time, while the other match: Thailand versus Singapore will be also played at 6:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

Team Myanmar needs to score more goals in the matches against Laos and Singapore. Myanmar will face Thailand for the first place in the group stage.

It is not difficult to get a full point if the Myanmar team can take advantage of the opportunities that are concentrated in the opening matches, Myanmar team officials said.

Seven teams are competing in the women's football tournament with Myanmar in Group B with Thailand, Singapore and Laos while host Viet Nam is falling in Group A with the Philippines and Cambodia.

Strikers Win Theingi Tun, July Kyaw and Myat Noe Khin will be in the Myanmar team line-up in the upcoming matches, team officials added. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Myanmar women's footballers pose for a group photo during their training session. **PHOTO: MFF**