

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.

Thrifty measures will control high commodities prices on one hand: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting 2/2022 of the Union government in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 March 2022.

MINISTRIES and region and state authorities should avoid seeking profits by applying authority and must focus on serving the interests

of the nation without political scandals, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 2/2022 of the

Union government at the SAC Chairman office yesterday morning.

In his speech, the Senior General said that individual oil consumption is high in My-

anmar. Hence, he noted that it is necessary to reduce oil consumption while ministries and chief ministers need to seek the best way for increased production of edible oil. If ed-

ible oil crops are grown on all cultivable lands through double cropping, the per-acre yield of edible oil crops will increase.

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Young Men's Buddhist Association Statement

14th Waning of Taboung 1383 ME
30 March 2022

THE Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) that led Myanmar's independence was established in 1906. The association is making efforts in spreading the 38-principle Mingala Sutta discourse across the nation.

People living in Myanmar have great Metta (loving-kindness) and long for peace.

Currently, PDF terrorist groups perpetrate mine attacks on pagodas and kill innocent monks, people, government employees, teachers and passengers daily due to the incitement of internal and external unscrupulous groups.

The YMBA issues this statement by strongly condemning the PDF terrorist groups and any other groups that destroy the State's stability.

*Central Executive Committee
Young Men's Buddhist Association (Central)*

Interfaith Friendship Association (Central) Statement

14th Waning of Taboung 1383 ME
30 March 2022

THE Interfaith Friendship Association (Central) is an organization that works to unite different religious communities living in Myanmar to be friendly as a brotherhood and to know the gratitude of the country.

In the meantime, PDF terrorist groups kill innocent people, government employees and teachers and commit mine attacks on passengers daily due to the incitement of internal and external unscrupulous groups.

The Interfaith Friendship Association (Central) has issued this statement by strongly condemning any terrorist groups and PDF terrorist groups that destroy the peace and stability of the country.

*Central Executive Committee
The Interfaith Friendship Association (Central)*

Myanmar Artists Association (Central) Statement

14th Waning of Taboung 1383 ME
30 March 2022

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar boasts of natural landscapes and historical heritage buildings. Therefore, it receives both local and foreign travellers constantly.
2. The tourism industry supports the revenue of the country. The five-point road map of the State Administration Council states that actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19. Therefore, the SAC is making efforts to recover the local/foreign tourism services hit by COVID-19 and improve the tourism industry.
3. An artistes group consisting of famous performers were sent to the historic Gokteik viaduct in PyinOoLwin Township of Mandalay Region for making photo shooting and films to invite local and foreign travellers via news media.
4. The DDUEZ 12370 train with DF-2078 locomotive containing two upper-class carriages, one ordinary class carriage and one brake carriage carrying the artistes left for PyinOoLwin railway station from Gokteik viaduct on 29 March 2022 and was exploded by PDF terrorists when it arrived between Gangaw village and Sinlansu village at 3:45 pm.
5. While the government is making concerted efforts to boost the tourism industry by showcasing its natural landscapes and historical heritage sites, the terrorists perpetrated destructive acts and mine attacks. Therefore, the Myanmar Artists Association has issued this statement by strongly condemning such bomb attacks together with the people who want peace and stability in the State.

Myanmar Artists Association (Central)

Myanmar Motion Picture Organization's denunciation on terrorist acts

WE have heard about the terrorist attack on the artistes who returned after filming to boost Myanmar tourism near Nawng-hkio Township in Shan State (North) on 29 March 2022.

The Myanmar Motion Picture Organization strongly condemns this terrorist act against the artistes who have always loved the people.

Myanmar Motion Picture Organization

Myanmar Writers Association Statement

A group of artistes who went to PyinOoLwin by train to film television programmes to entertain the people in the country was attacked by a remote-controlled mine by the terrorists on the evening of 29 March 2022 on their way back.

We have learned that no one was injured in the incident.

We strongly reject and condemn every terrorist act committed by the terrorists.

Myanmar Writers Association

173 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 30 March, total figure rises to 611,448

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **611,448** after **173** new cases were reported on 30 March 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **589,001** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **19,430** without casualties.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 29-3-2022, a total of **26,770,823** people have been vaccinated. Of them, **21,886,140** people have been fully vaccinated, **4,884,683** people are yet to get the second shots and **1,069,672** people have received booster jabs.—MNA

The right of citizens can only be claimed if there is no destructive elements

- Individual human rights include respect for each other; Appreciation is the most important thing. Citizens can also claim their rights if they have a country.
- Despite the destruction of the country, there is no example in the world that protects the rights of individual citizens. The right of citizens can only be claimed if there is no destructive elements.

(Excerpt from the speech made by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on one-year State responsibilities discharged by the State Administration Council)

Thrifty measures will control high commodities prices ...

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Concerning the agriculture sector, the Senior General said: “We have to efficiently utilize the farmlands with per-acre yield and then strive for increasing the per-acre yield. We have to seek good quality strains of crops. The Agricultural Research Department is taking responsibility for conducting agricultural research. It identifies the quality strains as their results. It can be used on a commercial scale. The whole country grows 15 million acres of paddy, including monsoon and hybrid paddy. For example, two each strains from regions and states, totalling 28 plus two from Nay Pyi Taw must be produced. It is not enough to just research and their findings. It needs to lead the ways how to implement it. Will the State implement it? If so, how does the State manage it? Now, demonstration covers the display of research but it does not comprise a wider scale of works. All staff have in nature when they will do everything under the management of the superior level. I’d like to remove it. They all have to culture the spirit of how to

do everything for their regions.

Regarding sunflower, it has domestic high yield strains and hybrid strains. I observe the hybrid strain yields 50 baskets per acre and domestic strains some 25-26 baskets per acre. So, we need to choose the hybrid strain. How can we do it? How can we seek the strains? It will be done by the State. If so, how shall we do it? How shall private businesspersons do it? Importantly, we have to do everything practically.”

The Senior General stressed the need to do cultivation of seasonal crops and operate river water pumping stations with solar power as well as strive for the development of the nation.

The Senior General urged all to implement generating of electricity through solar power in respective regions in order to reduce the supply of electricity from the national grid. Currently, electrification must be implemented with solar power while efforts must be made for timely completion of the electric power projects within two or three years.

It is necessary to increase the export volume and reduce

the import of edible oil and fuel as much as possible, the Senior General noted.

The Senior General also noted that only when the people receive vaccination for COVID-19 will it take the preventive measure against the disease infection to some extent. Hence, the vaccination process must be carried out in respective areas under the proper security measures, he added.

Ministries and region and state authorities should avoid seeking profits by applying authority and must focus on serving the interests of the nation without political scandals. Region and state chief ministers were urged to make efforts for doing nation-building endeavours as the good records in the tenure of the current government.

Before the speech of the Senior General, Union ministers for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Electricity and Energy, Commerce and Health reported on changes in agricultural techniques for increasing per-acre yield, the establishment of a special zone for edible oil crops, plans to generate electricity from hydropower, wind

Currently, electrification must be implemented with solar power while efforts must be made for timely completion of the electric power projects within two or three years. It is necessary to increase the export volume and reduce the import of edible oil and fuel as much as possible.

power, recycle and solar power projects, cross-border interconnection projects and electrification in regions and states, efforts to reduce import volume of palm oil and to stabilize the price of palm oil, and arrangements to vaccinate students under 12 in 2022-2023 academic year.

In conclusion, the Senior General said officials must supervise thrifty measures for all expenses of the ministries as much as possible. The thrifty measures will control the high prices of commodities on one

hand. He highlighted that all courses of universities will be reopened in May 2022 for the attendance of students who passed the 2019-2020 academic year matriculation examination. As those students will be posed various threats not attending universities, preparations must be made to take security measures. Moreover, the Senior General said regions and states have been allowed to organize this year’s Thingyan festival as COVID-19 can be placed under control to some extent. — MNA

Myanmar receives COVAX Facility-donated CoronaVac (Sinovac) vaccines

MYANMAR received 2,242,800 doses of CoronaVac (Sinovac) COVID-19 vaccines donated by the Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization-GAVI (COVAX Facility) yesterday evening.

The vaccines were transported by a flight from Sichuan Airlines 3U 3929 and were sys-

tematically received by Myanmar officials at the Yangon International Airport.

It is reported that the vaccines will be kept under a specified temperature and will be used in the vaccination programme implemented by the Ministry of Health. — MNA



Crates of the CoronaVac vaccines are unloaded at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

MIC meeting approves seven new projects including power plant construction project



THE Myanmar Investment Commission held the meeting (2/2022) yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw. The meeting was attended by State Administration Council Member Myanmar Investment Commission Chairman Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and the commission members.

The meeting approved seven new projects from the hotels and tourism sector, industry and services sectors and electricity and energy sector, including a

capital increase of 12 ongoing investment projects. These projects are worth US\$85.759 million and K43,327.455 million and will create job opportunities for local workers.

The projects approved by yesterday's meeting included the construction of a 20-megawatt solar power plant during the six-month construction period.

As of March 2022 from October 2021, 48 foreign-invested companies were approved with US\$684.686 million investment in Myanmar. As for Myanmar citizen investment, 38 businesses were approved with a total of K468,393.528 million and 42,880 jobs were created. — MNA

SAC Member MIC Chairman Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun attends the meeting 2/2022 yesterday.

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin participates in 5th BIMSTEC Summit via videoconference

ON behalf of the Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of Myanmar, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, participated in the 5th BIMSTEC Summit via videoconference from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw which was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in hybrid mode at 10:05 am on 30 March 2022.

The Summit was also attended by the Heads of State/Governments of other BIMSTEC Member States which are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand, and the Secretary-General of BIMSTEC.

At the Summit, Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka made the opening remarks, and other Leaders of BIMSTEC Member States also delivered their statements.

The Union Minister stated in his statement that it was a great honour to attend the Summit on behalf of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of Myanmar. He congratulated the host, Sri Lanka, for its dedication to convening the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit which has set a historic milestone of BIMSTEC cooperation by signing the BIMSTEC Charter and other important agreements. He underscored

that BIMSTEC has entered into a new era through the signing of the BIMSTEC Charter which ensures BIMSTEC to be a rule-based organization. He mentioned that the Charter has reaffirmed the long-standing principles of BIMSTEC such as the principles of sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful co-existence, mutual respect and consensus. He highlighted that the principle of sovereign equality has at direct correlation with mutual trust, confidence and understanding of the cooperation mechanism by the Member States. He expressed his confidence that a strong "Regional Resilient" against the backdrop of global economic recession can be built through the collective power of BIMSTEC based on the solidarity of seven Member States of BIMSTEC.

He also underscored that terrorism is an unacceptable affront to all humanity and must condemn all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, which cannot be justified under any circumstances, regardless of their motivation, forms and manifestations, wherever and whoever committed. He welcomed the entry into force of the "BIMSTEC Convention on Cooperation in Combatting International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Traffick-



The virtual fifth BIMSTEC Summit in progress.

ing" and the signing of the "BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters" during the Summit. He congratulated Thailand for taking responsibility for the next Chair of BIMSTEC cooperation and assured Myanmar's full support and active cooperation.

At the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit, the Leaders of BIMSTEC Member States signed the BIMSTEC Charter virtually and displayed the signed page on the screen. The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs also displayed the signed page of the Charter by the Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing simul-

taneously with other BIMSTEC Leaders.

At the Summit, three legal instruments; BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, BIMSTEC Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Cooperation in the Field of Diplomatic Training among the Diplomatic Academies/Training Institutions of the Member States and Memorandum of Association on the Establishment of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility (TTF) were also signed. On behalf of Myanmar, U Han Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka signed those three legal instruments at the Summit in Colombo.

The Summit also approved the reconstituted Sectors and Sub-Sectors of BIMSTEC Cooperation and adopted the BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity. According to the reconstituted structure in the BIMSTEC, Myanmar will be the Lead Country in the Agricultural and Food Security Sector.

Then, Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka handed over the chairmanship of BIMSTEC to General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Retd), Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The Declaration of the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit was issued at the end of the Meeting by consensus.—MNA

MoBA Union Minister receives UNHCR Resident Representative in Myanmar

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung received Ms Hai Kyung Jun, Resident Representative of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Myanmar yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting cordially discussed the activities for the stabilization, development, socio-economic development and the development of human resources of the ethnic people living in the border areas; cooperation done between the Ministry of Border Affairs and the UNHCR; the repatriation and resettlement processes implemented by the

Rakhine State Coordinating Committee on Peace and Stability and Development; the development status and future implementation plans by the National-Level Committee on Resettlement and Closure of Temporary Camps for Internally Displaced Persons which is working effectively by forming state-level committees, in addition to the five working committees. — MNA

Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung receives Ms Hai Kyung Jun, UNHCR Resident Representative in Myanmar, yesterday.



MoRAC Union Minister joins virtual Puppet Festival of Lancang-Mekong

THE opening ceremony of the Puppet Festival of Lancang-Mekong was virtually organized at Mya Nan Bon San Yadanabon Hall in Mandalay yesterday.

The ceremony was joined by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko, Mandalay Region Social Affairs Minister U Yin Htwe, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai, officials of Foreign Affairs of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Committee, the Lancang-Mekong Puppet

Festival Organizing Committee, Rector, Pro-Rectors, faculty members of the National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay), puppetry experts of Myanmar, Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam among others.

In his opening speech, Union Minister U Ko Ko said that along the Mekong-Lancang River basin, China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam have coexisted on the Mekong River and the interests

of young people in the traditional puppetry industry, intangible cultural heritage of regional countries become lower. It also faces a lot of difficulties and it should share the puppetry techniques and conduct awareness programmes of traditions for the regional countries and youths.

Therefore, the Puppet Festival of Lancang-Mekong, including demonstration and paper-reading sessions, were organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture

and the National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay) on 30 and 31 March with six puppeteers from each of six Mekong-Lancang countries.

The puppet festival will improve trust among young artistes of Mekong-Lancang region countries, mutual respect, cooperation works and exchange of creative ideas.

Then, Mandalay Region Social Affairs Minister U Yin Htwe, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai and of-

icials of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Committee made greeting speeches.

The puppeteers entertained the Natkadaw (medium) dance, Zawgyi dance, marionette and man dance and yokethay dance with Lancang-Mekong honorary songs. Then, the marionette artists from the respective countries explored the techniques and read the papers.

The second day of the Puppet Festival of Lancang-Mekong will be held on 31 March. — MNA

MoC facilitates daily imports of essential anti-COVID-19 equipment

THE Ministry of Commerce is overseeing the importation of essential medical supplies plus anti-COVID devices that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, through trading posts, international airports and seaports.

A total of 35 tonnes of masks carried by five vehicles were imported via the Chinshwehaw trading post yesterday.

Officials from the relevant departments are cooperating to facilitate and expedite the standard operating procedures for the import process.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments and treatment of COVID-19 as well as contact persons for enquiries can be reached through the Ministry's Website — www.commerce.gov.mm. — MNA



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Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture attends online 27th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Ministers Meeting



The 27th ASEAN Socio Cultural Community Council Ministers Meeting is held by Cambodia virtually yesterday.

CAMBODIA hosted the 27th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council (ASCC) Ministers Meeting via videoconferencing yesterday.

The event was joined by the Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko.

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Ministers Meeting was presided by Dr Hang Chuon Naron, Minister

for Education, Youth and Sport of Cambodia. In his speech, he said Cambodia has a strong belief in ASEAN values holding unity and economic connectivity in accordance with the 2022 Theme-ASEAN A.C.T: Addressing Challenges Together during the chairmanship. The priorities, initial steps and completions of ASCC this year can support the common aims. The results of the coming 40th and

41st ASEAN summits will reflect the objectives and achievements of ASCC. He also talked about the emergency health issue, natural disasters, equal education in the post-COVID-19 period, energy and food security, information, cybersecurity and challenges.

Then, Senior Officer of Education, Youth and Sports Ministry of Cambodia Dr Dy Khamboly reported on the report of

the 32nd ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Senior Officials Meeting.

During the 27th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Ministers Meeting, they discussed the priority sectors of Cambodia during the term of chairmanships such as improvement of ASEAN standards, awareness and characteristics, human resource development and women empowerment, promotion of health, prosperity and social protection for ASEAN people, ability and effectiveness of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, strategic plans of ASCC, approval of reports to be submitted at the 40th and 41st ASEAN summits, joint declaration (draft) of the 27th ASCC, Reopen, Recover, and Resilience in Education of ASEAN member countries and nine reports for the 40th and 41st ASEAN summits, another 23 reports and meeting minutes

of the 27th ASCC.

Union Minister U Ko Ko then appreciated the 2022ASEAN chairmanship of Cambodia expressing the willingness to implement the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and the Hanoi Declaration of ASEAN Community post-2025 Vision for ASCC.

He also added that it also reaches halfway to the 2025 ASEAN Community due to cooperation works of member countries in line with the rule and regulations of ASEAN and the support of the ASEAN Secretariat.

He agreed with the supportive activities for ASCC and priority sectors of Cambodia and welcomed the proper drive in the capacity and effectiveness of the ASCC, and he continued that Myanmar agrees with the declarations to be submitted to the 40th and 41st ASEAN summits. —MNA

Myanmar attends 5th CoP, 32nd ASEAN SOCA meetings

MYANMAR attends the 5th meeting of the Working Group on Culture of Prevention (5th CoP) and the 32nd ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Socio-Cultural Community (32nd SOCA) organized by Cambodia, the current Chair of the ASEAN in 2022, on 28 and 29 March through video conferencing.

The meetings were attended by Director-General U Aung Myint, Senior Officer of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (SOCA Leader), Department of Historical Research and National Library, and delegation.

The 5th CoP meeting discussed posting the CoP's

development background for the benefit of researchers and ASEAN stakeholders, the status of the CoP's Plan of Action, a review of the activities of the leading and co-working groups concerning the CoP, the proposal of the "Evidence of a Culture of Prevention in Action" to access the value of the CoP in accelerating the implementation of the CoP Declaration, the establishment of the Evidence Building in the ASEAN Culture of Prevention, and the publishing of the Development of Strategy Playbook-CoP.

At the 32nd SOCA meeting, the participants discussed the ongoing status of the recommendations emerged from

the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Map 2025 Mid-Year Assessment Report, multi-sectoral cooperation, establishment of an inter-pillar organizational mechanism such as the ASEAN 4IR Task Force Group, implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, to send a facts finding mission led by ASEAN officials to Timor-Leste in June regarding the application for ASEAN membership, current implementation plan of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025, issues related to the implementation off the ASEAN Research and Development Platforms, establishment of ASEAN AID,



selection of experts who will participate in the Development of Feasibility Study on the Proposed ASEAN Institute for Policy Studies, implementation of ASEAN SHIELD, activities to

be carried out by the three pillars regarding High Level Task Force-HLTF, and related plans for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Pillar for 2022. — MNA



Horse ride at Kanbawzathadi Palace

THE officials prepare horses at the well-known Kanbawzathadi Palace in the Bago Region horseback riding activity in the palace compound for fun at K3,000 and the visitors can posed for photos with the horses.

"The horse riding will start from the dining building to the palace at the side of the museum. It will cost K6,000 if the people have a joy ride on the horseback around the Myaynanpyatike (backyard of the palace)," said a horse handler.

The visitors can ride the horses on religious significant days and weekends. They can ride bicycles in the palace compound and take commemorative photos.

The palace area is also crowded with couples who take pre-wedding photos and people celebrating birthdays daily.

The Kanbawzathadi palace is open to the public daily from 9 am to 5 pm. — Maung Yin Oo/GNLM

Myanmar earns over \$233 mln from rice export in first half of mini-budget period

MYANMAR earned over US\$233 million from rice export in the first three months of the mini-budget period of 2021-22, down over US\$5 million compared to that of the same period of the previous FY, according to a press release of the Central Statistical Organization under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

In the 2021-2022FY, Myanmar earned about \$233.5 million. But the 2020-2021FY saw Myanmar having received \$238.9 million from rice export.

In February 2022, Myanmar shipped about 100,000 tonnes through a maritime route. Among them, the country exported rice mostly to the Philippines with over 33,000 tonnes, according to the Ministry of



In the 2021-2022FY, Myanmar earned about \$233.5 million. But the 2020-2021FY saw Myanmar having received \$238.9 million from rice export.

Commerce.

In February, the country

exported over 100,000 million tonnes of rice through maritime

routes, earning nearly US\$33 million. Myanmar exported over

41,800 tonnes of rice to Asian countries, about 35,300 tonnes to Africa and over 22,300 tonnes to EU member states.

From 1 to 28 February, Myanmar exported over 11,000 tonnes of rice to China and about 15 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh through the border route, earning \$3.545 million.

In February 2022, the country exported over 191,600 tonnes of rice and low-grade rice to international markets through maritime and border routes, generating about \$61.117 million.

The 2020-2021 FY saw the country export rice and broken rice with revenue amounting to over \$700.13 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

— Aye Cho/GNLM

Chrysanthemum growers earn regular income in Kyaikmaraw



The wholesale price of chrysanthemum is K800 per five flowers. The price of flowers could change depending upon the size.

THE farmers from Peinnegon village from Kyaikmaraw township is growing chrysanthemum flowers in their village on a manageable scale and earning daily income by selling them, it is learnt.

The chrysanthemum flowers in Peinnegon village are mostly grown for income generation for the families. The flowers started growing in August. After growing for 90 days, they are ready to harvest and sell it in the market, according to chrysanthemum growers.

Those chrysanthemum seeds are bought at the seed shops in Mawlamyine and replanted with the sowing of the seed. Now, the growers are earning a regular income by growing them. Now, some are growing the chrysanthemum plantations on

a trial basis and their farmlands have met with success, said Daw Chit Su, a commercial grower of chrysanthemum plants.

The most important thing in growing flowers is to water them a lot. For the growth of plants, the plants need to be sprayed with fertilizer. At present, the weather is so hot that the flowers can be damaged within a short period. So, the growers need to water once in the morning and once in the evening.

The wholesale price of chrysanthemum is K800 per five flowers. The price of flowers could change depending upon the size.

Chrysanthemum is a member of the Compositae family and it is available in a wide range of brilliant colours, shapes and sizes. — Cho Myat Myat Htwe (Kyaikmaraw)/GNLM

Unripen mangoes wrapped in plastic bags in Kanbalu, Kyunhla townships

THE mango farm owners started to wrap unripen mangoes in plastic bags in Kanbalu and Kyunhla townships in Sagaing Region to protect them from the pest.

“Mango growers are spraying the trees with the pesticide. They have wrapped the unripe mango in plastic bags. The growers are exchanging information and closely observing the market situations as the watermelon export market collapsed in the cross-border between Myanmar and China,” said U Than Tun Oo.

“This year, the input cost for the bags increased, posing a burden on the growers. The growers can take the bags in

debt. Now, the instability of the market allowed the buyers to cash down only. The growers are trying to reap profits,” he continued.

Over 100 mango growers in Kanbalu and Kyunhla townships execute over 3,000 acres. They prioritize quality Seintalone mango variety farming. Myanmar delivers the Seintalone mango variety to China market through the Muse border post every year.

“The harvest season will start after 15 May. The mangoes will be sent to Muse, Yangon and Mandalay cities. They primarily rely on the Muse market. If there’s a trade barrier in Muse, the growers can suffer loss. When China

reopens cross-border posts, the market can raise its head for sure,” U Than Tun Oo was quoted as saying.

This year, the blossom of mango trees is late a bit and so does the harvest season, he added.

“The market fallout of watermelon raised the concerns if the mango growers either. About two-thirds of growers’ group do their farming activity regularly in the hope of market recovery,” he elaborated.

Of over 3,000 mango acres, 1,400 acres of 27 growers in Kanbalu and Kyunhla townships conduct good agricultural practices. The growers are trying to seek a GAP certificate in 2022 as well. — Lu Lay/GNLM



Of over 3,000 mango acres, 1,400 acres of 27 growers in Kanbalu and Kyunhla townships conduct good agricultural practices. The growers are trying to seek a GAP certificate in 2022 as well.

Turn out qualified health personnel in the operating of the health sector

AS SOME 70 per cent of the population are residing in the rural area of the nation, nurses and midwives are closely taking responsibility for providing health care services to those rural people. It is necessary to turn out qualified nurses and midwives for deployment in rural areas because they are basic strata in relation to the people in order to combat seasonal diseases and pandemics. Hence, an adequate number of qualified human resources for the health sector must be turned out under systematic management to meet the demand of the State.

The Ministry of Health produces medical doctors, female and male nurses, female health staff, midwives and medical technicians on a yearly basis. Hence, the old generations need to share their invaluable experiences with the new ones. So far, two universities of nursing, 27 nursing training schools, 23 midwifery training schools and three health-related training schools have turned out 41,442 nurses and midwives. The Ministry of Health appointed 684 fresher nurses in respective units on 1 March 2022 and 148 of 165 midwives were produced from five midwifery training schools at rural health centres and branches under the Department of Public Health. Nurses and midwives need to abide by the ethics in giving health care services to the people. They have to culture the spirit of Florence Nightingale with the sacrifice of life and blood in serving their assigned duties. As part of recognizing the efforts of midwives, the government increased the expenses for uniforms, household expenses and night duty allowances for the midwives while extending the standardized rural health centres and branches on a yearly basis. Moreover, staff members of the Ministry of Health have settled at staff housings for their convenience in serving the duties. Currently, a total of 348 maternal and child health centres, 98 local health units, 1,904 rural health centres and 9,077 rural health branches are being operated with the strength of 13,372 midwives under the management of the Department of Public Health. As healthcare services are the facility for the people from rural and urban areas in the convenience of their daily life, all governments in successive eras focused on the improvement of the health sector. In so doing, it is necessary to enhance the capacity of health staff at different levels and sectors in advance. Qualified health personnel will be reliable for providing health care services to the people.



Children and playing

By Yin Nwe Ko

THE COVID 19 disaster affected not only adults but also young people. Children are losing their freedom. When patients arrived at the hospital which is adjacent to my compound, the children in the staff quarters were no longer allowed to play around the hospital grounds as before. They have a four-year-old child in their hospital family. She complained to her mother that she wanted to go downstairs from the fourth floor of their family home. The baby's father also wore a nose bandage. The child was seen coming down from the fourth floor with her nose bandaged.

Children need to be able to play and develop freely for intellectual development. So that they will get enough mental development. In this age of fear, children with the fear of humans are becoming more and more prevalent. A child who used to be afraid of people can be taken to a place where he can go to his parents

to avoid being afraid of people. I sympathize with the lives of children who are hesitant because of the long battle with COVID 19. For children in rural areas, the play area is larger than in urban areas. For urban children, the only place to play was the family living room. This is also a time in which most mothers are struggling with their minds. Will they have to teach their children to study? They are sceptical about whether they can get it or not. As mothers of toddlers, will their children be able to walk? They worry about whether their relationship with society will work out.

Parents should play with their children as they are not allowed to play in large areas at the age of play. Even if you did not play with your children in the past, you should try to spend time with them now. You can easily find games that you can play at home on the Internet. For children, play is an edu-

cational issue. Child psychologists consider it as important as teaching. There are many benefits to playing with children. There are definitely two great benefits to playing physical fitness and intellectual development. The health of children who are allowed to play freely and that of children who are not allowed to play are never identical. Wisdom and agility can also never be the same.

Most children of today know that play is just a game. Most parents restrict their children from playing video games, playing mobile games, and playing games with their children to keep them quiet. Most kids these days are playing games. Most of them also spend time watching TV.

Children need to be allowed to play freely outside the home. For example, playing hide-and-seek at home. If the yard is large, the children in the family should be allowed to run and play. Only by exercising and playing can one's body be healthy and one's mind

clear and happy. Children become more mind-boggling through play, increase their brain function, and memorize text easily while teaching. A well-known paediatrician writes about the seven benefits of playing with children. These are:

(1) The child develops confidence by seeing what he can do. For example, if a child knows how to kick a ball, he or she will gain confidence that he/she can make the ball roll.

(2) It enhances imagination. For example, does a child build its own blocks using toys? Thinking about building a train is sure to give them some creative ideas.

(3) It conveys the idea that every human being has a responsibility. For example, children learn to be a doctor while playing. As a teacher, one will understand the responsibility of teaching.

(4) A child will also learn very important social skills. For example, when playing with a team, he or she has to wait for his or

her turn to play. One will learn about compliance, unity, and how to be fair.

(5) The new and unknown things can be learned. One will learn many new things. For example, one can learn colours by playing with paint. While playing with blocks, one can discover unfamiliar shapes.

(6) Improved concentration. Games like Jigsaw Puzzle, for example, can improve concentration and memory.

(7) No matter what kind of play is, it will surely make the children happy and free. For example, happiness is the best medicine. So, children can be healthy and independent while playing.

That is why we should teach our children various games to keep them healthy. The main purpose of children's play is to enjoy. We adults should not forget that purpose. Adults should also know that learning comes with happiness.



Health officials say US running out of money to fight COVID-19

HEALTH officials lamented on Tuesday that the United States is "running out of money" to fight COVID-19, as more than 80 million cases have so far been reported nationwide. "The federal government is running out of funds to provide Americans, especially those who are uninsured, with COVID-19 vaccines, tests, and treatments," said an op-ed co-authored by US Surgeon-General Vivek Murthy and David Kessler, chief science officer for the US COVID-19 Response Team. "If the funding does not materialize, we will find ourselves in a far weaker position, struggling to keep up with a constantly evolving virus that will continue to threaten our health, our economy, and our peace of mind," they wrote in the piece published by The New York Times (NYT).

Federal funding to cover the cost of COVID-19 testing and treatment for uninsured Americans reportedly dried up this week. Several testing providers will no longer provide tests for free to uninsured Americans, saying they will begin to charge between 100

and 195 US dollars for PCR tests, according to ABC News. In addition, the federal government last week cut shipments of lifesaving monoclonal antibodies to states by 35 per cent — and officials anticipate running out of monoclonal antibodies later this spring. "We will not be able to continue making home tests available, and the critical surveillance efforts that help us anticipate new waves and variants will be compromised," Murthy and Kessler said. "We cannot wait for another crisis for Congress to make sustained pandemic response funding available."

The call for congressional funding

The call for congressional funding came a day after US President Joe Biden unveiled the federal budget request for the fiscal year 2023, in which his administration urged efforts and investments to prepare "for future pandemics and other biological threats."

The budget asks for "transformative investments in pandemic preparedness" across the US



Health officials lamented on Tuesday that the United States is "running out of money" to fight COVID-19, as more than 80 million cases have so far been reported nationwide. People queue at a US airport. PHOTO: AFP

Department of Health and Human Services — 81.7 billion dollars available over five years — while it includes 9.9 billion dollars to expand public health infrastructure and increase capacity for forecasting and analyzing future outbreaks, among other things.

However, the proposed funding for public health services was hugely dwarfed by the request for

military and defence spending that amounts to over 813 billion dollars, of which 773 billion is planned for the Pentagon. Biden pitched it as "one of the largest investments in our national security in history."

In an article earlier this year, NYT opinion columnist Farhad Manjoo argued that the level of US military spending, reportedly accounting for nearly 40 per cent of

the world's defence expenditures, "has long been excessive."

"After a pandemic that has claimed the lives of more Americans than any war we fought, continuing to throw money at the military is an act of wilful disregard for the most urgent threats we face," Manjoo said.

In an opinion published by The Washington Post on Monday, Meg-

an Ranney, a practising emergency physician and academic dean of the Brown University School of Public Health, pointed out that in the United States "the healthcare and public health system is just as vulnerable to COVID as it has ever been." "That's a problem not just for COVID patients but for anyone who walks through our doors," Ranney added. "Yet, it appears, the country has moved on."

The total number of COVID-19 cases in the United States hit the milestone of 80 million on Tuesday afternoon, with more than 978,000 related deaths, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. Both numbers are the highest in the world.

Highly contagious Omicron subvariant BA.2

The highly contagious Omicron subvariant BA.2 is now the dominant strain of COVID-19 in the United States, causing almost 55 per cent of all new infections last week, showed the latest data from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

SOURCE: Xinhua

MYANMAR Daily Weather Report
(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Wednesday 30 March, 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 31 March, 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, (south and east) Shan, Chin, Kayah States and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, lower Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and northern Shan, Rakhine, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and Kachin, eastern Shan States and isolated in upper Sagaing Region and (north and south) Shan, Chin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 March, 2022: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 March, 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 March, 2022: Partly cloudy.

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Bago Region Chief Minister inspects agricultural products in western Bago Region



BAGO Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win on 29 March inspected the installation of steel railings on the strand road in Pyay Township of the western Bago Region. He instructed officials to expand the landfilling of the strand road and prevent squatters.

Then, the chief minister inspected the production process of U Thaug Aye's cottonseed oil extraction plant in the Gandama Industrial Zone and urged officials to encourage the farmers to cultivate more long-staple cotton for the production of oil from crude cottonseed in order to fulfil the oil

consumption need.

Afterwards, he inspected 10 acres of Sunn hemp (*Crotalaria juncea*) cultivation of U Thein Tun in Letpanpinsu village of Gyobingauk township and 123 acres of systematic mechanized farming in Field No 1170 of Gyopin Camp village-tract in Letpadan Township.

The chief minister also inspected nurturing of 100,000 teak saplings, ironwood, Manjanshar, Mezali, gum-kino, golden mohur and rain trees in the Myoma Forest Nursery of the Forest Department in Letpadan Township and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal teak, utensils and electronics seized in states/regions

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

A combined inspection team led by the Department of Forest conducted an investigation under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force on 28 March.

A total of 10.2654 tonnes of illegal timbers (estimated at K401,030) was seized in the Okkan forest reserve, Taikkyi Township

in Yangon North District and action is taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, under the management of the Customs Department, a customs inspection team on duty at the Myanmar Industrial Port Customs Inspection Station conducted a surprise check and cosmetics without FDA Certificate (estimated at K10,582,192), and consumer goods and home appliances that do not comply with the import declaration ID

(estimated at K20,360,000) were seized.

Similarly, a combined inspection team led by the Department of Forest of the Bago Region conducted an inspection under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force on 30 March.

A total of 33.9138 tonnes of illegal timbers (estimated at K6,864,410) was seized in Yedashe Township and Minhla Township in Bago Region and action is taken under the Forest Law.



Officials confiscate illegal teak logs.

Therefore, a total of eight arrests were made on three consecutive days and the estimated

value is K38,207,632, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Over K1.46 billion worth of ecstasy tablets seized in Maungtaw Township

THE police seized K1.46 billion worth of ecstasy tablets in Maungtaw Township, according to the police statement.

The combined inspection team consisting of No 1 border guard police members examined a motorbike driven by Hla Htun Sein heading to Kyeinchaung village from three miles near Kyiganpyin village, Maungtaw Township in Rakhine State at 11 am on 28 March and seized 975 ecstasy tablets.

According to the inspection, the combined inspection team inspected a house of Ma Tin Kyi in Thayaekonbaung village, Maungtaw Township and found Ma Tin Kyi with Khin Maung Oo, Khine Moe Lin, Maung Htwe Tin, Lay Myint Oo and Muhammad Shawhe and then seized



Arrestees are seen along with seized drugs, motorbikes and three-wheel vehicle.

0.975 million ecstasy tablets and K900,000 with a three-wheel motorbike and two motorbikes.

Thus, a total seizure of 0.975 million stimulant tablets was worth K1.46 billion and the po-

lice are investigating to arrest further suspects. The action is taken against the arrestees under the Narcotic drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

Court sentences woman human trafficker to 20 years in prison

A woman was sentenced to 20 years in prison with labour for trafficking a 33-year-old woman to China.

Daw Yi Yi Than (arrested), Aung Hein Kyaw (still at large) and Ei Phyu (still at large) persuaded the victim woman that she would get between K3 million to K7 million bride price if she marries Chinese man Kyu Shi Chaing (still at large). After the official marriage, he would take her to China. They officially signed the

marriage certificate and were arrested on the way to Mandalay.

A case was opened against them under Sections s28/32 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law at Hmawby Myoma Police Station and the Yangon North District Court sentenced Daw Yi Yi Than to 20 years in prison with labour under Sections 28/32 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law and declared the remaining suspects the fugitives. — MNA

British police issue first 20 fines in 'Partygate' probe



A pedestrian passes a piece of art created by street artist Foka Wolf, showing Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson dressed as a police officer, wearing a party hat, on a wall in central Manchester, north-west England on 11 February 2022. PHOTO: AFP

BRITISH police said on Tuesday that they would issue 20 fixed penalty notices (FPN) over breaches of coronavirus lockdown rules at gatherings in Prime Minister Boris Johnson's offices and residence at Downing Street.

"We will today initially begin to refer 20 fixed penalty notices to be issued for breaches of COVID-19 regulations. The ACRO Criminal Records Office will then be responsible for issuing the FPNs to the individual

following the referrals from the MPS," the Metropolitan Police Service (Met) said in a statement.

The Met didn't disclose the names of the individuals being fined and added that they would not confirm the number of referrals from each individual event subject to their investigation as "providing a breakdown at this point may lead to identification of the individuals."

Parties held at Downing Street in 2020 and 2021 have enraged the British public who were asked to follow coronavirus restrictions for many months over the past two years to curb the spread of COVID-19. Johnson's premiership has been precarious following the revelation of these illicit gatherings, with calls from opposition parties and even members of his own Conservative Party for him to resign.—ANI ■

COVID-19 cases may spike during Lao New Year: health department



A Lao New Year parade is held in Luang Prabang, Laos, in April 2019. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

THE National Taskforce Committee for COVID-19 Prevention and Control has expressed concern about the possibility of another spike in COVID-19 cases in the coming weeks as people gather to celebrate Pi Mai Lao, the Lao New Year.

In a precautionary move, the government has instructed officials not to arrange events to celebrate the new year in order to prevent people from gathering in large numbers and spreading

the virus, the local daily Vientiane Times reported on Tuesday.

However, it is inevitable that people will hold parties at their homes, which may trigger cluster outbreaks of COVID-19 if they do not comply with virus control measures.

To reduce the risk, The Lao Ministry of Health has urged everyone to protect themselves by wearing a face mask, maintaining a distance of at least one metre from other people,

and using hand sanitizer to prevent transmission of the virus through physical contact.

In addition, everyone is advised to get a COVID-19 vaccination. Even though the Omicron variant of COVID-19 is not as harmful as Delta, it does not mean that people can become careless as the virus can cause damage to people aged over 60 and those with a chronic illness, according to the report.—Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Spain scraps quarantine for mild Covid cases

SPAIN on Tuesday ended a requirement that people with mild cases of Covid-19 self-isolate as part of a shift towards treating the virus as an endemic illness like flu.

The country, one of the hardest hit in Europe by the pandemic when it first took hold in March 2020, said the change was justified given its low Covid-19 infection rate and high vaccination levels.

The new strategy will focus attention on "vulnerable people" and serious cases of Covid, said a health ministry statement.

This will "imply accepting a certain level of transmission" of Covid "among vaccinated and young people", it added.

In addition to dropping the quarantine requirement, the government has stopped testing people with symptoms or who were in close contact with an infected person. From now, testing will focus on vulnerable people, such as those over 60, caregivers, pregnant women and those who are immunocompromised.—AFP ■

US records nearly 30,000 weekly child COVID-19 infections

NEARLY 30,000 child COVID-19 cases have been reported across the United States in the past week, according to the report published Tuesday by the American Academy of Paediatrics (AAP) and the Children's Hospital Association.

Reported COVID-19 cases among children spiked dramatically in 2022 during the Omicron variant surge, with over 4.9 million child cases reported since the beginning of January, according to the report.

Over 12.8 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic in the country, according to the report. Over 171,000 of these cases have been added in the past 4 weeks.—Xinhua ■

India: Nationals of 171 countries had e-Visa before COVID-19 Pandemic

THE Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai on Tuesday informed Lok Sabha that prior to the suspension of electronic visas in March 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic, e-Visas was available to the nationals of 171 countries, and now has been restored for the nationals of 156 countries of the world.

Rai explained that the e-Visa was available to the nationals under five sub-categories i.e. e-Tourist visa, e-Business visa, e-Medical visa, e-Medical Attendant visa and e-Conference visa.

"During the Covid-19 pandemic, the e-Visa facility was suspended and was subsequently restored for the nationals of 156 countries of the world," Rai informed while responding to the questions raised by the Lok Sabha MP Gautam Gambhir.—ANI ■

Dutch gov't unveils plan for receiving EU COVID-19 fund

THE Dutch government has taken the first steps to get 4.7 billion euros (5.17 billion US dollars) from the European COVID-19 recovery fund, Finance Minister Sigrid Kaag announced in a letter to the House of Representatives on Monday.

The steps comprise 39 measures that can be financed with subsidies from Brussels, including plans for more wind energy at sea and a CO2 tax for the industrial sector. It is now up to the parliament to give its opinion on these plans.

If the parliament agrees, the list of measures will be sent to the European Commission. A green light from the European Union (EU) is expected in the autumn of this year.

The EU COVID-19 recovery fund with 672.5 billion euros was launched in autumn 2020 to give the European economy a boost.

As part of the fund, 312.5 billion euros will be allocated as grants intended for, among other things, investments in climate and digitization plans.—Xinhua ■

NEWS
IN BRIEF

Spain bans job dismissals linked to soaring energy prices

THE Spanish government on Tuesday banned firms which get state aid to deal with the economic impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine from firing workers over rising energy prices.

Like the rest of Europe, Spain has been grappling since last year with soaring energy prices which helped push inflation in February to its highest level in over 30 years.

Job terminations will be deemed "unjustified when they are the result of causes linked to the rise in energy costs", Labour Minister Yolanda Diaz told a news conference.

"I want to send a clear message to business leaders in our country: during a crisis, when social protection mechanisms exist...we must not lay off," she added following a weekly cabinet meeting.—AFP ■

Turkey announces new tax cuts to fight high inflation

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has announced value-added tax (VAT) cuts on several products to fight inflation.

The VAT cuts included mostly necessities, such as hygiene products and medical equipment, Erdogan said at a press conference after a cabinet meeting.

"We have decided to reduce the VAT on products such as detergent, soap, toilet paper, napkins and baby diapers from 18 per cent to 8 per cent," he said.

The government will also reduce the financial burden on the construction industry by cutting the VAT on landed property to 8 per cent, the president added.

In the agricultural sector, the country will reduce VAT to 1 per cent on all kinds of certified seed, seedling and sapling deliveries, and to 8 per cent for some products such as milk collection tanks, according to Erdogan.—AFP ■

BOJ chief sees no direct impact from market operations on yen moves

THE Bank of Japan's operations to buy unlimited amounts of 10-year Japanese government bonds to stem a rise in long-term interest rates do not have a "large, direct" impact on currency moves, Governor Haruhiko Kuroda said Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters after meeting with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Kuroda said currency moves should be stable and reflect economic fundamentals, after the Japanese yen tumbled earlier this week to an over six-year low.

The yen's recent "slight" fall against the dollar comes as demand from Japanese importers for US dollars remains strong following surging energy prices, and the US Federal Reserve



A monitor in Tokyo showing the yen dropping below ¥120 to the dollar earlier last week. PHOTO: KYODO

serve has clarified its stance on raising interest rates, the BOJ chief said.

"I don't think our market

operations have a large, direct impact on currency movements," Kuroda said at the prime minister's office.

"I told the prime minister that it is desirable for foreign exchange rates to move in a stable manner and reflect economic fundamentals," he said, adding that he discussed the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on the global economy.

After the Kuroda-Kishida meeting was reported by the media, the dollar fell quickly below the 121.50 yen line. The dollar, which broke past the 125 yen line earlier this week, was trading in the upper 121 yen zone in the afternoon.

Following the meeting, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said it is important for the government to have close communication with the BOJ.—Kyodo ■

Vietnam's first quarter economic growth higher year-on-year



People package dragon fruits in the city of Buon Ma Thuot in Vietnam's central highlands Dak Lak province on 12 August 2020. PHOTO: VNA VIA XINHUA

VIETNAM'S economy expanded more than five per cent in the first three months of the year, the government said Tuesday thanks to a pick-up in exports as the country emerges from the worst of the global pandemic, though officials warned of headwinds.

The communist state has long been a success story among Asian economies, posting growth of seven per cent in 2019. But growth came in at just 2.9 per cent in 2020 as the pandemic shut most of the world down, while last year saw just 2.6 per cent expansion. The figures were the worst the country has experienced since

the mid-1980s.

However, the General Statistics Office said gross domestic product came in at 5.03 per cent on-year.

Turnover from exports of goods in the first quarter was at \$88.58 billion, up by 12.9 per cent on-year, the GSO added.

"While the economy continues to show resilience and is recovering, downside risks have heightened as the Omicron infections are sweeping the country and the Russia-Ukraine conflict has increased uncertainty about global economic recovery," the World Bank said in a report on Vietnam in March.—AFP ■

Qatar to invest \$5 billion in Egypt, eyes offshore gas

QATAR is to invest \$5 billion in Egypt, the government in Cairo announced Tuesday, in another sign of a growing rapprochement following last year's restoration of ties.

The announcement came after talks between President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and visiting Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, who also met Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouli.

A government statement said Qatar was to plough \$5 in "investments and partnerships" in Egypt, without giving specifics.

However, QatarEnergy released a statement announcing an agreement with ExxonMobil to acquire a 40-per-cent interest in a gas exploration block off Egypt in the Mediterranean.

The two countries restored

diplomatic relations in 2021, after Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain severed relations with Qatar in 2017 over its alleged support for radical Islamist groups and being too close to Iran, charges denied by Doha. Egypt's own relations with Qatar had been strained ever since the 2013 military ouster of Egypt's Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, who was backed by Doha. In January 2021, Saudi Arabia signalled an end to the diplomatic rift, and the four boycotting countries agreed to lift a blockade.

The rapprochement has since been oriented towards investment. A Qatari delegation visited Cairo last year for the inauguration of a Qatar-owned hotel estimated to be worth \$1 billion.—AFP ■



Egypt is currently the fastest-growing Arab exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG). PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Geneva watch show returns under shadow of Ukraine war

SWITZERLAND'S top luxury watch fair will resurface this week in Geneva after two years of pandemic-induced virtual shows, but Ukraine's raging conflict and Covid lockdowns in China could dampen the mood.

The Watches and Wonders show, taking place from Wednesday until 5 April, will this year see 38 of the biggest high-end watch brands, including Rolex, Patek Philippe, Cartier and Tag Heuer, gathered under one roof.

"We are extremely happy to have succeeded in setting up this major fine-watchmaking event in a difficult health and human context," Emmanuel Perrin, head of the Foundation High Horology (FHH) said in a statement.

"After two years of



Switzerland, home to many of the world's top watch brands, will ban the export of pricey timepieces and other luxury goods to Russia. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

pandemic and 100 per cent digital editions, it was important to be able to gather again the main actors of our industry."

High-end watch fairs have long been a fixture in Switzerland, where nearly 57,500 people work in the country's world-renowned watchmaking industry.

Many retailers make

an annual trip to Switzerland during the fair season to put in orders for the year.

But in the digital age, this show has also become a precious communications tool for reaching watch fans, with videos and presentations from the event available to all online.—AFP ■

S. Korea's consumer sentiment improves in March

SENTIMENT among South Korean consumers over economic situations improved this month due to the eased social-distancing rule against the COVID-19 pandemic, central bank data showed Tuesday.

The composite consumer sentiment index (CCSI) stood at 103.2 in March, up 0.1 point from the previous month, ac-

ording to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

It came as the government moderated anti-virus measures by extending business hours and raising the number of people allowed for private gatherings in a bid to help small merchants overcome the pandemic-hit economic slump.

In the latest tally, the

country reported 347,554 more COVID-19 cases for the past 24 hours, lifting the total number of infections to 12,350,428.

Sub-indices showed a mixed result. The prospective index for consumer spending gained 4 points over the month to 114 in March, but the reading for household income was unchanged at 99.—Xinhua ■

CHANGING THE NAME OF INSECTICIDE TRADING

The foreign manufacture Makro Chemical will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing trading name –

No	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	SHWE DATHRIN	Shwe Mida Plus	Bifenthrin 10% + Imidacloprid 10% FS	Full	F 2018 - 1483

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

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PH: 01371629

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (244N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (244N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-3-2022** 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 CMA - CGM SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (0313N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (0313N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-3-2022** 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V RUI NING 9

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RUI NING 9 VOY.NO. (V.3031)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-3-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-4** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MOON LIGHT

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (001)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-4-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S THURIYA SANDAR WIN CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BEST ADVENTURE

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEST ADVENTURE VOY.NO. (01/2022)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-4-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILHELMSSEN SHIPS SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 20

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 20 VOY. NO. (004/22)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-4-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

S. Korea refutes N. Korea's claim it launched of new type of ICBM



Photo distributed by the Korean Central News Agency on 30 October 2017, shows Kim Jong Un inspecting a Hwasong-15 intercontinental ballistic missile. PHOTO: KNS/KYODO

SOUTH Korea's defence ministry on Tuesday refuted a claim by North Korea that a missile it launched last week was a new type of intercontinental ballistic missile, saying it was likely an existing type of ICBM.

Briefing South Korean lawmakers behind closed doors on the analysis of the ICBM fired last Thursday, the ministry said the North launched a Hwasong-15 ICBM and not the new "Hwasong-17," which military analysts have dubbed a "monster missile".

The Hwasong-15, seen as capable of delivering a nuclear warhead anywhere on the US mainland, was successfully fired in 2017. North Korea has confirmed that it fired the Hwasong-17 under the guidance of North Korean leader Kim Jong,

state media later reported. The firing was the first ICBM launch by the North since November 2017. The ICBM was fired from the Sunan area in Pyongyang and fell within Japan's exclusive economic zone in the Sea of Japan after flying a distance of about 1,100 kilometres and reaching an altitude of 6,200 km, according to the Japanese and South Korean governments. While US officials have not determined the type of ICBM launched, they believe it was a Hwasong-15, the South Korean defence ministry said. According to the ministry and a lawmaker who attended the briefing, it was determined that the ICBM on 24 March was a Hwasong-15 due to factors such as similar flight characteristics and analysis of the footage.—Kyodo ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Biden signs law finally making lynching a hate crime

US President Joe Biden on Tuesday signed into law a bill finally making racist lynchings a federal hate crime, ending more than a century of delays in outlawing the symbol of what he called "pure terror".

Anyone convicted under the new law will face up to 30 years in prison, ending a history of impunity over what researchers say were thousands of lynchings — often unpunished — between the end of the Civil War in 1865 and 1950.—AFP ■

Peru opens impeachment debate against President Castillo

PERU'S opposition-dominated Congress began debate Monday that will decide the future of leftist President Pedro Castillo, who is accused of corruption and moral incapacity.

"I shall always squarely face the nation, ... because I am subject to the rules of due process," Castillo said at the opening of his hearing.

It is already the second time in his eight months as Peru's leader that Castillo has faced an impeachment process in a country with a recent history of ousting its presidents.—AFP ■

UK to step up military presence in Arctic

BRITAIN is to reinforce its military presence in the Arctic in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said Tuesday.

The region "is important for our communications, it is important for our trade and our travels, it is important for our freedoms," said Wallace as he visited troops at Bardufoss in Norway, a cold weather training base for Royal Air Force, British Army and Royal Navy helicopter crews.

The Russian operation in Ukraine means London must step up its land and sea surveillance in the region, Wallace told a press conference, underlining "a commitment to increase the amount of surveying we do across the sea and land.

"We are going to effectively,



Bardufoss Air Station is a military air station located at Bardufoss in Målselv Municipality in Troms og Finnmark county in Northern Norway. A flight line marshaler directs a camouflage-painted C-141B Starlifter aircraft to a stop during a snowy night. The aircraft is involved in exercise Alloy Express. PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA/AFP

permanently, have a ... Marine strike group permanently ... active in the Nordics," said Wallace as he underlined British

commitment to protecting "our infrastructure, the cables that we see Russia target to make us vulnerable". —AFP ■



Seven EU countries urge their citizens not to join fight in Ukraine

SEVEN European Union countries on Monday urged their citizens to refrain from joining the Ukrainian military resistance against Russia's invading

troops.

The appeal was issued by the justice ministers of France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Luxembourg and

Belgium.

The ministers of the seven countries "have unanimously discouraged Europeans from joining" the ranks of voluntary combatants heading to the war in Ukraine, according to a statement published after their meeting in Brussels.—AFP ■

A Ukrainian soldier stands in front of a destroyed Russian armoured personnel carrier (APC) in a village on the frontline of the northern part of Kyiv region on 28 March 2022. PHOTO: ANATOLII STEPANOV / AFP

Russia-Ukraine talks “constructive” to settle conflict

RUSSIAN and Ukrainian delegations held “constructive” negotiations in Turkey on Tuesday, raising the curtain on concrete efforts of both sides to broker a solution to the current conflict.

During the fifth round of talks, or the fourth face-to-face meeting, which lasted for about three hours in Istanbul, the two sides finally clinched some progress in exploring possible ways out of the tensions. Local media reported that consultations will continue via video link.

Some analysts believe that as talks between the two countries continue, the scale and intensity of the military conflict may well decrease gradually, while there is still “a long way to go” before a complete settlement.

STEPS TOWARDS DE-ESCALATION

Vladimir Medinsky, Russian presidential aide and head of Russia’s negotiation team, said



A fresh round of face-to-face peace talks between Russia and Ukraine is held in Istanbul, Turkey, 29 March 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA

following the talks that Moscow is taking two steps towards the de-escalation of the conflict, both militarily and politically.

Russia will significantly reduce military activities in the Kyiv and Chernihiv directions to increase mutual trust and create the necessary conditions for further negotiations, said Russian Deputy Defence Minister Alex-

ander Fomin, who participated in the Istanbul talks.

In the political sphere, Moscow offered a possible meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky simultaneously with, not necessarily after, the initialing of a peace treaty by their foreign ministries.—Xinhua ■

Lavrov makes first China visit since Ukraine war

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov arrived in China on Wednesday in his first visit to the key ally since Moscow launched its invasion of Ukraine last month.

In a post on its Weibo social media account, the Russian embassy in Beijing confirmed Lavrov had landed in the eastern city of Huangshan, posting photos of delegates descending from a plane and being met by health officials in hazmat suits.

Lavrov will attend a series of meetings hosted by China to discuss ways to help Afghanistan. Diplomats from the United States and the Taliban-led country’s neighbours are also expected to attend. But Russia’s bloody as-



The Russian embassy in Beijing confirmed Lavrov had landed in the eastern city of Huangshan, with delegates being met by health officials in hazmat suits. PHOTO: @MFA_RUSSIA / TWITTER/AFP

sault on Ukraine is likely to loom large over proceedings.

Unlike many Western nations, China has refused to con-

demn the invasion and has lagged behind many other countries in providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine.—AFP ■

Disinformation endangering Red Cross work in Ukraine: ICRC

A massive disinformation campaign targeting the Red Cross as it provides aid in the Ukraine conflict is putting its staff at risk, the organization said Tuesday.

The International Committee of the Red Cross also condemned “abhorrent and unac-

ceptable” levels of violence being inflicted on civilians.

The ICRC said it had faced a barrage of accusations over its efforts to try to facilitate evacuations from embattled cities in Ukraine, and over its communications with both sides in the

conflict.

“We are seeing deliberate, targeted attacks using false narratives, and disseminating this information to discredit the ICRC,” spokesman Ewan Watson told journalists in Geneva.—AFP ■

NEWS DIGEST

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

Russia to ‘reduce’ Kyiv attacks

Russia pauses failed efforts to encircle Kyiv, announcing it will “radically” reduce military activity around the Ukrainian capital.

Moscow says attacks on the northern city of Chernihiv will also ease, after “meaningful” progress in peace talks held in Istanbul.

Cautious response

President Volodymyr Zelensky cautiously welcomes the “positive” signals from Moscow, saying Ukrainian forces “will not decrease” defensive efforts.

The Pentagon warns Russia is “repositioning” troops not withdrawing. “Russia has failed in its objective of capturing Kyiv,” a spokesman says, but “it does not mean that the threat to Kyiv is over.”

Mykolaiv strike

Twelve people are killed and 34 injured when a Russian missile strike hits a regional government building in Mykolaiv.

US warns threat not over

The United States is sceptical of Russia’s promise to curtail military assaults on Ukraine’s capital Kyiv and its northern city Chernihiv, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said Tuesday, following ceasefire talks between Kyiv and Moscow.

Kirby described the movement of some Russian units away from Kyiv as “a repositioning, not a real withdrawal,” cautioning of the possibility of major offensives against other areas of Ukraine. He renewed US calls for a complete Russian withdrawal from the country.

“Nationalists” in Mariupol must surrender

Russian President Vladimir Putin says “nationalists” in the besieged port city of Mariupol must surrender before the “difficult humanitarian situation” is resolved, effectively scuppering a proposed international relief mission.

Mariupol military officials say “more than 70” staff and patients are forcibly taken from a maternity hospital in the city.

Rouble and stocks up, oil down

Oil prices dive and European stock markets close higher on the positive news from the talks. The rouble surges by more than 10 per cent against the dollar while oil falls by more than five per cent.

EU countries expel diplomats

EU countries Belgium, the Netherlands, Ireland and the Czech Republic expel dozens of Russians diplomats suspected of spying.

Americans warned

The US State Department warns Moscow “may single out and detain US citizens in Russia”, urging Americans not to travel to the country.

Food warning

World Food Programme boss David Beasley says the conflict has caused food shortages and price spikes “beyond anything we’ve seen since World War II”.

SOURCE: 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.

Traditional Lethwei Tournament held in Myeik

A traditional Lethwei tournament named Township Sports and Physical Education Committee Chairman's Cup was held at the District Gymnasium in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, on the morning of 30 March to develop the sports sector and produce a new generation of traditional Lethwei fighters.

The competition started with the participation of young people who were interested in the traditional Lethwei, and the contestants competed in a series of competitions, and the athletes

were awarded prizes by the organizing committee.

There will be four special events for male fighters and three special events for female fighters.

The competition will be continued on 31 March.

According to the township Lethwei subcommittee, the new generation of traditional Lethwei fighters is continuously produced in Myeik, and the national team and national honorary fighters have been trained by Lethwei specialists. — Khaing Htoo (Myeik IPRD) /GNLM



Two young Lethwei fighters compete in the traditional Lethwei tournament in Myeik on 30 March 2022. **PHOTO: KHAING HTOO (MYEIK IPRD)**

China state broadcaster airs first NBA match since 2020



James Harden (L) and president of basketball operations Daryl Morey of the Philadelphia 76ers. **PHOTO: AFP**

NBA basketball returned to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV for the first time in nearly 18 months on Wednesday, after China black-

listed it following a team official's support for Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement.

National broadcaster CCTV

streamed the Los Angeles Clippers' 121-115 victory over the Utah Jazz, to a mixed reception from Chinese basketball fans.

China, the NBA's largest overseas market by far, suspended broadcasts on CCTV after the Houston Rockets' then-general manager Daryl Morey tweeted in support of Hong Kong democracy protesters in 2019. Since then, CCTV has frozen out the league, but viewers have been able to watch games on online streaming platforms and CCTV aired Game 5 of the NBA Finals in October 2020. A CCTV spokesperson at that time called the decision a "normal broadcast arrangement" and noted the NBA's "continued expressions of goodwill" towards China. — AFP ■

Peru book World Cup play-off spot as Colombia, Chile miss out

PERU booked a World Cup play-off spot against either Australia or the United Arab Emirates with a 2-0 victory over Paraguay on Tuesday, thus dashing the hopes of Colombia and Chile to reach the Qatar extravaganza.

With Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador and Uruguay already qualified, all that was to play for in the final round of South American qualifying was fifth place and an intercontinental play-off. Both Colombia, who won 1-0 away to Venezuela, and Chile, beaten 2-0 at home by Uruguay, could have qualified with victory had Peru slipped up.

But for the second World Cup qualification campaign in a row, Peru head into a play-off.

Last time they beat New Zealand 2-0 over two legs but their task will be harder this time with a one-off clash against either the Socceroos or UAE in Qatar in June. Italy-born Gianluca Lapadula opened the scoring on five minutes in Lima and although debutant Sebastian Ferreira hit the bar soon after for Paraguay, Peru were largely in control.

Yoshimar Yotun doubled the advantage on 42 minutes, acrobatically converting a cross from Edison Flores. It could have been more comfortable for Peru but Lapadula was twice denied by the woodwork. Colombia missed out on the play-off by a single point. — AFP ■