

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.

Heart-shaped Reed Lake with mythology



A bird's eye view of scenic beauty of the Reed Lake in Chin State.

By NyaungU Phee

A SUBLIME range of mountains and hill regions with the rhododendron in full bloom and the orchid species portrayed the beautiful landscape and the awe-inspiring view of Chin State. Chin State's signature is a traditional rice wine with gayal meat as an appetizer. Chin State lies at 5,667 feet above sea level. Kennedy Peak is situated in Tiddim Town, and it was a warm place during World War II. That historical peak also attracts tourists. The broadcasting relay station is lo-

cated at the 8,871-foot-high Kennedy Peak as well. Moreover, the view of the Laykyunseemee Pagoda atop the peak also gives the pilgrims peace of mind. The sunrise view of Kennedy Peak dominating the Tiddim roads at 7 am is an astonishing beauty.

Tiddim town is about 31 miles away from India's border town, and it is challenging to drive the curved mountain roads. Along with the mountain ranges, the heart-shaped Reed Lake (Rih Lake), Chin State's pride, stands proudly in Reedhorda Sub-Township.

Reedhorda sub-township

of Falam Township belongs to over 3,000 people and 700 households. Ward No. 2 has a bridge connecting to India's border and offices, township general hospital, Reed Lake is situated at the Ward No.1.

The India-Myanmar friendship bridge is constructed across the Tiau River (Tio River), which is the leading water resource for both border towns. When the river water dries up in summer, there's a shortage of water. India's border checkpoint can be seen on the other side, and it is open between 6 am and 6 pm. Myanmar side informed

the passers-by 15 minutes before closing the post. As it shares a border with Mizoram State, Mizoram people are executing border trade. Kathe and Indian tribes also live in Reedhorda. It's a hill region, so there's a transportation barrier in Chin State during the rainy season. There is only one single road in the Reedhorda town. The picturesque view of this little town is like a movie scene in cowboy films. The surroundings are quiet at night except for the water flowing sound of the Tiau River.

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Myanmar receives Malaysia-donated 500,000 AstraZeneca doses



THE Malaysian government donated 500,000 doses of AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccines and they arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

The vaccines were handed over by Malaysia-Myanmar Business Chamber (MMBC) Chairperson Ms Loi Jin Choo, Counsellor Mr Muhammad Syukri Bin Azmi and officials to Dr Tun Min, Head of Yangon Region Public Health and Medical Services De-

partment.
MoH officials receive the AstraZeneca vaccines donated by Malaysia at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

partment.

The vaccines will be kept at the central vaccine store depot of the Public Health Department on Mindhamma road in Mayangon Township.

The vaccines will be distributed to Nay Pyi Taw, Regions/States with the help of Myanmar National Airlines and Tatmadaw (Air) to vaccinate the target groups at the public hospitals and vaccination sites.

More than 28.97 million people receive vaccine more than one time to date and 1.2 million receive boosters and so a total of more than 52.65 million doses are delivered in the country. — MNA

19 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 20 April, total figure rises to 612,677

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **612,677** after **19** new cases were reported on 20 April 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **591,522** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **19,434** 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 19-4-2022, a total of **28,974,263** people have been vaccinated. Of them, **22,480,014** people have been fully vaccinated, **6,494,249** people are yet to get the second shots and **1,203,293** people have received booster doses. — MNA

Myanmar nationals return through Myawady land border



Returnees check in at the Immigration processing counter.

THE border camps received Myanmar returnees from foreign countries. Two hundred and forty people — 203 males and 37 females — returned yesterday to Myawady Township of Kayin State.

The health officials, Tatmadaw medics and other officials provided health-related matters for quarantine. Then, township administrative officials sent them to their respective towns by vehicles and those who tested positive for COVID-19 were confined to designated places. — MNA

Palin Riverview Elephant Camp crowded with elephant lovers



Palin Riverview Elephant Camp has seven elephants, ageing one to 27 years.

PALIN Riverview Elephant Camp in NyaungU Township, Mandalay, is bustling with elephant lovers, said a person in charge of the elephant camp.

Palin Riverview Elephant

Camp, operated by the Myanmar Timber Enterprise under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, is opened beside the Ayeyawady riverbank. It is located

near Palin village on the Myingyan-Pakokku Road in NyaungU Township. Visitors dropped in on the camp during their trip to the Bagan ancient cultural zone.

Elephant lovers can relax

at the recreation sites and viewpoints at the camp, including a jetty and treehouse to view the Ayeyawady River; camps along the river; playgrounds and other facilities. Visitors can watch the elephant bathing and observe the livelihood, habitat, behaviour and characteristics of the Asian and African elephants at the elephant museum, featuring the structure of elephants and elephant tusks and the signboards, Saw Wah Wah, a warden.

There are 22 elephant camps across the country, and elephant lovers can treat buffets to the elephants. They can also donate to the elephants via the camp's official Facebook page.

Palin Riverview Elephant Camp has seven elephants, ageing one to 27 years. Myanmar implemented elephant-based tourism, developed eco-tourism sites and opened elephant camps near rivers and mountain ranges. — Ko Htein KPD/GNLM



Our Tatmadaw is the only institution hailed from the ethnic people

AS our Tatmadaw is the only institution hailed from the ethnic people, it has to safeguard the lives and poverty of the people and to assist in the daily social life security of the people in all directions.

(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.)

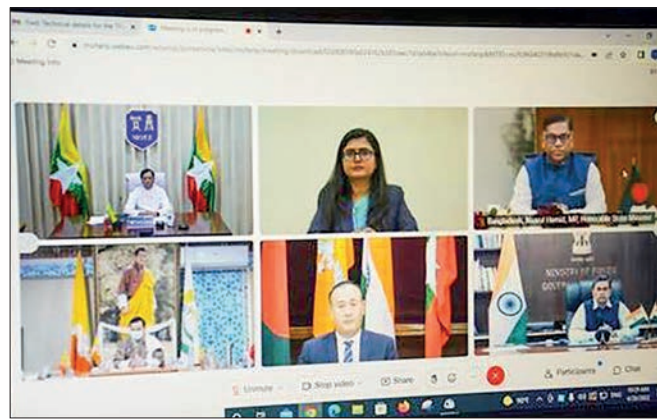
MoEE Union Minister attends 3rd BIMSTEC Energy Ministers' Meeting

THE 3rd BIMSTEC Energy Ministers' Meeting was hosted in Nepal yesterday and a delegation led by Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aung Than Oo attended the meeting via a virtual system.

The meeting was chaired by Ms Phampha Bhusal, Minister for Energy and Water Resources and Irrigation of Nepal. The Ministers for Electricity and Energy from member states of BIMSTEC, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand exchanged views on matters related to electricity

and energy sector development works in their respective nations and the drafting of the Master Plan on Power Connection. They also discussed the operating conditions of BIMSTEC Energy Sector and expansion of cross-border gas and electricity trade between the member countries. The meeting also approved the decisions of the third, fourth and fifth BIMSTEC Senior Officers' Meetings, and a joint statement was issued by the Ministers of Electricity and Energy of the member states.

The fifth BIMSTEC Senior



Officers' Meeting was held on 19 April and was attended by the Senior Officers from the Depart-

ment of Oil and Gas Planning and the Department of Electric Power Planning.



The fourth BIMSTEC Energy Ministers' Meeting will be held in India in 2024. — MNA

Members of the Task Force for the facilitation of ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar through the AHA Centre hold meeting with Cambodia Delegation led by Dr Kung Phoak, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Head of the office of the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair



MEMBERS of the Task Force for the facilitation of ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar through the AHA Centre; U Kyaw Myo Htut, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Aye Htun, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Health and U Aung Tun Khaing, Deputy Minister

of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement had a meeting with the Cambodia Delegation led by Dr Kung Phoak, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Head of the office of the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on 20 April 2022 at the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Meeting was attended by the member of the Task Force U Chan Aye, Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Secretaries of the Task Force; Dr Ko Ko Naing, Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Social

Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and U Sein Win, Director General from the Ministry of Health and members of the Task Force Working Group.

The Meeting reviewed the Phase-1 implementation of the provision of ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar through the AHA Centre. The Ministry of Health updated the progress on the provision of Humanitarian Assistance throughout the country. Members of the Task Force, at the Meeting, reaffirmed the facilitation of the effective delivery of the Humanitarian Assistance, which are already in hand to the Myanmar people indeed in need.

The Meeting then discussed and exchanged views on the preparation for the Phase-2 provision of Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar, including the initiatives proposed by Cambodia. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement briefed

upon Government's Plan and Preparation for Phase-2, including the Standard Operation Procedure for the implementation. The Meeting then discussed the tools and methodology for the implementation process for Phase-2 and the Task Force members reiterated Myanmar's strong will and readiness for the distribution of humanitarian assistance to the people in need in an equitable manner without discrimination in line with the domestic rules and regulations of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

U Kyaw Myo Htut, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted dinner for the Cambodia Delegation led by Dr Kung Phoak, Secretary of State for Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Head of the Office of the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair at 6:30 pm hrs at the M-Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Heart-shaped Reed Lake with mythology

FROM PAGE-1

The town has electricity access from 6 pm to 9 pm.

Reedhorda border town is situated between latitudes 23° 10' - 23° 23' N and longitudes 93° 24' - 93° 32' E. It lies 2,966 feet above sea level. Kalay-Tiddim-Reed route is 89 miles. There is a smooth trade flow in the high season (October-April).

Mizos Chin (aka Hwango) tribe has built town since 1450 AD. Reedhorda village was established by Zasumar between 1500 AD and 1600 AD in the east of Reed Lake. As villagers migrated to Mizoram State of India, Reedhorda village was lost in 1750 AD. The new village was reestablished in 1942, and then the villagers moved to the fertile land near Reed Lake. Reed (Rih) is meant the Lake. Hor means village, and da means triangular brass gong. Rihmyawkin village is also known as the triangular brass gong-shaped hill near Reed Lake. According to the notification released by the Ministry of Home Affairs on 22 July 2002, Reedhorda Sub-Township was built, which is home to 5,700 Chin ethnic people and over 100



An aerial view of the Tio River demarcating the Myanmar-India Border.

be worshipped. They followed the dream and discovered the Lake on the seventh day. The white gayal is yearly offered to the spirit of god.

Moreover, Mizos believed in the spirit of god and tales that they would pass from the Lake after death, without attachment

to human beings. This being so, Mizos' poem stated people who go down to Reed Lake instead of the death. They composed blue songs and put the lyrics saying that "who allows you to go down to Reed lake without discussing with the mother or father". During the excavation

of the fields surrounding the Lake before 1950, ivory tusks and elephant skeletons were discovered. It was considered an elephants' graveyard. A deep cleft called Kalarmyaung chasm exists there until now.

It is hard to find the heart-shaped Lake in the world. Reed Lake in Chin State is one of the rare heart-shaped lakes. Heavy rainfall does not destroy the heart-shaped appearance in the rainy season as the water flows through the underground valley to the nearest creeks. What is unique about the Lake is its heart-shaped structure. The Lake has crystal-clear water, turning into another colour in December. However, the Lake is threatened by a silt deposit every year. When the Lake was murky, the fish was found, and the visitors were interested in observing that, said a resident.

Surprisingly, the Lake has turned into a coffee colour nearly for a month. The fish sized boat appears in the extreme

cold weather. The banana trees are dried and killed near the Lake then. When the Lake returns to clear, the large fish are not found. There has been no shortage of water in the Lake for generations. It is 60 feet deep. The Lake will enchant tourists if domestic tourism thrives. The local community will have job opportunities, and research activities will draw more attention from the tourists. Transportation will play a pivotal role in the tourism development of the border town. The tourists eye the city as it shares the border with India.

Moreover, the town has the risk of forest extinction. Accommodation and facilities such as playgrounds and parks are literally required to enhance tourism. This way, the local products can be promoted as well.

The locals in Tiddim and Reedhorda sub-township use CDMA, and GSM sim cards with Indian made handsets.

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Beautiful Kennedy mountain ranges are seen at dawn.

people, including other ethnic minority communities and Bamar. They live in harmony and peace. About 97.57 per cent of the population is Christian, while 2.17 per cent is Buddhist and 0.26 per cent is believed in other religions.

The name Rih is said to be derived from the god of spirit R.JH. According to mythology, Hwahtan, ahead of Swevee village, dreamt about the god of spirit called Puria. He said he came here as a white gayal in disguise dwelt in Thetawpan Lake, and all souls are said to



The Reedhorda border bridge between Myanmar and India.



The main road of Reedhorda sub-township.

NSPNC Secretary receives Cambodian Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Secretary of State, Head of Special Envoy Office of ASEAN Chairmanship

THE National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiate Committee Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung received a delegation led by Secretary of State Dr Kung Phoak of Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Head of Special Envoy Office of ASEAN Chairmanship in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The NSPNC Secretary explained peacemaking processes, dialogues with ethnic armed organizations, and cooperation with relevant organizations to provide humanitarian assistance during

the meeting.

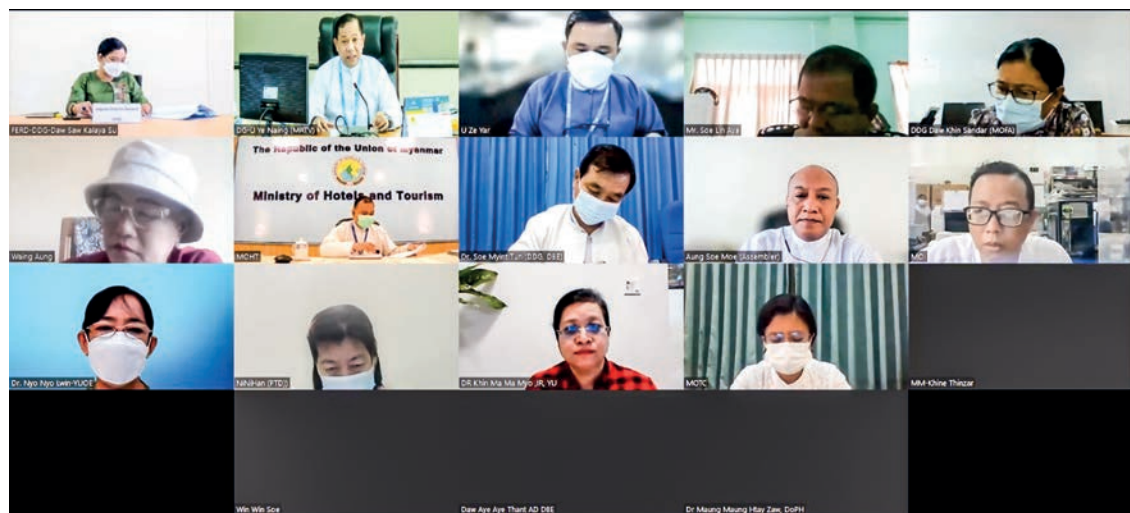
Then, the Cambodian Secretary of State discussed the humanitarian assistance to Myanmar, further support in peace processes in Myanmar and negotiations to resolve the current issues.

The leaders also openly exchanged views on matters they wanted to know. — MNA

NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung receives the delegation led by Dr Kung Phoak, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation yesterday.



Coordination meeting on preparations for holding 10th ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level



THE second coordination meeting on preparations for holding the 10th ASEAN Quiz-National

Level was organized via video-conferencing at MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon yesterday.

Myanmar will host the 10th ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level 2022.

The virtual coordination meeting was attended by Director-General U Ye Naing of MRTV and other officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Information and MRTV (Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Tatkon).

During the meeting, the officials discussed selecting 50 students aged between 15 to 18 from the respective regions and states

by the Ministry of Education for the national level contest to hold the 10th ASEAN Quiz-Regional Level and provide technical assistance for the regional level contest in December 2022.

The ASEAN Quiz is a project of SCI and alternatively organized by the ASEAN member countries once every two years since 2002. Thailand hosted it in 2002, Brunei in 2004, Malaysia in 2006, the Philippines in 2009, Cambodia in 2012, Viet Nam in 2014, Laos in 2016, Indonesia in 2018 and Singapore in 2020. Myanmar will host the 10th 2022 ASEAN Quiz (Regional Level) in 2022. — MNA

Heart-shaped Reed Lake with mythology

FROM PAGE-4

Transport and telecommunication infrastructure are crucial for the development of the border town. Reed Lake is 2.5 miles in circumference, and the weeping willow is naturally grown beside the Lake. Additionally, orchids also blossomed on the weeping willow. The white and red lotus is also found in the rainy season. Despite the heavy rainfall, the shape of the heart remains. The Lake turns reddish or coffee colour in December due to the freezing weather. Then, the body was found floating in a standing position. The heart-shaped Lake captivates

the visitors and the locals.

There is a hill about 200 yards east of Reed Lake, and the prominent Sayadaw U Ottamasara leads to the build of Aungtawmu Pagoda. The glittering view atop the hill and the cold breeze will give the pilgrims peace of mind. The view of Reedhorda's small town can be seen from the top of the hill. There is a broadcast station at the top of the hill. The locals said that the golden umbrella that tops the pagoda (the auspicious symbol) was hoisted on 17 March 1995, and the devotees came to take meditation on the hill.

Bodi Banyan trees and fran-

gipani are found at the pagoda's precinct. There is a Buddhist religious house and the standing Buddha statue facing Ward No.1 near the Aungtawmu Pagoda. The monastery near the statue will also provide monastic education to the ethnic children who are from remote places.

Vantohtan, an officer of the township, elaborated on the agriculture sector of the town. The fields (five acres) of Palethwe hybrid paddy on a trial basis were succeeded with the yield rate of 130 baskets per acre. The locals practise shifting agriculture which causes forest destruction every year.

Cultivation of bitter bean, peach, pear, tea leaf and common plum is also found in the town. Deforestation is related to the Tiau River's drought-like situation. Prevention of deforestation can help deal with the shortage of drinking water and irrigation water, he shared his opinion.

There are double-room bungalows for accommodation at the Reed Lake Restaurant near Reed Lake. Furthermore, there is a golf course for sporting activities, and the cool breeze from Reed Lake is refreshing. Indian tourists like to play golf on eco-friendly golf courses. The

local travellers rarely visit the Lake. The visitors flock to the Lake during Thingyan, Christmas and New Year holidays, increasing the locals' income.

The heart-shaped Lake, a rare geological landscape, is located in Reedhorda town, Chin State, Myanmar, sharing a border with India. The hornbills are regarded as the state bird of Chin State and are valued by Chin people. The Reed Lake (Rih Lake), with the floral beauty of rhododendron and astonishing mountain view, enchants the tourists and domestic travellers.

Translated

Kachin State eyes export of value-added production of maize silage to China

THE subcommittee to prepare an MoU for bilateral trade enhancement between Myanmar and China in Kachin State convened its first coordination meeting at 10 am on 20 April.

First, Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan gave the remark concerning instructions for MoU preparations, formation of the subcommittee to facilitate the work process, efforts for value-added agricultural products, trading under the laws, rules and regulations, weighing up pros and cons to ensure the steady trade flow and further coordination activities.

Next, U Htay Lwin, head of the Kachin State Agriculture Department, in his capacity as chair of the subcommittee, explained matters regarding the SPS protocols and guidance on how to meet the criteria for exports of tissue-culture banana and other banana varieties.

Then, Kachin State ministers, officials concerned from the related departments and the crop producer association also analyzed the needs, and the chief minister coordinated them to deal with that.

After that, they discussed matters of maize silage production, packaging and exports to China as feedstuffs at 1 pm in Tarlawgyi village, Myitkyina Township.

The chief minister encouraged the production of maize silage as feedstuffs and value-added products. Additionally, this plan helps enhance the agriculture sector of Kachin State. Therefore, he urged the stakeholders concerned to work together to adhere to the Good Agricultural Practices strictly.

Also, the minister for Kachin State Security and Border Affairs elaborated on the production condition of the maize silage. U Htay



The first coordination meeting of the subcommittee to prepare on MoU for bilateral trade enhancement between Myanmar and China in Kachin State in progress.

Lwin, head of the Agriculture Department and Dr Than Aye, head of Kachin State Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, explained how they inspect the production of maize silage to ensure the GAP and raise

awareness of advanced growing methods.

Afterwards, the Century Sun Investment and Development Co., Ltd reported on a project developed on 200 acres of land in Tarlawgyi Village to produce

and package maize silage to export to China. Finally, the chief minister instructed them to abide by the rules and regulations and instructed the officials to facilitate the process effectively. — Kachin State IPRD/GNLM

MoHS's director of public health department Dr Htar Htar Lin, director-general Dr Soe Oo (retired) sentenced to prison under Anti-Corruption Law

THE Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) set up an investigation team regarding the complaint of the director of the Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Dr Htar Htar Lin and her associates' engage-

ment in corruption.

According to the investigation team, the State lost K161.198 million due to non-compliance of Dr Htar Htar Lin with the directive while working as a project manager on the GAVI HSS2

grant (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization-Health System Strengthening 2). Dr Soe Oo, who was responsible for the management of the GAVI HSS2 grant, failed to oversee the activities of Dr Htar Htar Lin, who

caused the loss of State funds.

A case was filed against them under the Anti-Corruption Law on 15 December 2021. They were found guilty of the above cases. So the Mandalay Region High Court yesterday sentenced

Dr Htar Htar Lin to three years in prison with labour under Section 56 of the Anti-Corruption Law and Dr Soe Oo to two years in jail with labour under Section 56/63 of the Anti-Corruption Law. — MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, medicines, vehicles seized

SUPERVISED by the Anti-illegal Trade Steering Committee, action is being taken under the law.

On 19 April, inspection teams led by the Department of Customs in Lashio conducted inspections and seized a vehicle with undocumented consumer goods, food, and cosmetics (estimated value of K21,900,000) under the Customs Law.

Inspection teams led by the Department of Forest in the Bago Region seized 24.8852 tonnes of illegal timbers (estimated value of K3,725,460) yesterday during the inspections of forest reserves in Toungoo District and Thayawady District. The action was taken

under the Forest Law.

In addition, the inspection team on duty at the Kawka-reik (Tadakyoe) joint checkpoint in Kayin State seized a vehicle with illegal medicines and juices (estimated value of

K152,383,000) under the Customs Law. Therefore, seven arrests (estimated value of K178,008,460) were made on 19 and 20 April, the Anti-illegal Trade Steering Committee stated. — MNA



Drugs seized in some townships across Myanmar

A combined inspection team consisting of members of the Nay Pyi Taw Police Force examined a house of Ma Mar San in Thone-lanzone village in Tatkon Township at 12:40 pm on 19 April and seized 4,200 ecstasy tablets.

At 4:00 pm the same day, the combined inspection team searched a suspected Toyota Mark-X car at the guesthouse in Sitarpu Ward in Myitkyina Township and found 0.44 kilogramme of heroin with two persons, Ko Wai Phyo Thu and Ma Thin Lei Mon. At 6:00 pm the same day, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a suspected Honda Airwave car driven by Ma Khaing Thazin Nwe (a) Naw Alight and found 78,000 ecstasy tablets with Ma Lay Khun, Ma

Thuzar (a) Moe Moe, Ma Nan Nyunt Nyunt Tin (a) Nan Mu.

At 8:30 pm the same day, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a house of Ko Aung San Win in Shwe BonThar Ward in Mogok Township and seized 0.49 kilogramme of heroin and 3,800 ecstasy tablets.

At 4:15 pm the same day, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a house of Ma Ah Htwan in Kaungmutong Ward in Muse Township and seized 4,000 ecstasy tablets and 0.7 kilogramme of opium extract.

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

LOCAL BUSINESS

Yangon gold market resumes trading; pure gold price stands at K2,074,000 per tical

YANGON gold market has resumed trading, and the pure gold is priced at K2,074,000 per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme), according to the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

The pure gold fetched K2.041 million per tical on 7 April prior to the market holidays. The figures reflected an increase of K30,000 per tical within two weeks. The global gold price stands at US\$1,943 per ounce at present. Meanwhile, the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate is K1,850.

Gold transactions must be

undertaken depending on the CBM's reference exchange rate, as per the YGEA's urgent meeting held on 8 April.

The YGEA's office is closed during the Thingyan holidays between 9 and 17 April. Therefore, the data on the daily gold price was not released. The YGEA did not fix the price on 18 and 19 April either.

Under the provisions stipulated in sections 11, 12 and 13 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, the foreign exchange earned by locals in Myanmar must be deposited in accounts at the authorized dealers and ex-

changed for the local currency at the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference rate of K1,850 by within one working day, according to the notification released on 3 April.

The US dollar stands at K2,000 in the unofficial black market. The domestic gold price is highly correlated with the global gold price, YGEA stated.

During the end of September 2021, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K3,000 in the gold exchanges and consequently, the pure gold reached a record high of K2.22 million per tical in history. — NN/GNLM



The pure gold fetched K2.041 million per tical on 7 April prior to the market holidays. The figures reflected an increase of K30,000 per tical within two weeks.

Jaggery prices soar to K2,500 per viss during early toddy palm female season

JAGGERY in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, fetched up to K2,500 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the early toddy palm female season after harvesting palm male.

The price of jaggery is worth K2,000 in the early toddy season and usually falls to K1,200 per viss during the abundant harvest. The price jumped to K2,000-K2,500 per viss during the toddy palm female season, Daw Than Than Myint from Taungshay village said.

The business is physically demanding but less secure. The toddy palm plant climbers and jaggery makers closely observe the market to produce the jaggery. The growers explained that before the toddy sap collection season, they have to prepare kilns, fuel, earthen pots, and other utensils.

A pot can hold two litres of toddy sap, and a viss of jaggery can be produced if you boil five pots.

Last year, jaggery fetched



The business is physically demanding but less secure. The toddy palm plant climbers and jaggery makers closely observe the market to produce the jaggery.

K2,000. The price rose to K2,500 per viss this year, a grower U Aye Han elaborated.

There is a vast area of toddy palm farm in NyaungU Township. However, the jaggery cannot keep up with the sugar business. Moreover, the local jaggery business is less popular among young people. Earlier, all the villagers solely relied on toddy palm cultivation. A grower said the number of toddy palm farmers dropped by half.

The toddy palm tree climbing is a traditional business in Ngathayauk town in NyaungU District. Yet, the business is not financially secure. Consequently, the local people migrate to South Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia for agriculture and hard labour jobs.

The toddy palm tree climbers and jaggery makers closely observe the market to produce the jaggery. — Ko Htein KPD/GNLM

Myanmar areca nuts exports to India plummet

MYANMAR'S areca nuts export to India plummeted, traders stressed.

The sales of the areca nuts from Mon State are high every year. They are also sent to Yangon, Bago and Mandalay regions. After that, they are delivered to India via those cities.

However, the border trade between Myanmar and India triggered by the political changes and the COVID impacts hindered, and the export of areca nuts drastically dropped.

This year, despite the high yield, the demand is relatively low. About 400-500 bags of areca nuts were earlier conveyed to India. The export volume plunges to 300 bags, for now, traders said.

Additionally, the hike in fuel oil prices added extra cost to freight forwarding service. The transportation rate has increased from K3,600 to K4,500 per bag.

The prevailing prices of areca nuts are K4,300-4,900 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), whereas the areca nuts were priced up to K5,000-6,000 per viss in the same corresponding period last year.

The high inflow of Thailand's areca nuts is another reason for the price decrease. As supply exceeded the demand, the price fell, traders considered.

The growers face a series of challenges such as virus-negative impacts, political instability, security concerns, transport difficulty, banking restrictions and money withdrawal limits, and high fuel oil prices.

However, the prices are likely to remain at the current high in May due to the high yield. Even if the price goes down, it will slightly decline, traders shared their opinions. — NN/GNLM

Write for us

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

OPINION

Avoid consumption of unsafe foods, consumer products

EVERYBODY needs to check foods and consumer products in the market as part of their daily routine before purchasing them. It is because some unscrupulous vendors mix fresh and non-fresh foods and products in displays.

Indeed, it should not be done. But unscrupulous sellers cannot avoid such inappropriate acts and malpractices in trading. Their actions unveil their insights and shameful mindsets. Hence, the buyers and consumers on their parts need to take care of avoiding the malpractices of unscrupulous sellers.

Consumers have the right to choose the best product in the market. So, they have to choose fresh and clean meals to supply the necessary nutrition for strengthening their bodies on a daily basis. As such, fresh and clean foods and products are crucial for the daily lifestyle of the people.

Adults are knowledgeable about how to choose good meals and consumer products in the market. But it is a problem for the children due to their immaturity in choosing fresh and clean meals. Taking it as an advantage, unscrupulous vendors sell unsafe meals in the market with colourful and smell attractions for the children.

Unearable meals in various forms and trademarks flow into the market daily. Selfish businesspersons import these unsafe meals abroad into the domestic market. They do not prioritize the interests of consumers people. They don't care about consumer health based on disadvantages that may come from the consumption of non-fresh and clean meals.

Unsafe meals and products bring allergies to the eyes and skin of children, pregnant women, older persons, vomiting, headache and disorders in the stomach in a short time. Moreover, they may suffer from health problems in the stomach, liver and kidney in addition to cancer disease in the long run. Moreover, expired products and improper chemical dyes are harmful to consumers.

Fresh and clean meals are nutritious for the physical strengths of consumers. Hence, only when officials from authorized organizations such as the Department of Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Public Health inspect the foods and consumer products without bias will the consumer people have the chance of choosing the good and nutritious meals and products for their safer consumption.

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Everybody should avoid improper acts of selling unsafe foods and products that may be harmful to others. Likewise, they should be knowledgeable about choosing safe meals for their daily life.



WHO launches traditional medicine hub in India

The hub is intended to create a body of reliable evidence and data on traditional medicine practices and products...

THE World Health Organization launched its Global Centre for Traditional Medicine at a site in India on Tuesday, aimed at unlocking its potential by blending ancient practices with modern science.

The GCTM knowledge hub is intended to create a body of reliable evidence and data on traditional medicine practices and products to help inform standards and the cost-effective use of methods that go outside conventional medicine.

"Harnessing the potential of traditional medicine would be a game-changer for health when founded on evidence, innovation and sustainability," the WHO said, noting that traditional

medicine formed part of the growing health and wellness industries.

The hub will be temporarily housed at the Institute Teaching and Research in Ayurveda in Jamnagar on India's west coast until the new 35-acre (14-hectare) site in the city is completed in 2024.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus joined Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Gujarati city to lay the foundation stone.

Around 80 per cent of the world's population is thought to use traditional medicine, such as herbal mixtures, acupuncture, yoga, ayurvedic medicine and indigenous therapies.

Medicine of first resort -

"For many millions of people around the world, traditional medicine is the first port of call to treat many diseases," Tedros told the ceremony.

"The WHO GCTM that we are launching will help to harness the power of science to strengthen the evidence base for traditional medicine," he said, to optimize its use for health and wellbeing around the world.

The UN health agency defines traditional medicine as the knowledge, skills and practices that indigenous and different cultures have used over time to maintain health and prevent, diagnose and treat physical and mental illness.

India has put \$250 million into the project, with Modi saying traditional medicine encompasses a holistic science of life and would gain global importance in the coming 30 years.

"Our traditional medicine is a repository of hundreds of years of accumulated knowledge," he said.

"Going forward, we must use technology to create a global database, repository of traditional medicine practices," to help future generations.

"They should also make international standards so that people's trust in these traditional medicines goes up."

Aspirin and the pill -

The hub will focus on four strategic areas: evidence and learning; data and analytics; sustainability and equity; and innovation and technology.

It is hoped that a solid evidence base will help countries regulate quality and safety.

Of the WHO's 194 member states, 170 acknowledged their use of traditional and complementary medicine since 2018, but only 124 reported having laws or regulations for the use of herbal medicines — while only half had a national policy on such methods and medicines.

The WHO said that traditional medicine was increasingly prominent in modern science, with 40 per cent of approved

pharmaceutical products currently in use deriving from natural substances.

It cited aspirin drawing on formulations using willow tree bark; the contraceptive pill being developed from wild yam plant roots; child cancer treatments based on the rosy periwinkle; and the development of the anti-malaria treatment artemisinin drawing on ancient Chinese medicine texts.

The UN health agency said artificial intelligence was now used to map evidence and trends in traditional medicine and to screen natural products for pharmacokinetic properties.

SOURCE: AFP



A platter of herbal medicines at Goa, India. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/WIKI COMMONS/AFP

Major Japan firms shifting toward more recruitment, post-COVID growth

Forty-two per cent of major Japanese firms are planning to increase hires of new graduates in fiscal 2023, a Kyodo News survey showed Sunday, reflecting more companies projecting a recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

THE ratio of such optimistic firms jumped by 25 points from a survey held a year ago. It topped that of companies planning to curb new graduate hiring, 9 percent, for the first time in three years.

Of the 117 companies polled, 49 said they will hire more in the year starting next April compared with levels in the previous year. The survey also found that the fallout on their recruitment plan from the Russian war on Ukraine is seen as relatively limited.

Among other respondents, 30 per cent said they will maintain the same levels as fiscal 2022 while 14 per cent were undecided.

The survey was conducted between mid-March and early April.

Hard hit by the pandemic



Most of Japanese companies recruit new graduates at the start of each fiscal year, beginning the hiring process roughly a year in advance. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/BSIC.IT/KYODO/FILE

Businesses that had been hard hit by the pandemic, such as airlines and the tourism sector, stood out in their resolve to increase recruitment as they explore new ways for growth. ANA Holdings Inc. and Imperial Hotel Ltd. are among them.

In contrast, some companies in the finance and energy sectors said they will curb hires of new graduates. They instead plan to expand mid-career recruitment and improve business efficiency through digitization.

Most of Japanese companies recruit new graduates at the start of each fiscal year, beginning the hiring process roughly a year in advance.

In the survey, the most common reason given to raising recruitment was "expanding business" at 33 per cent, followed by 18 per cent noting

the need to balance the age distribution of employees.

On Russia's invasion of Ukraine, 57 per cent see its impact on their recruitment plan as "not significant."

While 1 per cent said the war in Europe could lead to less recruitment, 33 per cent said they cannot assess its impact now.

The Ukraine crisis has prompted a climb in commodity and crude oil prices, raising concerns that it may squeeze corporate earnings amid hesitancy to pass on additional costs to consumers.

As for recruiting amid the pandemic, 19 per cent said they will carry out all the process online, up 3 points from the previous survey.— Kyodo

MYANMAR Daily Weather Report

(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Wednesday 20 April 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 21 April 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, scattered in Rakhine and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Bago Region and Kayah, Mon States and isolated in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy fall in Nay Pyi Taw, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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: Continuations of likelihood of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 April 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 April 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 April 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

TECH/ENVIRON WORLD

US pledges to end anti-satellite missile tests

THE United States announced a commitment to stop testing anti-satellite missiles that generate dangerous debris in space, a measure described Tuesday as “an important step” by the head of NASA.

The United States, the first country to make such a pledge, has encouraged other nations to follow its lead, with the goal of establishing “a new international norm for responsible behaviour in space,” the White House said in a statement.

“This is especially important as there is an ever-increasing number of states and non-governmental entities that rely on space services and space assets which are vulnerable to debris,” it added.

The announcement comes five months after Russia destroyed one of its own satellites in a missile test that created a cloud of debris and forced the seven crew on the International Space Station to temporarily take



PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/LOCKHEED MARTIN/AFP

shelter in their return ships.

Washington denounced the strike as “dangerous and irresponsible.”

Russia and the United States are among the small handful of nations that possess the high-tech anti-satellite weapons known as ASATs. The missiles have also been used by China and India.

“There is no doubt that hu-

man spaceflight and the future of the space environment are incompatible with destructive direct-ascent ASAT missile tests,” said NASA head Bill Nelson in a statement.

He dubbed the US measure “an important step forward to foster a safe, sustainable space environment,” and called on other countries to follow suit.—AFP

Extent of Antarctic sea ice hits record low: study



Scientists operating a remote underwater camera through a hole in the ice near Australia's Antarctic Casey research station. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

THE extent of sea ice in the Antarctic hit a record low in February, the second such event within five years, a new Chinese study shows.

The study, published on Tuesday in the journal *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences*, revealed that on 25 February, a few days from the end of the

Southern hemisphere's summer, the extent of Antarctic sea ice dipped below 2 million square km for the first time since the launch of satellite observations of the poles in 1978.

Antarctic sea ice has been enjoying a trend of modest increase of about 1 percent per decade since the late 1970s,

although the extent of sea ice in the Arctic is undergoing a rapid decline as a result of global warming.

Researchers from Sun Yat-sen University and Southern Marine Science and Engineering Guangdong Laboratory (Zhuhai) used sea-ice budget analysis to examine the sea-ice minimum in the summer of 2022.

The researchers suggest that the sea-ice record was due in part to an anomalous low and westward Amundsen Sea Low, a center of low atmospheric pressure over the far south of the Pacific Ocean and off the coast of West Antarctica.

Yang Qinghua, a co-author of the study from Sun Yat-sen University, said the phenomenon should be largely attributed to natural variability, although the role of global warming cannot be excluded without further study.—Xinhua

TOP NEWS STORIES

After failed tests, NASA's Moon rocket heads back to workshop

NASA's Space Launch System rocket is heading back to its assembly building for repairs next week, pushing the earliest possible launch date for its uncrewed test flight to the Moon to later this summer, officials said Monday.

Since 1 April the space agency has been unsuccessfully attempting a key “wet dress rehearsal” test, so dubbed because it involves loading liquid propellant.

The procedure is meant as a run-through of launch operations, including a final countdown to within ten seconds before blast off, but without actually firing the engines.

But NASA teams have encountered several technical hitches.

These included a leak involving flammable liquid hydrogen, a faulty valve that prevented fueling of the upper stage and running low on supply of nitrogen that is used to purge oxygen from the rocket prior to tanking operations, for safety reasons.

The rocket, which is 322 feet (98 metres) tall with the Orion crew capsule fixed on top, will begin its slow journey back from Kennedy Space Centre's Launch Complex 39B to the vehicle assembly building on 26 April, where it will be repaired.

Asked what this might mean for the earliest opportunity to launch the Artemis-1 test flight to the Moon and back, senior official Tom Whitmeyer said: “I think the early June window would be challenging.”—AFP

Climate activists disrupt traffic in London, Paris

SEVERAL hundred activists from the Extinction Rebellion activist group on Saturday blocked major roads in central Paris and London, disrupting traffic to protest “inaction” on climate change from world leaders.

Around 300 metres (980 feet) of a main thoroughfare in central Paris was taken over by activists over the Easter weekend, with some of them moving in hay bales and cement-filled containers to block traffic. Extinction Rebellion tweeted “thousands” of protesters were “occupying” London's Marble Arch roundabout during a sit-in close to Hyde Park, demanding an end to the fossil fuel economy. Demonstrators also glued themselves to a limousine in central London. The Metropolitan Police said in a tweet that the protest caused “significant traffic disruption” and that the protesters “locked onto a stationary vehicle in the middle of the road... believed to be their own”.—AFP

Endangered North Atlantic right whales make a stand in Cape Cod

AFTER many hours scouring Cape Cod Bay and a few false alarms, those aboard the Research Vessel *Shearwater* on a bright April day make their first sighting: three North Atlantic right whales, including a rare mother-calf pair.

The captain cuts the engines and a trio of marine biologists spring into action, rapidly snapping photos and noting markings that can be used to identify individual animals and track injuries—a vital part of conservation efforts for a species believed to have 336 members. While the whaling that drove them to near-extinction has long been banned, unintended collisions with ships and entanglements with fishing gear are today the main threats for *Eubalaena glacialis*, one of the most endangered mammals in the world. Approaching 60 feet in length and weighing over 70 tonnes, the North Atlantic right whale is the third largest whale in existence. Their life spans are similar to humans, with individuals living up to a century.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Foreign firms support Shanghai's move towards work resumption



A pedestrian walks past the Shanghai Free Trade Zone in Shanghai March 2019. PHOTO: XINHUA /FILE

FOREIGN companies in Shanghai said they support the city government's decision to resume work and production, refuting rumours that they refused to cooperate.

Despite the closed management that is being implemented in Shanghai, production at 3M's Caohejing base has not been suspended.

3M's medical respirator production has continued in an orderly manner during the city's closed management, the company said in a statement on Monday.

"3M actively supports Shanghai's fight against the pandemic while developing a plan to resume work and production," it said.

Chemical giant DuPont on Monday also refuted social media rumour regarding its so-called refusal to follow a request from the Shanghai government to resume operations and production.

DuPont said its office employees in Shanghai have been working from home where possible during the closed management, and "several branch companies have been operating in line with government guidance".

"We will resume production as soon as we receive government approval and that our colleagues are allowed to leave the community health management," the company said. German chemical company BASF said that most of its production plants in Shanghai have been running since late March.—Xinhua

Specialty clinic to treat lingering COVID-19 symptoms in Australian capital

A specialty clinic has been established in Australia's capital to help people suffering serious and lingering COVID-19 symptoms.

The Post COVID Recovery Clinic at the University of Canberra Hospital has been opened to treat patients with coronavirus symptoms that are still affecting their daily lives more than 12 weeks after contracting the virus.

Patients at the clinic receive care from rehabilitation specialists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, exercise physiologists and social workers.

It is funded under the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) government's COVID-19 health response, which received a 105 million Australian dollar (about 77 million USD) boost in March.

Rachel Stephen-Smith, the ACT's Health Minister, said the clinic would help patients make a recovery from COVID-19.

"For many long COVID patients, the debilitating symptoms of the virus are compromising their quality of life," she said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The Post COVID Recovery Clinic is leading the nation in providing support to those affected by long COVID and helping them return to their day-to-day activities."—Xinhua

Laotians celebrate New Year amid COVID-19 pandemic

PEOPLE celebrated the Lao New Year Festival in a more restrained way than usual this year due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Celebration activities in the Lao capital Vientiane were scaled down by the Lao government when some of the provinces enjoyed a livelier scene with activities taking place in the streets.

People splash water to each other to celebrate the Songkran Festival, or the Lao New Year, in Luang Prabang, Laos, 14 April 2022.

The festival in Vientiane was more muted than usual due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the customary events on the streets and in public places were banned, including outdoor entertainment such as street fairs, Miss Lao New Year beauty contests, and concerts.

This year, Vientiane's streets were devoid of the customary revelry and were almost empty of people and traffic. However, many people hosted parties in their homes and enjoyed the time with family and friends.

"This year I stayed in Vientiane and hosted a small party at my house. I had a very good time with my family and friends. The celebrations were very colourful and everyone dressed in bright clothes," Vatsana Savanxay, a 32-year-old woman resident in Vientiane, told Xinhua.



People splash water to each other to celebrate the Songkran Festival, or the Lao New Year, in Luang Prabang, Laos, 14 April 2022. PHOTO BY KAIKEO SAIYASANE/XINHUA

"We went to temples to pour water on Buddha figures and had a lot of fun eating meals together and sprinkling water on each other."

Younger people respectfully poured perfumed water on the hands of their elders and asked for their blessings for the year ahead.

"The Lao New Year is an important time and occurs only once a year. I think it's an excellent opportunity to foster cultural traditions and preserve our fine customs," she said.—Xinhua

US announces global Covid summit 12 May

A global summit to chart an end to the Covid-19 crisis and plan for future upheavals will occur 12 May, the White House said Monday, even as President Joe Biden struggles to get vital pandemic funding from Congress.

The virtual gathering will be co-chaired by the United States, along with current G7 president Germany, G20 president Indonesia, African Union chair Senegal, and Belize, the current chair of the CARICOM Caribbean grouping. "The summit will redouble our collective efforts to end the acute phase of the Covid-19 pandemic and prepare for future health threats," the countries said in a joint statement.

This will be the second global huddle on the pandemic, which has killed more than six million people and triggered profound

disruption to leading economies and trading patterns in the two years since it began to spread.

Biden hosted a similar summit last September, at which he

urged partners to surge vaccines and ensure that 70 per cent of every country has been vaccinated by September this year.—AFP



Passengers walk in Jiangnan Road Metro Station in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, 22 April 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA/XIAO YIJIU/FILE

ECONOMY WORLD

Malaysia must seize opportunities to upgrade trade ties with RCEP members: Malaysian expert



Malaysia's Malacca, located along the Strait of Malacca, used to be an important trade hub and a knot for cultural exchanges between the East and the West. **PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHU WEI**

MALAYSIA must seize opportunities to upgrade trade ties with major partners like China as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) came into force for the Southeast Asian nation on 18 March, said a renowned expert in a recent interview with Xinhua.

Among the opportunities for the country are diversification away from goods to services es-

pecially with regard to Malaysia's biggest trade partner China, Oh Ei Sun, principal adviser for Malaysia's Pacific Research Centre, told Xinhua in an online interview.

Oh pointed out that volumes of commodity trade between China and Malaysia are already huge, therefore both sides should put more effort into improving the quality, upgrading bilateral

trade in services and the use of digital tools to boost trade through RCEP.

Speaking of trade in services, he highlighted the cooperation and exchanges in education sector between the two countries. "I'm happy to see that, for example, over the past few years, there are more and more Malaysian students going to study in China and Chinese students coming to Malaysia to study."

Oh also said the COVID-19 pandemic had been an effective lesson for many countries, including Malaysia in demonstrating the importance of digitalization and the need to change mindsets and attitudes to take advantage of RCEP and new trade opportunities. He said while Malaysia was no stranger to international trade, the Southeast Asian nation must strengthen its basic trading mechanisms and institutions, for foreign investors who are trying to invest in Malaysia, to take advantage of RCEP provisions.—Xinhua

Sharp fall in yen weighs on Japan's economy



A pedestrian walks in front of the Bank of Japan headquarters in Tokyo on 16 March 2020. **PHOTO: KAZUHIRO NOGI / AFP**

THE Japanese yen has weakened markedly this year as major central banks in Europe and the United States have shifted monetary policies.

Meanwhile, affected by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, international commodity prices continued to rise, which further magnified the impact of the depreciation of the yen on the Japanese econ-

omy.

The Nikkei's "currency index" of the world's leading currencies showed the yen declined by 5.7 per cent in the first quarter of 2022, second only to the Russian rouble. In March, the yen fell 6.9 per cent against the US dollar.

Japan's current account balance continued to deteriorate due to the sharp depreciation of the

yen. According to data from the Finance Ministry, due to factors such as rising import prices, the country's current account surplus has been shrinking since last August and swung into deficit in December, and the deficit widened to 1.1887 trillion yen (9.26 billion dollars) in January this year. The Nikkei estimated that Japan's current account deficit will hit 16 trillion yen (124.63 billion dollars) in fiscal 2022 if the yen continues to weaken and crude oil prices rise to 130 dollars a barrel.

The sharp fall in the yen has increased the impact of the surge in international commodity prices on Japan's economy. According to the Bank of Japan (BOJ), Japan's corporate inflation index rose 9.5 per cent year-on-year to 112.0 in March, up for the 13th consecutive month, as import prices continued to surge.—Xinhua

NEWS IN Brief

Oil prices drop after IMF cuts growth forecast



A trucker loads his truck with fuel at the Marathon Oil Refinery in Salt Lake City, Utah on 29 October 2021. **PHOTO: GEORGE FREY/AFP**

Oil prices fell noticeably on Tuesday as demand concerns returned to markets after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) cut its forecast for global economic growth.

The West Texas Intermediate for May delivery lost 5.65 US dollars, or 5.2 per cent, to settle at 102.56 US dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude for June delivery decreased 5.91 dollars, or 5.2 per cent, to close at 107.25 dollars a barrel on the London ICE Futures Exchange.

The IMF on Tuesday slashed global growth forecast for 2022 to 3.6 per cent amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict, 0.8 percentage points lower than the January projection, according to its newly released World Economic Outlook report.—Xinhua

Ukraine set to dominate G20 finance chiefs summit

FINANCE officials from the world's richest countries will meet on Wednesday to address global challenges like rising debt and a possible food crisis – if they can overcome boiling tensions over Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Moscow's attack on its neighbour is set to dominate the meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors, the first since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the special operation in February. US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen will boycott some sessions if Russian officials are present, according to a senior US official, a stance other countries have said they will follow.—AFP

Temporary aid can offset inflation hit to families: IMF official

FACED with surging inflation that is hitting poor families especially hard, which has sparked unrest in some countries, policymakers should take immediate steps to offset the pain with targeted and temporary relief, IMF chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas said Tuesday.

"We've seen already in some countries people protesting when they see the price of food or basic items increasing very rapidly," the official told AFP in an interview.

Governments can alleviate impact of the price jumps with "targeted measures to try to support vulnerable populations," which can include steps like utility bill discounts or direct payments to poor families, he said. Gourinchas earlier Tuesday unveiled the IMF's latest World Economic Outlook which flags rising inflation as a key risk, made worse by the Russian invasion of Ukraine that has caused a surge in prices of fuel and food.—AFP

Luxury makeover helps L'Oreal sales glow



L'Oreal said Tuesday its first quarter sales jumped nearly a fifth despite headwinds from the Ukraine war and pandemic disruptions in China as the French cosmetics giant pursued its luxury strategy. **PHOTO: MZTOUTIAO/AFP**

L'Oreal said Tuesday its first quarter sales jumped nearly a fifth despite headwinds from the Ukraine war and pandemic disruptions in China as the French cosmetics giant pursued its luxury strategy.

The 19 per cent rise in sales to 9.06 billion euros (\$9.8 billion) beat the analyst consensus of 8.8 billion euros established by Factset.

"Against the backdrop of the invasion of Ukraine and strengthened sanitary measures in China, L'Oreal had a strong first quarter," said chief executive Nicolas

Hieronimus.

The company, which has been shifting its product portfolio towards the premium segment, said the luxury division posted the strongest sales growth of 25.1 per cent.

In recent quarters the luxury division became the top-selling division for L'Oreal, and generated 3.46 billion euros in sales in the first three months of the year. The division includes Lancome and Kiehl's as well as the beauty products of luxury brands such as Giorgio Armani, Prada, Ralph Lauren and Yves

Saint Laurent.

The consumer products unit which includes the L'Oreal Paris, Maybel-line New York and Garnier brands, is now in second place after recording 11.1 per cent growth to 3.3 billion euros. Hieronimus said consumer purchasing behaviour has so far been unaffected by inflation, and that its consumer products division managed double-digit growth despite supply-chain challenges that have been affecting many industries as the world economy recovers from the pandemic.—AFP

Tesla's Shanghai factory resumes production

US electric carmaker Tesla's Shanghai factory officially resumed production on Tuesday, the company said.

About 8,000 employees have returned to work in the US carmaker Tesla's factory so far, Xinhua News Agency reported citing the company.

Affected by the latest COVID-19 resurgence in Shanghai, the Shanghai Gigafactory had suspended production for over 20 days.

"We have full confidence in China's economy," said Tao Lin, vice-

president of Tesla, as per Xinhua News Agency, adding that "from the process of the current production resumption, we have seen China's ability to cope with challenges and we believe that normality will soon return". Tao said that several government departments have worked almost round the clock to help enterprises resume work and production as quickly as possible.

The factory will need three to four days to boost its production gradually to full capacity, according to Song Gang, the factory's

manufacturing and operation director, Xinhua reported. According to the news agency, Tesla said it is promoting the resumption of production at more than 100 parts manufacturers with the help of relevant government departments. Some provinces and cities in the Yangtze River Delta region have also been very supportive of Tesla's production resumption. Taizhou city in the neighbouring Jiangsu Province has assisted local Tesla supply chain enterprises in their production resumption.—Xinhua

RICHFIT MYANMAR COMPANY LIMITED
COMPANY REGISTRATION NO.106182752
(Incorporated in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar)
(the "Company")

Notice of the Appointment of Liquidator

Richfit Myanmar Company Limited hereby announces to public that the Company appoints Daw Kay Khine Khine Lin as the liquidator on the account of handling the winding up processes of the Company and the Company shall carry out all processes regarding voluntary winding up of the Company in accordance with the existing laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar including but not limited to Insolvency Law and Insolvency Rules, pursuant to the Special Resolution at the Extraordinary General Meeting which was held within three weeks starting from the date of this notice. For all financial matters, the appointed liquidator shall solve the payment and claims as well as other relevant matters for voluntary winding up process.

Notice to the Creditors to submit Proof of Debts or Claims

In compliance with Section 201 of Insolvency Law and Rule 87 of Insolvency Rules, it is hereby notified to the creditor to submit Proof of Debts or Claims within 28 days after the date of this Notice at Unit 10&12, Level 15, Myanmar Center, Tower 1, No. 192, Kabar Aya Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar, email address, liu.jun@richfitint.com. Failing to do so, the creditor, as per Rule 87 (e) of Insolvency Rules, will be excluded from the benefit of a distribution made before its debt or claim is admitted and objecting to that distribution.

Daw Kay Khine Khine Lin (00017)
Advocate
Liquidator
Unit 10 & 12, Level 15, Myanmar Center,
Tower 1, No. 192, Kabar Aye Pagoda
Road, Bahan Township, Yangon

Mr. Liu Jun
Director
Richfit Myanmar Company Limited

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GUANG PING VOY.NO. (053N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GUANG PING VOY.NO. (053N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-4-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0315N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KHDY0315N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-4-2022** 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 PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (191W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (191W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-4-2022** 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

French government to resign if Macron wins: PM

FRENCH Prime Minister Jean Castex said Tuesday that his government would tender its resignation if Emmanuel Macron is re-elected president, in a bid to provide a “new impetus” for Macron’s centrist party ahead of parliamentary elections in June.

Macron is facing a close race in the run-off on Sunday against far-right veteran Marine Le Pen, with analysts warning that low turnout could prove a wildcard even though most polls show Macron in the lead.

If he is re-elected, “in the subsequent days, as is the tradition, I will present the president with my resignation and that of

the government,” Castex told France Inter radio.

“I’m among those who think a new impetus should be found after the president’s re-election,” he added.

The parliamentary vote in June will be a further test of Macron’s popularity, and renewing his majority will be essential for pursuing his reformist agenda, including an overhaul of the pensions system that would require most people to work longer before retiring.

There has been speculation that European Central Bank chief Christine Lagarde could be offered the post of prime min-

ister, although she sidestepped a question on the issue at a press conference last week.

Opinion polls currently put the centrist Macron at 53 to 56 per cent in the run-off against 44 to 47 per cent for Le Pen, in a much tighter finish than in 2017, when the same candidates faced off but Macron carried the vote with 66 per cent.

“The game isn’t over yet and we certainly can’t draw conclusions... that this election, this match, is already decided,” Castex said. “We have to convince the French that Emmanuel Macron’s programmes are the best for France and for them.” — AFP



French Prime Minister Jean Castex (R) stands guard with local police officers during a ceremony in Nice, on 7 November 2020, in homage to the three victims of an attack at Notre-Dame de Nice Basilica on 29 October 2020. PHOTO: VALERY HACHE / AFP/FILE

Cuba, US to hold high level—migration talks

CUBA and the United States will hold their highest level bilateral talks since Joe Biden became president later this week, with immigration to be the main topic, Havana said Tuesday.

The move comes after Wash-

ington announced last month that it was partially reopening its consulate in Havana, which had been closed since 2017 following alleged “sonic attacks”.

“On Thursday 21 April in Washington D.C. there will be a

new round of migration conversations between delegations of Cuba and United States,” the island nation’s foreign office said on Twitter.

Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Fernandez de Cossio will head his country’s delegation.

The meeting will take place amid mass migration from Cuba, which is suffering its worst economic crisis in almost three decades.

Cuba is heavily reliant on tourism which substantially dried up during the coronavirus pandemic. While the sector has since picked up again, the pandemic’s effects are still being felt.

Since Nicaragua waived visas for Cubans last November, thousands have headed to the Central American country on a journey they hope will end in the United States.—AFP



A young migrant from Cuba looks on as her parents prepare documents to show the border patrol agent after they crossed the US-Mexico border and turned themselves in to authorities in Yuma, Arizona, on 13 May 2021. PHOTO: RINGO CHIU/AFP/FILE

Japan to scrap licences for electric scooters

JAPAN’S parliament on Tuesday enacted a law that will no longer require a licence for users of electric scooters, although minors aged under 16 will still be banned from riding them.

The new regulations for electric scooters with a maximum speed of 20 kilometres per hour are part of amendments to the road traffic law passed by the

House of Representatives.

The amendments also include new rules for “Level 4” automated mobility services such as driverless buses which the government plans to permit within designated areas.

Electric scooters, which are popular in Europe, have been attracting a growing number of users in Japan. They resemble

skateboards equipped with handles and must be ridden with a helmet. The scooters will now be classified under a newly created category for designated motorized bicycles. Users can in principle run on vehicle and bicycle lanes and will also be allowed to run on sidewalks so long as they keep the speed at up to 6 kph.—Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Asian Americans take safety into own hands amid surge in hate crimes: FT

A spate of violent attacks against Asians in the United States and a lack of effective government intervention have prompted Asian Americans to take safety into their own hands, The Financial Times (FT) reported.

The measures taken by Asian Americans range from taking self-defence classes to acquiring pepper spray and whistles, the British newspaper said on Sunday.

Since the pandemic, anti-Asian hate has escalated nationwide in the United States, something many blame on former US President Donald Trump’s rhetoric early in the pandemic, it said, noting that in New York City, the police department estimates hate crimes against Asian Americans jumped over 360 per cent in 2021.

Christina Yuna Lee, a 35-year-old Asian American woman, was stabbed over 40 times by a stranger who followed her home in February, one of the most harrowing attacks on Asian Americans in New York City in recent months, it said.

Asian American women accounted for 62 per cent of the 10,905 hate incidents logged between the start of pandemic in March 2020 and the end of December, it said, citing a recent report from Stop AAPI Hate, a non-profit group that tracks violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.—Xinhua

Millions of laid-off Americans plan to stay away indefinitely: report

MILLIONS of Americans who left their jobs last year plan to stay away indefinitely, signalling a trend of “long social distancing,” US financial news website Business Insider has reported.

The number of those who have dropped out of the workforce and shunned in-person work, shopping or eating out in the United States is estimated to be around 3 million, said the report on Sunday, citing a latest research jointly conducted by Stanford University, the University of Chicago and Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México.

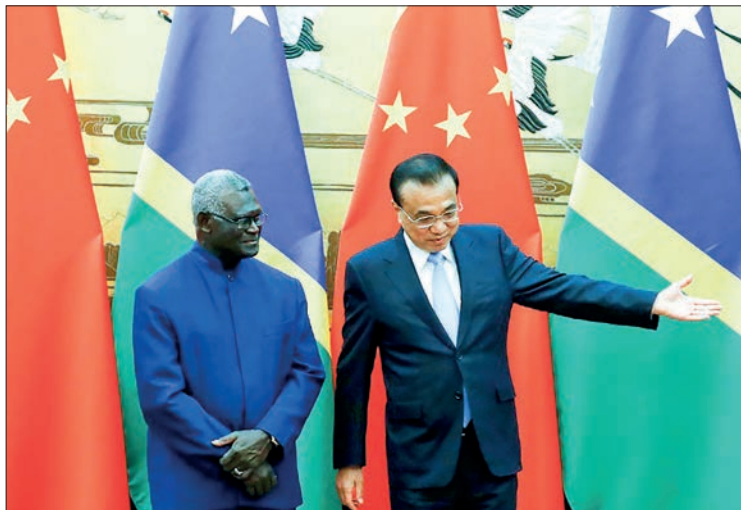
The study, which surveyed 5,000 people over 12 months, found a quarter of respondents unwilling to return to pre-pandemic activities cited pandemic fears as a primary or secondary factor.

The findings suggest the labour market will remain tight, putting more pressure on wages and prices even as interest rates rise, the report said.—Xinhua

China signs security pact with Solomons

CHINA confirmed on Tuesday the official signing of a security pact with the Solomon Islands, and warned that any attempt to disrupt Beijing's cooperation with Pacific island countries is doomed to fail.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a daily news briefing that the foreign ministers of the two countries had officially signed an intergovernmental framework agreement on security cooperation, which is not targeted at any third party and conforms to the shared interests of the Solomon Islands and the South Pacific region.



Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare (L) has defended the security pact with China despite Western governments' fears. PHOTO: THOMAS PETER/AFP/FILE

The nature of the agreement is normal exchanges and cooperation between the two sovereign and independent states, Wang said. He underlined that security cooperation aims at promoting social stability and long-term peace in the Solomon Islands, it follows the principles of equality and mutual benefit and it is based on respecting the will and actual needs of the Solomon Islands.

The two sides will cooperate in the fields of maintaining social order, protecting people's lives and property, humanitarian assistance and responding to natural disasters, according to Wang.

He added that Beijing is committed to helping the Pacific island nation strengthen its capacity building to safeguard national security.

Noting that security cooperation between China and the Solomon Islands is open, transparent, and inclusive, Wang said it runs parallel to and complements the existing bilateral and multilateral security cooperation mechanisms in the Solomon Islands.

China is willing to work with relevant countries to give full play to their respective advantages and form international synergy, Wang added.—Xinhua

RUSSIA - UKRAINE CONFLICT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

Fighting ongoing in Mariupol: Ukrainian governor

FIGHTING between Ukrainian and Russian forces is "ongoing" in the strategic port of Mariupol, the local governor told CNN Tuesday.

"There is fighting ongoing in Mariupol. This is street fighting" Pavlo Kyrylenko governor of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region said.

Ukrainian forces there are "under heavy bombardment" but "continue to defend Mariupol". "There are certain districts where street fighting is continuing. I can't say the Russians are controlling them," Kyrylenko said, adding that the fighting was "not just small arms fighting, but also tank fighting".—AFP

Ukraine says received 76 prisoners of war in Russian swap

UKRAINE said Tuesday it had got back 60 soldiers and 16 civilians in a prisoner swap with Moscow, without giving details on how many Russians went home in the exchange. "Today we exchanged 60 servicemen, including ten officers. Sixteen civilians are also returning home," Kyiv's deputy prime minister Iryna Vereshchuk said on Telegram. She said it was the fifth prisoner exchange between the two countries since Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his invasion of Ukraine on February 24th.—AFP

Russia expelling 36 European diplomats: foreign ministry

RUSSIA said on Tuesday it was expelling 36 diplomats from two European countries in retaliation for similar measures taken against Moscow's foreign envoys over the Kremlin's military operation in Ukraine. The Russian foreign ministry said it had declared 21 diplomats from Belgium and 15 from the Netherlands "persona non grata", giving them two weeks to leave. Moscow also summoned Luxembourg's envoy, warning him that Russia may decide to take reciprocal measures for the tiny European state's expulsion of Moscow's ambassador.—AFP

Russia urges US to abandon 'futile policy' of blockade, sanctions

RUSSIA urged the United States to abandon its "futile policy" of blockade and sanctions in foreign policy, the Russian Embassy in Washington said on Tuesday (local time).

The diplomatic mission's comment was timed to the announcement of a new round of high-level dialogue between the United States and Cuba on migration on 21 April. The Russian Embassy welcomed the step.

"Dialogue is always better than its absence. It is high time for the US to abandon the futile policy of blockade and sanctions in foreign affairs," the embassy tweeted. Earlier, there were reports that the US is looking at designating Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism.

"We're taking a close look at the facts. We're taking a close look at the law," US State Department

spokesperson Ned Price said during an interview with CNN on Monday.

Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy has urged US President Joe Biden to impose the designation on Russia that would impose some of the most significant

sanctions at the Biden administration's disposal, Sputnik News Agency said citing media reports.

Notably, US President Joe Biden has no plans to visit Kyiv to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, as per White House.—ANI



Russian troops struck a Ukrainian military barracks in the southern city of Mykolaiv. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Nearly five million Ukrainians flee war

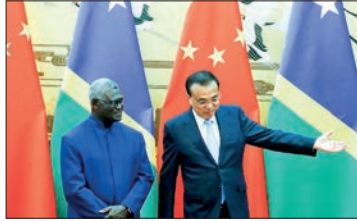
NEARLY five million Ukrainians have fled the war since Russia's invasion, the United Nations said Tuesday, sounding alarm at the rapid exodus and voicing concern that the situation may worsen. UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, said 4,980,589 Ukrainians had left since Russia invaded on 24 February — a fig-

ure up 46,174 on Monday's total.

The UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) says nearly 215,000 third-country nationals — largely students and migrant workers — have also escaped to neighbouring countries, meaning around 5.2 million people in all have fled Ukraine since the war began. Officials call it the

fastest-growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War II.

"The key is that the borders remain open, people can access safety and when they get to the neighbouring countries they have access to assistance," UNHCR spokeswoman Shabia Mantoo told reporters in Geneva.—AFP



Thailand trounce Myanmar 7-0 in NSDF Futsal Invitation Championship 2022

MYANMAR Women's Futsal Team faced a shocked 0-7 loss to Thailand Team in their opening match of the NSDF Futsal Invitation Championship 2022 in Thailand yesterday.

On the first day of the group stage, the Thai All-Stars also beat the Australian club South Perth 3-0.

The Myanmar women's team struggled as it was a competitive match about two months after the team's formation.

As the Thai team is a big team in the ASEAN, they showed their epic skills to beat Myanmar easily by scoring two goals in the first half and five goals in the second half.

The Myanmar women's team is playing in preparation for the SEA Games and will likely improve if they gain experience, Myanmar Football Federation officials said.

Myanmar will play against Thai All-Stars on 23 April in the second match of the group. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



One of the Myanmar Team players (Red) controls the ball and tries to turn away from the opponent during the group match of the NSDF Futsal Invitation Championship 2022 in Thailand on 20 April 2022. PHOTO: MFF

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.

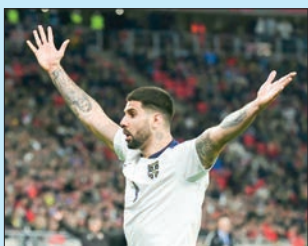
2. Economic affairs

- (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.

Fulham promoted back to the Premier League



Aleksandar Mitrovic has scored 40 goals in 40 Championship games for promoted Fulham. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

FULHAM were promoted back to the Premier League on Tuesday with four games to spare as Aleksandar Mitrovic scored twice in a 3-0 win over Preston at Craven Cottage.

It is the fifth consecutive season the Cottagers have changed divisions as they were also promoted

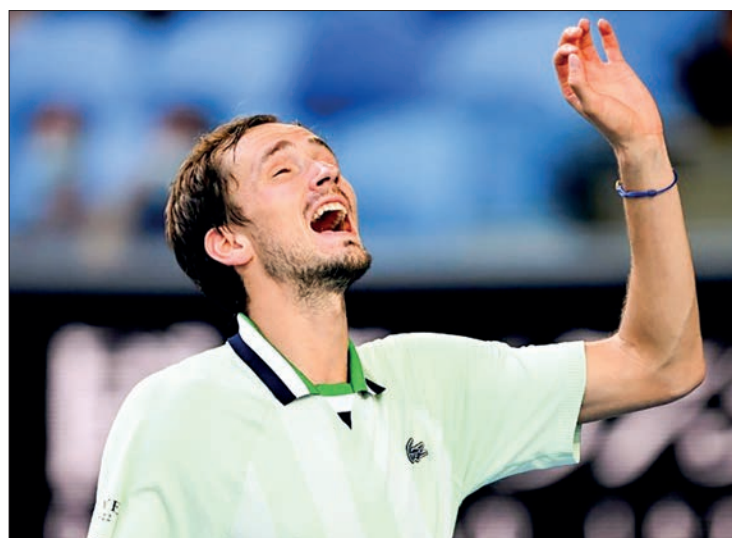
in 2018 and 2020 before being relegated in their first season back in the top flight.

However, in contrast to their need to go via the play-offs two years ago, Marco Silva's men have been the best side in the Championship by a distance this season. Mitrovic has been the major reason why and the Serb took his tally to an incredible 40 goals in 40 league games this season with a first-half double.

Liverpool-bound Fabio Carvalho was also on target as Fulham also closed in on sealing the Championship title.

They lead Bournemouth by nine points with five games left for the Cherries to catch them.—AFP

Wimbledon ban on Russian players would be 'unacceptable': Kremlin



Banning Russian and Belarusian tennis players such as men's world number two Daniil Medvedev from Wimbledon would be unacceptable said Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov. PHOTO: AFP

THE Kremlin said Wednesday that banning Russian tennis players from Wimbledon over Moscow's military campaign in Ukraine would be "unacceptable".

"Once again they simply turn athletes into hostages to political prejudice, political intrigues," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. "This is unacceptable."

"Taking into account that Russia is a very strong tennis country, our athletes are at the top of world rankings, the competition itself will suffer from their removal," he added.

The Times reported that organizers are to ban Russian and Belarus players due to Russia's military campaign in Ukraine.

The move comes amid Russia's growing sporting isolation on the global stage following President Vladimir Putin's decision to send troops to Ukraine on 24 February.

Russian Tennis Federation president Shamil Tarpishchev denounced the decision but added there was "nothing we can do".

"I consider this decision to be wrong," he told Russia's Sport-Express news site.—AFP