

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 18 April 2022

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

New Year Message of greetings delivered by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on the New Year occasion in 1384 Myanmar Era Myanmar New Year Day, 2nd Waning of Tagu 1384 ME 17 April 2022

ON the occasion of transitioning the old year to the new one, I wish all ethnic national brethren residing in the Union mental and physical well-being.

Looking back on the one-year experiences, we all overcame challenges and difficulties triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and political crises based on intentional violations instead of honest democracy on the path of multiparty democratization.

I had expressed my belief in the previous year's New Year Message of Greetings that we would overcome the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic through the collaboration of the people. The year 2021 was the worst in the outbreak of COVID-19 in our country, which overcame various kinds of difficulties. However, many global countries, including neighbouring countries, are still facing the high infection rate of the pandemic. As we cannot say that the globe is totally free from



the pandemic, I'd like to urge you all to strictly abide by the rules and regulations to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year is the pre-year of the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day. So, we have to

make utmost efforts to enjoy the fruits of Independence and democratic administration fully. Hence, this year is identified as the Year of Peace. We are trying our best to restore the peace and tranquillity of

the entire nation.

I've two national visions—

1. to ensure peace and prosperity of the State
2. to guarantee food sufficiency of the State.

The whole Union must

be peaceful and prosperous. Everybody must have proper livelihoods with the capacity to keep abreast of other countries.

We need to manage the food sufficiency in the entire nation by utilizing underground and above ground natural resources.

The strength of the nation lies within. I will strive to do my best through the power of the people. I absolutely believe that it would be successful.

On the occasion of the auspicious New Year 1384 ME, we have to repair the disadvantages of the previous year and improve the advantages with a plan to serve the interests of the State and the citizens.

I wish all ethnic national brethren of the Union serving the Union interests healthy and happy this year in harmony with us.

May all be healthy and happy.

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar endeavouring to export corn to China through legitimate trade channel

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1383-84 New Year message of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Bhamo Sayadaw



DURING the transition period to a New Year, there would be demerits that cause Dukkha (sufferings). At that time, the people should tell their beads of the attributes of Buddha, disperse Metta and share the merits, and keep Metta on their minds sharing the merits to all living things.

If they tell their beads of the attributes of Buddha, they will recover from the diseases like COVID-19 due to the benefits of doing so. May all the people be safe and healthy.

*Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa
Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja
Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee
Bhamo Monastery, Mandalay*

Making merits primarily

FROM the transition to the 1384 New Year from 1383 ME, all Myanmar people should do good deeds for themselves and others while doing their daily routines like physical action, verbal action and mental action. The Buddha ordered His son Rahula “to use a mirror and consider while doing physical, verbal and mental actions”. By following the teachings of Buddha, may the people be free of anger in doing physical, verbal and mental actions for the benefit of themselves, other people, the country and Sasana, and safe and gain achievements peacefully.

*Bhaddanta Candhima Bhivamsa
(Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja)
State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee
Secretary Sayadaw*



New Year message of pro-rector of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University (Academic) Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Maha Dhammakathika Bahujana Hitadhara Dr Bhaddanta Chekinda

MINGALA to all

May you all have good deeds called Mingala during Myanmar New Year – Thingyan festival full of Mingala. Mingala means prosperity, and also keeping away from destructive elements means Mingala. It can be achieved by doing, saying or thinking the good things. It is important not to do or think the negative things. Transitioning to a new year is a period to change the time and it also depends on our activities and mind, like we eat when we want to and go when we want to. If we wish Mingala all the time, we must keep that in mind, especially Metta (loving-kindness). It also means wisdom. If one's mind is full of Metta and wisdom to decide on all cases and put Metta (loving-kindness), Karuna (compassion), Mudita (emulation) and Oppitka (detachment) on all living things. Those who have such Metta and Pyinya will have Mingala, and all the things they do are also Mingala. If we do



good things, we will achieve good prosperity or Mingala. If we avoid doing bad things, it will keep us far from harmful things. Every-

body thinks that all the things they do are the good ones. So, will the things they do offer positive effects? If not, they need to consider it again.

The changes mean action changes and time changes. Thinkanta changes mean trying to achieve wisdom daily and to increase Metta than before. It is called Myanmar Thingyan. I want all to lead to positive changes. All should review their manners every night to determine whether they are correct and good. If they do so, they will know what is good and evil. If they avoid doing bad things, they can achieve good things, Mingala. People should review themselves from the point of others. They can consider that we are right while looking at others. They do not remark on themselves from the point of other's view. They should review themselves, and they can get two opinions, and there will be three when they comment from another person's side. If so, they

can know right and wrong significantly. They can get more than three ways in their doings. If they do so, they can reach a good pathway from the bad one and from the good to the better one. The Thinkanta is a change to a better one. During the transition from one year to a new one, I want the people to look at themselves with their own opinion, including others' thoughts and wisdom. It should base on sympathy. Only then can the people know the ways that they should keep going. The people should consider others with proper wisdom, see the right and wrong and do good positive things, and it will be Mingala. May all the words be full of Mingala and positive activities to get Mingala during the New Year period. May all you get prosperity the whole year round, live and Samsara (circle of rebirth) and get away from the pain and unhappiness.

Sadhu Sadhu Sadhu (Well-done, well-done, well-done).

To build the Union based on Democracy and Federal System

TO build the Union based on Democracy and Federal System, furthermore, the EAOs need to cultivate an attitude in which a Union Spirit regarding the entire Union as one family as well as one home without doing unilateral propositions, and need to partake in the peace process as soon as possible.

(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.)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

State Administration Council

Notification No 63/2022

2nd Waning of Tagu 1384 ME

17 April 2022

THE Chairman of the State Administration Council conferred honorary titles and medals on the following persons for their excellent performances in serving the interests of the State and the citizens during the 75-year period after the Republic of the Union of Myanmar had regained the Independence.

Thudhamma Thingaha Titles Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Title

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. U Nu | Prime Minister |
| 2. U San Yu | President |
| 3. Senior General Saw Maung | Prime Minister |

Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Title

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. U Myint Swe | Pro Tem President |
| 2. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing | Prime Minister |

Pyidaungsu Sithu Thingaha Titles Agga Maha Thray Sithu Title

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. U Nu | Prime Minister |
| 2. U Ne Win | Prime Minister |
| 3. U San Yu | President |
| 4. Senior General Saw Maung | Prime Minister |
| 5. Senior General Than Shwe | Prime Minister |

Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Title

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. U Sein Win | Prime Minister |
| 2. U Maung Maung Kha | Prime Minister |
| 3. U Myint Swe | Pro Tem President |
| 4. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing | Prime Minister |
| 5. General Thura Kyaw Htin (Rtd) | Commander-in-Chief |

Maha Thray Sithu Title

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. U Ba Swe | Prime Minister |
| 2. Thura U Tun Tin | Prime Minister |
| 3. Lt-Gen Aye Ko (Rtd) | Deputy Commander-in-Chief (Army) |
| 4. Lt-Gen Tun Yi (Rtd) | Deputy Commander-in-Chief (Army) |

Thray Sithu Title

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. U Sein Lwin | President |
| 2. Dr Maung Maung | President |
| 3. Brig-Gen Than Tin (Rtd) | Deputy Prime Minister |
| 4. Brig-Gen Tint Swe (Rtd) | Minister |
| 5. Lt-Gen Aung Ye Kyaw (Rtd) | Minister |
| 6. Lt-Gen Chit Swe (Rtd) | Minister |
| 7. Lt-Gen Phone Myint (Rtd) | Minister |
| 8. Lt-Gen Sein Aung (Rtd) | Minister |
| 9. Lt-Gen Myint Aung (Rtd) | Minister |
| 10. Lt-Gen Tun Kyi (Rtd) | Minister |
| 11. Lt-Gen Kyaw Ba (Rtd) | Minister |

Sithu Title

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Rear-Admiral Chit Hlaing (Rtd) | Commander-in-Chief (Navy) |
| 2. Rear-Admiral Maung Maung Win (Rtd) | Commander-in-Chief (Navy) |
| 3. Maj-Gen Thura Saw Phyu (Rtd) | Commander-in-Chief (Air) |
| 4. Maj-Gen Ko Gyi (Rtd) | Commander-in-Chief (Air) |

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5. Maj-Gen Myint Swe (Rtd) | Commander-in-Chief (Air) |
| 6. Maj-Gen Lwin Oo (Rtd) | Chief of Staff (Air) |
| 7. Commodore Thaung Tin (Rtd) | Commander-in-Chief (Navy) |
| 8. Brig-Gen Thaung Dan (Rtd) | Commander-in-Chief (Air) |
| 9. Commander Khin Maung Bo (Rtd) | Commander-in-Chief (Navy) |
| 10. Lt-Col Thura S J Khin (Rtd) | Commander-in-Chief (Air) |

Honory Titles for Excellent Performance Zeya Kyaw Htin Title

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Maj-Gen Tun Tin (Rtd) | Adjutant-General |
| 2. Maj-Gen G Taung Zar Khaing (Rtd) | Quartermaster-General |
| 3. Maj-Gen Aung Khin (Rtd) | Quartermaster-General |
| 4. Maj-Gen Hla Oo (Rtd) | Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) |
| 5. Maj-Gen Pe Myaing (Rtd) | Adjutant-General |
| 6. Maj-Gen Min Gaung (Rtd) | Adjutant-General |
| 7. Maj-Gen Khin Maung Kyaw (Rtd) | Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) |
| 8. Maj-Gen Myint Lwin (Rtd) | Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) |
| 9. Maj-Gen Than Oo (Rtd) | Judge Advocate-General |
| 10. Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin (Rtd) | South-West Command |
| 11. Maj-Gen Aung Kyi (Rtd) | Chief of Armed Forces Training Office |
| 12. Brig-Gen Maung Maung (Rtd) | Judge Advocate-General |
| 13. Brig-Gen Myint Maung (Rtd) | Adjutant-General |
| 14. Brig-Gen San Kyi (Rtd) | Eastern Command |
| 15. Brig-Gen Ba Thaw (Rtd) | Quartermaster-General |
| 16. Brig-Gen Aung Thin (Rtd) | Judge Advocate-General |
| 17. Brig-Gen Hla Tun (Rtd) | Quartermaster-General |
| 18. Brig-Gen L Kun Phan (Rtd) | Northern Command |
| 19. Brig-Gen Wan Tin (Rtd) | Southern Command |
| 20. Brig-Gen Aye San (Rtd) | Eastern Command |
| 21. Brig-Gen Soe Myint (Rtd) | Military Appointment General |
| 22. Brig-Gen Ba Thein (Rtd) | Defence Services Inspector-General |
| 23. Brig-Gen Than Nyunt (Rtd) | Military Appointment General |
| 24. Brig-Gen Sein Ya (Rtd) | Chief of Armed Forces Training Office |
| 25. Brig-Gen Myo Aung (Rtd) | Quartermaster-General |
| 26. Brig-Gen Sein Win (Rtd) | Judge Advocate-General |
| 27. Brig-Gen Tin Htut (Rtd) | Chief of Defence Industries |
| 28. Brig-Gen Tun Shwe (Rtd) | Eastern Command |
| 29. Brig-Gen Tin Aye (Rtd) | Defence Services Inspector-General |
| 30. Colonel Thura Aung Pe (Rtd) | Eastern Command |
| 31. Colonel Maung Kyaw (Rtd) | Eastern Command |
| 32. Colonel Hla Phone (Rtd) | Yangon Command |
| 33. Colonel Khin Ohn (Rtd) | South-East Command |
| 34. Colonel Myo Aung (Rtd) | Yangon Command |
| 35. Colonel Min Naung (Rtd) | North-East Command |
| 36. Colonel Yan Naung Soe (Rtd) | Central Command |

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

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FROM PAGE-3

Wunna Kyaw Htin Title			
1. Saw Han Tar Thar Hmwe	Central Authority of Kayin Revolutionary Council	7. Thu Maung	Vocalist
2. U Zakhun Ting Ring	Kachin Group (New Democratic Army (Kachin)-NDAK) (Kachin State Special Region-1)	8. U Sein Bo Tint	Orchestral Expert
3. U Aung Hkam Hti	Pa-O Group (Pa-O National Organization-PNO) (Southern Shan State Special Region-1)	Honory Medals for Excellent Performance Social Field Medal (First Class)	
4. U Aik Mone	Palaung Group (Palaung State Liberation Army-PSLA) (Northern Shan State Special Region-7)	1. U Myat Lay	Artiste
5. U Gabriel Byan	Kayan Group (Kayah National Guard-KNG) (Kayah State Special Region-1)	Social Field Medal (Second Class)	
6. Dr Saboi Jum	Founder, Secretary of Peace Foundation, Kachin Baptist Convention-KBC	1. Daw Soe Myat Thu Zar	Artiste
7. U Sandar	Karenni National People's Liberation Front (KaLaLaTa) (Kayah State Special Region-2)	Subject-wise Medals for Excellent Performance Excellent Performance in Fine Arts (First Class)	
8. U Nai Shwe Kyin	New Mon State Party-NMSP	1. Harpist U Khin Myint	Musician
9. Myainggyingyu Sayadaw U Sujana	Democratic Kayin Buddhist Association-DKBA	2. Ko Arnt Gyi	Vocalist
10. U Saw Tha Mu He	No 16 Battalion, Brigade-6, KNU (Haungthayaw Special Group)	3. U Ba Thein (Mandalay)	Song Composer
11. Saw Ferry Moe	Brigade-2, KNU, Thandaung Special Region Group	4. U Thein Hsaung	Vocalist
12. Pado Aung San	Pado Aung San Group, KNU	5. Pianist Ngwe Soe	Musician
13. U Lasang Aung Wah	U Lasang Aung Wah Group, KIO (split)	6. U Ketu Win Htut	Vocalist
14. Maj-Gen Htay Maung (aka) Saw Htay Maung	KNU/KNLA Peace Council	7. U Than Myat Soe	Vocalist
15. Saw Mutu Say Poe	Karen National Union (KNU)	8. U Tun Shwe	Vocalist
16. U Ywet Sit	RCSS/SSA-S	9. U Lwin Myint	Song Composer
17. U Khun Okkar	Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO)	10. Cho Tae Hset (Ko Aung Koe)	Song Composer
18. U Khaing Soe Naing Aung	Arakan Liberation Party	11. Pianist U Sein Thaug	Musician
19. Nai Htaw Mon	New Mon State Party (NMSP)	12. U Aung Kein	Musician
20. Kyar Khun Sar	Lahu Democratic Union (LDU)	13. U Ohn Maung	Musician
21. U Hla Maung Shwe	Member of Work Committee, former member of Advisory Team, Peace Commission	14. Daw Shwegu Nang Nwe Nwe	Musician
22. U Pyae Sone	Vice-Chairman-2, JMC-U	15. Daw Khin May	Musician
23. U Maung Maung Nyein	Member, JMC-U	16. Tekkatho Lei Lei (aka) Daw Lei Lei Win	Vocalist
24. Sai Myo Thant	Member, JMC-U	17. U Sein Muttar	Orchestral Expert
25. Rev Saw Matthew Aye	Member, JMC-U	18. Myanmar Pyay Kyauk Sein	Orchestral Expert
		19. Thiri Maung Maung	Orchestral Expert
		20. Mon State Ko Ko Naing	Orchestral Expert
		21. Tekkatho Khin Mya Lwin	Orchestral Expert
		Excellent Performance in Fine Arts (Second Class)	
		1. U Arnt Kyaw	Artiste
		2. U Myat Thit	Artiste
		3. U Zaw Lwin	Artiste
		4. U Zaw One	Artiste
		5. U Soe Tint Lwin	Orchestral Expert
		6. U Khin Maung Win	Dancing Expert
		7. Dr Yi Nwe	Musician
		8. U Khin Hla	Musician
		9. U Myo Nyunt	Musician
		10. U Saw Win	Musician
		11. U San Yin	Musician
		Excellent Performance in Fine Arts (Third Class)	
		1. Daw Sein Htay	Vocalist
		2. Daw Mu Mu Khin	Vocalist
		3. U Hla Ngwe	Musician

Alinka Kyaw Swa Title

1. Nantawshae Saya Tin	Song Composer
2. Shwe Taing Nyunt	Song Composer
3. U Shwe Nan Tin	Theatrical Performer
4. Twantay Thein Tan	Vocalist
5. Pianist Chit Swe	Musician
6. Pianist Hla Htut	Musician

*Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council*

Write for us

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

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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No 30/2022
2ND Waning of Tagu 1384 ME
17 April 2022

Pardon Order

The Chairman of the State Administration Council has released the pardon order to 1,577 prisoners who were serving their sentences in various prisons/jails under Sub-section (1) of Section 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedures, on humanitarian grounds and in commemoration of the Myanmar New Year. They are pardoned on the condition that "if they commit another offence, they will continue to serve the remaining sentences".

By order

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council

Order No 31/2022
2ND Waning of Tagu 1384 ME
17 April 2022

Pardon Order

The State Administration Council Chairman grants pardon and deportation to 42 foreign nationalities who were jailed at respective prisons under Sub-section (1) of Section 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedures, on bilateral relations and humanitarian grounds and in commemorating Myanmar New Year. They are pardoned on the condition that "if they commit another offence, they will continue to serve the remaining sentences".

By order

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

New Year wish from SAC member
U Khin Maung Swe

Dear people,

Now is the time for the Myanmar New Year. I wish all the people of Myanmar a happy and prosperous New Year. Today, we, the people of Myanmar, are still going through a political crisis. Therefore, I would like to say that it is time to overcome this political crisis completely. We must, therefore, refrain from any action that leads to disintegrating the country and attempting to destabilize the country. There is no denying that these can only be achieved through the people.

Dear people,

I want to say that this is when national unity among ethnic groups is in great need. I would like to urge you to cultivate patriotism to get rid of the external influences that are to disintegrate the country and cause dissension among the people.



Dear people,

We can only sustain if we all fight against the dangers that will destroy the language and religion and endanger people's lives and property. That is why we can say that we need a lot of people's strength. Indeed, the people of Myanmar long for peace. I urge the people to go through the proper political elections and build a new Union based on democracy and federalism that the people want, along with peace. May all the people be healthy and prosperous.

SAC member U Thein Nyunt's
New Year wishes

YEAR 1383 ME was a year of overcoming great difficulties and crises in the face of various enemies who wanted to destroy Myanmar's sovereignty and the whole country. A group of traitors accepted the interference, invasion and dangerous ideology of the US and the West. They are exposing themselves as foreign spies, terrorists and threats to the teachings of Buddha.

In any case, today's battle clearly separates who are patriots and who are the traitors. Therefore, we must smash their internal conspiracies and support of funds and weapons.

They must lose, and Myanmar people must win because today's national forces are firmly under the leadership of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. The coming Myanmar



New Year 1384 will be able to get rid of the filth caused by the traitors.

I wish you a happy new year, saying that history will prove that the Myanmar people who value Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Myanmar's Tatmadaw and Myanmar's sovereignty are right.

SAC member attends 58th Homage Paying Ceremony to the Elderly in Sittway

THE 58th Homage Paying Ceremony to the Elderly to mark the 1384 ME Myanmar-Rakhine New Year was held yesterday at U Ottama Hall in Sittway, Rakhine State.

State Administration Council member Daw Aye Nu Sein, Rakhine State Chief Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min and wife, Chief Justice of the State High Court Daw Wah Wah Tun, State Ministers and their wives, Senior Military Officers from Sittway station, elderly persons from Sittway Township, departmental officials, members of the ceremony organizing committee; choral

Dance troupes and donors attended the ceremony.

First, the 58th Homage Paying Ceremony to the Elderly was opened by playing the Rakhine traditional drum.

Auditor of the ceremony organizing committee U San Nyunt recited the Mingala Awba praise poem, and chairman of the ceremony organizing committee U San Thar Maung explained the ceremony's purpose.

Then, SAC member Daw Aye Nu Sein delivered the New Year's wishes, and Rakhine State Chief Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min gave honorary talks.



SAC member Daw Aye Nu Sein presents cash award to choral dance troupe.

Next, SAC member Daw Aye Nu Sein and guests led by Rakhine State Chief Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min paid homage to the older people. Afterwards, the elderly per-

sons were sprinkled with scented water, and officials presented donations in cash and kinds to the elderly.

The dance troupe performed traditional dances after the elders said their heartfelt thanks.

Next, officials presented a cash award to the dance troupe.

Officials paid homage to 70 older people yesterday. They will continue to pay obeisance to the remaining 1,110 elderly persons in various Homes for the Aged, according to the Elderly Homage Paying Organizing Ceremony. — MNA

SAC holds New Year Paritta recitation and listening ceremony



State Administration Council holds Paritta recitation to mark Myanmar New Year Day on 17 April.

THE State Administration Council held a ceremony to listen to the Paritta recitation on the occasion of the Myanmar New Year yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was attended by Sayadaws and monks led by Presiding Nayaka of Pauk Myaing Monastery in Lewe, Nay Pyi Taw, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Janinda, and Presiding Nayaka of Mingala Zeyon Pali Tekkatho Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi, and Secretary of the State Admin-

istration Council Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, Deputy Minister U Aye Tun, permanent secretaries and directors-general and officials.

At the ceremony, the congregation received the Nine Precepts from the Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Pauk Myaing Monastery and listened to the sermons recited by the Sayadaws and monks. Afterwards, the SAC Secretary, the deputy minister, the permanent secretaries and the directors-general presented the monks and Sayadaws with offerings. The ceremony was concluded by sharing merits gained. — MNA

Cinemas reopen after nearly two-year closure due to COVID-19 disease

CINEMAS, which were shut down due to COVID-19 disease, were reopened on the first day of the 1384 Myanmar New Year yesterday. Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein watched the Myanmar film screened at the Thamada Cinema in Dagon Township, Yangon, together with film lovers.

The film was also enjoyed by the Yangon Region government ministers, the chairman of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, artistes, producers, and the chairman of the Myanmar Music Association.

During the meeting with film/music producers and artistes at the cinema, the Union minister said the Prime Minister had instructed him often to facilitate the artistes' livelihoods and the

development of the film industry. The ministry is coordinating the presentations and difficulties of the film world and film production and screening with respective region/state governments. The Ministry of Information is also working to reopen the rest of the cinemas as soon as possible.

The Government also provided loans to help recover entrepreneurs and artists from various fields of the art industry. He requested not to criticize the artistes who are resuming their artworks to support their families as they are not related to politics.

In the afternoon, the Union minister hosted a dinner for artists, musicians, film producers, and cinema owners to commemorate the reopening of the cinemas at the Skystar Hotel.

On the first day of the Myanmar New Year yesterday, 48



The billboard on new film to be presented is seen at Thamada Cinema in Yangon on 17 April.

cinemas across Myanmar were reopened, showing Myanmar and foreign films. The Ministry

of Information works with the respective region/state governments to provide necessary as-

sistance, including security and access to electricity for the cinemas. — MNA

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

THE Ministry of Commerce is currently facilitating the importation of essential medical sup-

plies plus anti-COVID devices that are critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treat-

ment activities, through trading posts, international airports and seaports.

One vehicle carried 0.57 tonne of mask imported by one company via Chinshwehaw trading zone 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 inquires can be reached through the Ministry's Website—www.commerce.gov.mm. — MNA



Cartons of masks are kept aboard the truck at Chinshwehaw trade post on 17 April.

**20 new cases of
COVID-19 reported on
17 April, total figure
rises to 612,565**

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **612,565** after **20** new cases were reported on 17 April 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **591,347** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **19,434** without more casualties.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 16-4-2022, a total of **28,729,330** people have been vaccinated. Of them, **22,352,174** people have been fully vaccinated, **6,377,156** people are yet to get the second shots and **1,180,316** people have been vaccinated booster.—MNA

New Year wishes from officials of various religious groups

U Sein Than (Buddhist, Chairman of the Myanmar Interfaith Friendship and Solidarity Committee) (Central)



U Sein Than

Today marks the first day of the 1384 Myanmar new year. On the occasion of the new year, the Interfaith Friendship and Solidarity Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar first wishes all the people living in Myanmar and all the people of the world a healthy, happy and peaceful society. The committee has also set three objectives: to ensure the people of different religions in Myanmar have the right to practise their faith and doctrine freely, to build a peaceful society based on the teachings of their believes, and to have equal rights among the different believers, along with the freedom of religion and free from all forms of persecution, to cooperate each other for the motherland in a friendly manner.

U Zaw Zaw Naing (Hindu, Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Interfaith Friendship and Solidarity Committee) (Central)



U Zaw Zaw Naing

Migalabar!

In this New Year, we wish you all peace and prosperity. For one thing, we heard unfortunate things in the old year. We lost many lives due to COVID-19 in the whole world. We all need to have compassion. Myanmar has one rich thing, which is that the people are compassionate. Myanmar people are very respectful to elders and teachers. May Myanmar develop from now on. May the people and the government march together for a new nation.

U Aung Zaw Win (Islam, Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Interfaith Friendship and Solidarity Committee) (Central)



U Aung Zaw Win

On the occasion of the Myanmar New Year 1384, we, the Islam people, wish all Myanmar people happiness and good health. Our country is a home for the people of various religions. We are also working together for the benefit of the country. Despite the differences in religions, we have friendship and respect for one another. Let's work together for the development of the country. COVID-19 disease has shocked the whole world. We in Myanmar have also had a significant impact due to COVID-19 disease. I wish you all a Happy New Year and good health to all of you.

Daw Khin May May (Christianity, Joint-Secretary of the Myanmar Interfaith Friendship and Solidarity Committee) (Central)



Daw Khin May May

Myanmar is home to 135 ethnic nationalities and a country that has freedom of religion and doctrine. I am grateful for this to God. Our committee is working to build solidarity among the ethnic nationalities, which is a critical need in Myanmar.

We want to urge the people to work together for a new, better nation and a better community on this occasion. May all people be free from danger and walk to a new society. — Lin Latt Kyel, Kyaw Kyaw/ GNLM

Myanmar New Year wishes from famous artistes

MYANMAR New Year fell on 17 April 2022. The old year has passed, and New Year has begun. So, may all the human beings in Myanmar living in harmony with Myanmar citizens and Buddhism practices be auspicious and peaceful. May all achieve freedom from sufferings by cultivating and exercising compassion and maintaining a peaceful coexistence for the development of the State.

New Year wishes by U Kyi Soe Tun, chairman of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization



U Kyi Soe Htun PHOTOS: KANU

On the first day of Myanmar New Year, may all Myanmar citizens have a healthy, happy and peaceful life. May all cultivate optimism. Pray for

Myanmar people to have freedom from hunger, violence and disease. I deeply and sincerely wished peace and prosperity to all the artistes.

Pan Chi Soe Moe (Film Director).



Pan Chi Soe Moe

Myanmar New Year Thingyan Festival is held in April. It is a hot season. Thingyan water festival is meant to wash away the previous year's sins and have peace of mind. Starting from the New Year, I wish all human people to cultivate positivity in a short span of our time. I prayed for the efforts and peace of mind with the sermons reciting on the auspicious New Year Day.

Chairman U Lwin Myint of the Myanmar Music Association.



U Lwin Myint

To all Myanmar citizens and the esteemed ethnic national brethren, I wish you a happy new year. When the New Year begins, all the human beings want to pass it in line with the practices of Dhamma (Mingala). On behalf of the Myanmar Music Association, I wish our benefactors (the citizens) peace of mind. May all the citizens have happiness, health, well-being, and a prosperous New Year.

U Aung Tin Win, the Myanmar Music Association Patron.

May all people living in Myanmar, including the artistes and individuals engaged in the media industry, be healthy and happy. May all be filled with pleasure, comfort and calmness. May all have prosperity and freedom from suffering.



U Aung Tin Win

Myanmar Press Council Chairman U Ohn Maung (Myinmu-Maung Naing Moe) sent a New Year greeting.



Myinmu Maung Naing Moe

May all Myanmar citizens have an auspicious New Year. We have to practice self-reflection and evaluate our own emotional and behavioural processes. We must keep up the excellent work to improve

our surroundings and the enhancement of the country's economy.

We need to assess and evaluate our mistakes, flaws and sins in the past year. Then, we must learn from our mistakes and try to avoid repeating them. All of us must actively participate in the state-building process and peacebuilding process. We must exert the concerted efforts by taking a step towards the country's development. I wish to have an auspicious and prosperous New Year.

Daw Palei, film actress.



Daw Palei

The artists sent New Year wishes for their benefactors, respectively. May all citizens have prosperity, happiness and peace of mind. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

OPINION

Welcome the new policy of recruiting medical students

THE governments in successive eras have established 15 medical-related universities which produce a large number of medical doctors, exceeding the required numbers at hospitals of the nation.

But, the majority of those medical doctors do not serve at the public hospitals but in private clinics and hospitals and other own businesses not related to medical professions.

Students who pass the basic education high school and matriculation examinations with high marks competitively join the medical-related universities to become medical doctors, dentists, medical technicians, physiotherapists, and others despite having no hobby to do so. Some students have firm ambitions to be good medical doctors to provide healthcare to the people and do medical research to improve the medical arena.

It can be reviewed that the new policy of recruiting the candidates to the medical-related universities will be the best for the academic arena. The results from the new policy will be beneficial to the nation and those students themselves.

The medical students who are not interested in medical education will not be outstanding persons in the relevant arena. They will not benefit society with the professions they secured without keenness. As such, it is necessary to manage the plan to avoid such kind of double wrongs in medical education.

Actually, the positions taken by those who do not have firm ambitions for the medical arena will be the missed chances for other high potential students. The positions wrongly occupied by medical students will cause a loss not only for the

potential students but also for the State.

As a new policy adopted by the government of the State Administration Council, those learning the medical-related universities such as Universities of Medicine, Universities of Dental Medicine and Universities of Nursing who pledged to serve the duty of the State will have the chance for learning medical education free of charge. Otherwise, those not wishing to serve the duty of the State will have to pay charges for learning.

As such, medical-related universities plan to recruit outstanding applicants to pursue relevant subjects on priority in the coming academic year. Only then will the right persons have the chance to secure the right positions. Consequently, talented students will emerge in their respective fields with the opportunities to show off their brilliant skills so that they can provide excellent health care services to the people.

It can be reviewed that the new policy of recruiting the candidates to the medical-related universities will be the best for the academic arena. The results from the new policy will be beneficial to the nation and those students themselves.



Study finds private education isn't associated to better mental health

THE findings of a recent study suggest that those who went to a private school in England were no happier with their lives in their early 20s than their state-educated peers.

The results of the study were published in the journal, 'Cambridge Journal of Education'.

Previous work has shown that private school pupils do better academically than those who go to state schools. But whether they also enjoy non-academic benefits, such as better mental health, has been less clear.

To find out more, researchers from University College London (UCL), analysed data from the Next Steps study, run by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies, which follows the lives of a representative sample of 15,770 people born in England between 1989 and 1990.

Regularly surveyed since 2004

The participants have been regularly surveyed since 2004 when they were 13 and 14-year-old secondary school pupils.

Life satisfaction was measured at ages 20 and 25 by asking the participants how satisfied or dissatisfied they were with the way their life had turned out so far.

On the face of it, those who had gone to private school were happier with their lot. However, after factors such as socio-economic background and ethnicity were factored in, the difference vanished.

Mental health was measured at 14, 16 and 25 by asking questions such as "have you been able to concentrate on what you are doing?" and "have you lost sleep over worry?". The General Health Questionnaire is a standardised and validated measure of

mental health, comprising twelve such questions.

The results suggested that there was no private school advantage for boys' mental health at any age. Whilst at aged 16, girls in private schools had slightly better mental health than their state school counterparts. No such difference was seen at 14 or 25.

No convincing evidence

The researchers concluded that, overall, there was no convincing evidence of a difference in mental health or life satisfaction between the private and state school pupils, either in their teenage years or in their early 20s. They also note that this analysis identifies associations between school status and wellbeing rather than establishing a causal relationship.

The findings surprised the researchers who point out that private schools, which educate



The findings of a recent study suggest that those who went to a private school in England were no happier with their lives in their early 20s than their state-educated peers. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI

around seven per cent of pupils in England, have much more money to spend on resources than state schools. Private schools have also placed particular emphasis on pastoral support for mental health in recent years.

In addition, higher educational achievement, something which is already associated with private schools, is linked to better mental health.

Under greater pressure

Private school pupils may, however, be under greater pressure than their state school peers. "I think it is possible that the increased pastoral support was just starting to make a difference for this cohort," said researcher Dr Morag Henderson, a sociologist.

"But it is also likely that although school resource is greater in private schools, the academic stress students face might be too

and so we see each force cancelling the other out," Dr Morag Henderson added.

Dr Henderson added that the results might be different for today's schoolchildren, due to private schools being better able to support pupils who are struggling with their mental health since the start of the pandemic.

She explained, "This is speculation, but it might be that we see state school students fare worse in terms of mental health compared to private school students, post-lockdown. This question is ripe for future analyses; and is one of the areas that the new COVID Social Mobility and Opportunities Study (COSMO) cohort study, headed up by Dr Jake Anders — one of the co-authors — is gathering evidence on." — ANI

Africa experiencing longest-running decline in COVID-19 infections



Workers unload a shipment of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine from an airplane at O. R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa, 27 February 2021. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

COVID-19 cases in Africa have fallen for the past 16 weeks, and deaths have dropped during the last eight, marking the longest-running decline in infections on the continent since the start of the pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday. Infections have plummeted from over 308,000 cases weekly at the start of the year to

less than 20,000 in the week ending 10 April. Around 18,000 cases and 239 deaths were recorded over the past week, representing respective declines of 29 per cent and 37 per cent when compared to the previous week.

Record decline, no resurgence

This low level of infection has not been seen since April 2020,

WHO said. The previous longest decline was between 1 August and 10 October of last year. Furthermore, no African country is currently witnessing COVID-19 resurgence, which is when there has been a 20 per cent increase in cases for at least two consecutive weeks, and the week-on-week rise is 30 per cent above the previous highest weekly infection peak.

Stay the course

Despite the decreasing infections, it is crucial that countries remain vigilant against COVID-19, said WHO's Regional Director for Africa, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti.

Nations must also maintain surveillance measures, including to swiftly detect virus variants, enhance testing and scale up vaccination. "With the virus still circulating, the risk of new and potentially more deadly variants emerging remains, and the pandemic control measures are pivotal to effective response to a surge in infections," she said.

Cold season warning

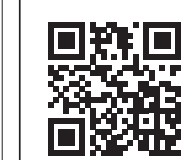
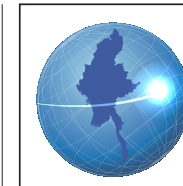
WHO has also warned of the high risk of another wave of infections as the cold season approaches in the southern hemisphere, from June through August. Previous pandemic waves in Africa have coincided with lower temperatures, with people mostly remaining indoors and often in poorly ventilated spaces.

SOURCE: UN NEWS

Trademark Caution

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 17 April 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 18 April 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Kachin and Shan states, scattered in Upper Sagaing, and Mandalay regions and Kayah State and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Magway, and Taninthayi regions and Chin, Kayin and 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 to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing, and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon regions.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 April 2022: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 April 2022: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 April 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Pilgrims visit eminent pagodas on Myanmar New Year Day

THE Myanmar year 1383 is over and the New Year 1384 is coming and people did good deeds at famous pagodas including Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon yesterday in accordance with the COVID-19 guidelines.

Paritta recitation ceremonies supervised by venerable Buddhist monks were also held followed by donating offertories to the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Firstly, members of the Board of Trustees donated alms to members of the Sangha at dawn. Next, the Paritta recitation ceremony was held and Chairman of the Maha Withodayon Monastery Sayadaw Tipitakadhara Tipitakavida Dhammabhandagarika Agga Maha Pandita (Yaw Sayadaw) Bhaddanta Sirinda Bhivamsa gave the Nine Precepts to the congregation.



Pilgrims are seen at Paritta recitation ceremony on platform of Shwedagon Pagoda on 17 April.

Then, Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees member U Nyunt Thin addressed the inaugural words followed by donating offertories to the venerable Sayadaws and sharing merits

gained. Refreshments were also donated at the pagoda on the Myanmar New Year Day.

Similarly, pilgrims flocked at Botahtaung Pagoda yesterday morning as donors were distrib-

uting refreshments.

Likewise, a Paritta recitation ceremony took place at Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Pagoda. People took the Eight Precepts from the venerable Sayadaws at the

ceremony.

U Thein Oo, member of the Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda Board of Trustees explained the purpose of the ceremony followed by donating offertories to the Sayadaws and people shared their merits.

Similar kinds of ceremony were also held at Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image on the Mindhamma Hill, Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon), historic Kyaikwaing Pagoda, and Melamu Pagoda in Yangon.

Young people performed shampooing for the elderly in a traditional manner with on the occasion of the New Year Day.

Releasing animals, pets and fish, keeping Sabbath, recitation of Buddha sermons and offering refreshments to the people are symbols of the Myanmar New Year.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory alive with people doing meritorious deeds on New Year Day

ON the morning of the Myanmar New Year, pagodas and monasteries were busy with people listening to sermons delivered by members of the Sangha, releasing animals, and participating in donations yesterday.

Famous pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw, including Uppatasanti pagoda, Dhatucaya Datpaungsu pagoda, Lawka Marazein pagoda and Yan Aung Myin Shwe Lat Hla pagoda were alive with people doing good deeds yesterday.

Myanmar people usually starts a new year by doing good deeds after cleaning the filth of the old year with water during the Thingyan period. People usually go to the monasteries and pagodas to fast, to

pay homage, to care after elders and to release animals back to the nature to hail the New Year.

In addition, people from governmental departments, civil society organizations, and donors also pay homage and presented with donation items to the elders. Members of the Sangha were also invited to deliver sermons at ministries, wards, staff housings, Dhamma houses, and people listened to the sermons and shared their deeds.—Myo Satt Thit/GNLM

Pilgrims flock to Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 April. **PHOTO: KO KO KYAW**



160 inmates released from Insein Central Prison

A total of 160 inmates – 154 males and six females – were released yesterday morning from Insein Central Prison under an pardon order issued by the State Administration Council.

Sub-section (1) under Section 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the remaining sentences shall be pardoned with the condition that “If they commit the offence again, they will continue to serve the remaining sentences.”

The amnesty ceremony was held at the Insein Central Prison yesterday morning.

Director of Department of Prisons (Yangon Region) U Myo Oo, Deputy Director in charge of Insein Central Prison U Zaw Lin Aung, Police Lt-Col Tin Tun from Yangon North District Police Force, and officials and staff



Already-released prisoners leave Insein Central Jail on 17 April.

from the General Administration Department, Fire Services Department and Prison Department attended the ceremony.

Prison Department Director U Myo Oo and Police Lt-Col

Tin Tun addressed the released prisoners at the ceremony.

After that, the prison released prisoners, presenting the Certificate of Release from the Prison.

Next, food and travel expenses and wages were paid to inmates. They were transported by YBS vehicles to their respective townships. — MNA

SAC chairman pardons 1,619 prisoners, including 42 foreign nationalities

THE Chairman of the State Administration Council granted pardons to 1,577 prisoners and 42 foreign nationalities totalling 1,619 prisoners who were jailed in various prisons on bilateral friendly relations and humanitarian grounds on the occasion of the Myanmar New Year yesterday. They were pardoned under Sub-section (1) of Section 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedure on the condition that “if they commit another offence, they will continue to serve the remaining sentences”, and the pardoned foreign nationalities were deported.—MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Kawthoung-Ranong border post sees highest fishery exports in Taninthayi Region

OF the cross-border checkpoints in Taninthayi Region and Kawthoung-Ranong border post performed the highest fishery export, according to the Kawthoung District Department of Fisheries.

Myanmar shipped over US\$160 million worth of fishery products in the past six months via Kawthoung to Ranong in Thailand. The sea trade is the main option of the cross-border trade between Kawthoung and Ranong. The vessels daily convey the seafood to Thailand.

Between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022 in the mini-budget period, fishery exports valued over \$160 million were delivered from Kawthoung of Myanmar under the FOB sys-



Trawlers are seen with necessary fishing facilities at the port of Kawthoung. PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)

tem to Thailand.

“The volume of fishery products in the past six months

was estimated at 161,283 tonnes. Besides, Taninthayi suppliers, fishery products from Rakhine

State, Mon State and Ayeyawady Region were also exported via Kawthoung,” U Tin Htut, head

of Kawthoung District Fisheries Department elaborated.

Despite the large supply in Kawthoung border, the export volume dropped compared to the same corresponding period last year. The exports of fishery products in the past six months plunged by over 18,000 tonnes as against the year-ago period. The export value fell by \$1.245 million, he continued.

The fish export is likely to drop in the spawning season (April, May and June). Inshore fishing businesses are the backbone of the Kawthoung’s economy.

There are about 2,000 registered inshore trawlers in Kawthoung District.—Myint Oo (Myeik)/GNLM

Myanmar endeavouring to export corn to China through legitimate trade channel

HAS been exerting the concerted efforts to export the corn to China through the legitimate trade channel, said U Min Khaing, chair of Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

At present, the corn industry is endeavouring to seek permits from the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC) and to meet the import food safety criteria. “To earn GACC certificate, a working task force including Myanmar Corn Industrial Association, Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry has been formed. The task force calls for Expression of Interest (EOI) to apply for a GACC certificate. After the screening process, the documents of the applicants will be forwarded to GACC. Once GACC gives a nod to it, we can legally export the corn to China. The corn has been considered as legitimate goods in China’s

border trade. We expect to finalize that process in September this year,” U Min Khaing quoted in his sayings.

The SPS Protocol (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Protocol) for biosecurity is a must for legitimate export to China, the main trade partner of agricultural products with Myanmar. Myanmar’s Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and GACC have signed an agreement to legally ship corn to China.

Therefore, the export companies have been notified to submit EOIs to the working task force by 31 March 2022 in order to meet the SPS protocol requirements and file annual registration.

The protocols include the exporters must have a company or an institution which can handle the standard dryers or warehousing operation for exports or can strictly adhere to the agreements during the set period. Those who have experi-

ences of the corn exports to China must also present the documents. The company has to comply with the rules and regulations set by China. Additionally, they need to adopt Good Agricultural Practice and contract farming in need to enhance the corn sector and ensure food safety. Working task force will scrutinize the EOIs in line with those protocols. Department of the Consumer Affairs and Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS), the authorized organization of the State, will conduct the survey to the dryers and warehouses as well.

The Department of Agriculture will send the lists of those companies which are found to be in accordance with the protocols.

Prior to the Thingyan holidays, the prices stood at K980-K1,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg) and FOB prices were approximately US\$320-340 per tonne, according to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung). Myanmar exported 2.3 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021 financial year. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to China, India and Viet Nam.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year.—NN/GNLM

Myanmar mineral export value plunges by half in past mini-budget period

MINERAL exports have plummeted down nearly 47 per cent in the past mini-budget period (Oct 2021-Mar 2022).

The value of Myanmar’s mineral exports has drastically sunk to US\$284.067 million as of 31 March 2022 since 1 October 2021, reflecting a severe drop of \$249 million as against a-year ago period, the Ministry of Commerce’s data indicated.

The mineral exports hit over \$506.29 million in the corresponding period of last FY.

The coronavirus negative consequences led to the slump in mineral exports. The heightened COVID-19 measures also shut down the expo last year, a trader said.

Additionally, Lonkhin, Hpakant, Mawlu and Mawhan gem and jade mining businesses in Kachin State have been suspended with a view to supporting sustainable resource extraction for future generations, and ensuring safe and efficient operation of jade and gems mines, according to the Myanmar Gems Enterprise.

So far, excavation of over 1,250 mining blocks has been permitted on a manageable, small, medium, and large scale, mostly in Mandalay and Sagaing regions, according to the Ministry of Natural Re-

sources and Environmental Conservation.

Due to limited extraction of natural resources, exports of minerals had dropped significantly in the previous years. Permits for mining blocks were suspended in 2016, but after a period of two years, Myanmar’s mining sector has now been opened to local and foreign investors, according to the ministry.

Under the new regulations, foreign firms can invest in large blocks which cover up to 500,000 acres (about 202,000 hectares), while local firms can invest in all kinds of blocks. Investors can seek permit to mine for minerals such as gold, copper, lead and tin. The permits cover prospecting, exploration, and production.

Myanmar’s mineral exports touched \$895.6 million in the previous FY2020-2021, showing a significant drop of \$975.2 million compared with the year-ago period, according to the data from the Ministry of Commerce.

About 80 per cent of mineral products are shipped to external markets through sea trade, while 20 of them are sent to neighbouring countries through border trade channels.—KK/GNLM



The photo catches a scene of Yangon port.

ECONOMY

WORLD/AD

Terming India economic powerhouse, Boris Johnson calls for democracies, friends to stick together

CALLING India an economic powerhouse, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson ahead of his visit to the country underlined the strategic partnership with New Delhi while stressing “as we face threats to our peace and prosperity from autocratic states, it is vital that democracies and friends stick together”.

Johnson in the statement ahead of his visit next week emphasised India being the world’s largest democracy.

“India, as a major economic power and the world’s largest democracy, is a highly valued strategic partner for the UK in these uncertain times,” said Johnson. Trade and security partnerships will top the agenda in the PM Modi-Johnson bilateral talks.



A worker at a bottle factory near Ahmedabad, India. **PHOTO: AFP**

Listing out trade, business and defence cooperation as focus areas, Johnson stated that his visit to India will deliver on things that really matter to the people of both nations, including job creation, economic growth, energy security and defence.

The British High Commission in a statement said that Johnson will visit India to deepen the long-term partnership for peace and prosperity with a fellow leading democracy, in the face of global economic challenges and threats from autocratic states. — ANI

Libya’s underground homes wait for tourism revival

GHARYAN’S unique underground houses were hewn into the mountain-side centuries ago, and many lie abandoned, but residents of the Libyan town are hoping tourism can help restore their heritage.

“My great-great-great-great-grandfather dug this yard 355 years ago,” said Al-Arbi Belhaj, who owns one of the oldest houses in the

mixed Berber-Arab town south of Tripoli. His ancestor would have used a “tajouk” pickaxe to chip away at the ground before loading the rubble into a woven date-palm “gouffa” basket to carry it away, he said.

Dug deep into the arid Nafusa mountains at around 700 metres (2,300 feet) above sea level, the home would have been protected against the

scorching summers that bring temperatures up to 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit).

It would have also stayed warm throughout the often snowy winters. The region’s bedrock has a consistency that allowed the underground dwelling — known as a damous — to last for centuries without collapsing.

Some of the buildings are over 2,300 years old, and ancient Greek historians mentioned their existence, according to historian Youssef al-Khattali. The area also has burial sites dating back to Phoenician times, he added.

Today, Belhaj says he is the owner of the oldest underground home in Gharyan, a town where many residents have family records and property deeds dating back centuries. — AFP



The interior of a ‘damous’, a dwelling carved into Libya’s arid Nafusa mountains, in Gharyan town, southwest of the capital Tripoli. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (3/2022-2023)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(1)	DMP/L-057(22-23)	Water Transfer Pump with Engine (3) Items	Ks
(2)	DMP/L-058(22-23)	Shale Shaker Unit and Accessories (2) Sets	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-059(22-23)	Crude Transfer Pump with Engine (3) Items	Ks
(4)	DMP/L-060(22-23)	Welding Machine with Accessories Mobile Type (3) Sets	Ks
(5)	DMP/L-061(22-23)	Ultrasonic Cement Analyzer (1) Set	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-062(22-23)	Foam Fire Fighting System for Condensate Tank (1) Lot	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-063(22-23)	National Oil and Gas Information Center Phase-2 at NPT Office-44 Device and Installation (1) Lot အား Turnkey စနစ်ဖြင့်ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-064(22-23)	Apply Research Centre (17) Items	Ks
(9)	DMP/L-065(22-23)	Hakjaw Complete Set (1) Set	Ks
(10)	DMP/L-066(22-23)	Power Swivel Complete Set (1) Set	Ks
(11)	DMP/L-067(22-23)	20” LSAW API 5L Grade X-46 3LPE Coated Steel Line Pipe (10)Miles (16,100)Mtr	Ks
(12)	DMP/L-068(22-23)	12”,10”,6”,4” ERW API 5L Grade X-42 3LPE Coated Steel Line Pipe (4) Items	Ks
(13)	DMP/L-069(22-23)	Ball Valve and Pipe Fitting (2) Groups	Ks
(14)	DMP/L-070(22-23)	Heat Shrinkable Sleeve and Closure Patches (4) Items	Ks
(15)	DMP/L-071(22-23)	500 KVAR Automatic Control Capacitor Bank with 3 Steps And attach with 630 A VCB Panel & Accessories (2) Set	Ks
(16)	DMP/L-072(22-23)	36 KW , 108 KW & 240 KW Diesel Engine Driven Generating Set (3) Items	Ks
(17)	DMP/L-073(22-23)	Replacement & Installation of the Metering System for Thanlyin GCS (1) Lot အား Turnkey စနစ်ဖြင့်ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း	Ks
(18)	DMP/L-074(22-23)	Replacement & Installation of the Metering System for Toegyaukalay GCS (1) Lot အား Turnkey စနစ်ဖြင့်ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း	Ks
(19)	DMP/L-075(22-23)	Central Control Integrated Monitoring System (CCIMS) (Phase-2) (1) Lot အား Turnkey စနစ်ဖြင့်ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း	Ks
(20)	DMP/L-076(22-23)	2900 Series Well-Head & Christmas Tree Equipment (2) Sets	Ks
(21)	DMP/L-077(22-23)	CNG Compressor Driven Electric Motor Package & Accessories (1) Set	Ks
(22)	DMP/L-078(22-23)	Retest Factory (100 Cyl./Day) Repairing and Upgrading (1) Unit	Ks
(23)	DMP/L-079(22-23)	Main Motor (China) for L-Type and ZW-Type CNG Compressor (2) Items	Ks
(24)	DMP/L-080(22-23)	1 C x 400 mm2 and 1 C x 150 mm2 1 KV/Cu/XLPE/PVC Cables (2) Items	Ks
(25)	DMP/L-081(22-23)	Cooling System for CNG Station (5) Units	Ks
(26)	DMP/L-082(22-23)	Gas Filtration System (3) Units	Ks
(27)	DMP/L-083(22-23)	Circuit Breaker (3) Items	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 18 April 2022 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 12:00 pm on 6, May 2022.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time - 6-5-2022, 12:00 pm

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 - 411206

Aviation turbine fuel hiked to record high in India

THE price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) or jet fuel in India was hiked by a marginal 0.2 percent to an all-time high on Saturday.

According to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers, the ATF price rose by 277.5 Indian rupees (3.64 US dollars) per kiloliter to 113,202.33 in the Indian capital New Delhi.

Saturday's ATF price hike marked the eighth straight increase this year, reflecting a global energy price surge. Earlier, the ATF price saw a steepest



The price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) or jet fuel in India was hiked by a marginal 0.2 percent to an all-time high on Saturday. PHOTO: XINHUA

ever hike of 18.3 percent on March 16 and a 2 percent increase on 1 April.

At present the ATF price in Mumbai stands

at 111,981.99 Indian rupees per kiloliter, while it is 117,753.60 Indian rupees in Kolkata, and 116,933.49 Indian rupees in Chennai.

Officials said jet fuel prices are revised on the first and 16th day of every month. However, petrol and diesel rates are revised on a daily basis as per rates in the international market.

The petrol and diesel prices have remained unchanged for 10 days in the South Asian country after witnessing a series of hikes since 22 March.

India imports over 80 percent of its oil from other countries. (1 US dollar equals 76.33 Indian rupees. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australian regional tourism to embrace flocking visitors during Easter

AUSTRALIA'S regional tourism businesses are expecting a very busy and profitable four days as city visitors tour the countryside during the Easter break which begins on Friday. The National Australia Bank (NAB) estimated tourists would generate more than 890 million Australian dollars (about 663.3 million U.S. dollars) for regional economies throughout the holiday.

Julie Rynski, executive of Business Regional and Agribusiness Australia in NAB, said regional attractions were expected to have an 83 percent sales spike in comparison to the previous week, with winery sales up by 18 percent, while restaurants, bars, and hotels could see a 10 percent surge.

Rynski said it would be a "much-needed boost to small and medium businesses in these communities" which had struggled throughout the COVID-19 pandemic over the past two years.

"Every time we choose to holiday and visit regional Australia, we help boost businesses in these towns but also support ongoing investment in schools, hospitals and community infrastructure," she said. — Xinhua

China's central SOEs post steady revenue, profit growth in Q1

CHINA'S centrally administered state-owned enterprises (SOEs) saw solid revenue and profit growth in the first three months of 2022, the country's top state-asset regulator said Saturday.

The net profits of central SOEs expanded by 13.7 percent from a year ago to 472.3 billion yuan (about 73.9 billion US dollars) in the first quarter (Q1), said the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council.

The central SOEs raked in 9 trillion yuan in combined revenues during the period, an increase of 15.4 percent year on year, according to the regulator.

It noted improvements in the central SOEs' research and development investments and productivity in the period, and urged a stronger commitment to accomplishing annual goals against headwinds. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka stock market to shut for 5 days following rapid drop in share prices

THE Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka (SEC) on Saturday announced that it has decided to direct the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) to temporarily close the stock market for a period of five business days beginning 18 April.

The SEC said in a press release that the CSE board of directors had asked for a temporary closure of the stock market citing the present economic crisis in the country.

Many other stakeholders of the securities market including the Colombo Stock Brokers Association have also sought a temporary closure of the market on the same grounds, the SEC said.

"The SEC has carefully considered the grounds

that have been adduced by them and has evaluated the impact the present situation in the country could have on the stock market, in particular the ability to conduct an orderly and fair market for trading in securities," the SEC said.

The SEC said it would be in the best interests of investors as well as other market participants if they are afforded an opportunity to have more clarity and understanding of the economic conditions presently prevalent, in order for them to make informed investment decisions.

The CSE has been adversely affected by the economic woes in the South Asian country and the index has fallen 26 percent by the end of March compared to the end of 2021. — Xinhua



Traders work at a business hub in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 11 May 2020. PHOTO: AJITH PERERA/XINHUA

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

Central Committee for Holding Myanmar Gems Emporium The Information on Fifty-Seventh Myanmar Gems Emporium 2022

1. The significant Fifty-Seventh Myanmar Gems Emporium 2022, under the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, will be held on April 22 to 28, 2022 at Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Genuine Myanmar pearl lots, gems lots and rough jade lots will be sold at the Emporium.
2. In accordance with the Myanmar Gemstone Law local gems entrepreneurs who got permit to make gems mining and local gems merchants who got licence to operate the finished gemstone making and dealings will be allowed to attend and purchase the Lots at Fifty-Seventh Myanmar Gems Emporium 2022 according to the terms and conditions.
3. For further information in detail about granted admission to purchase Lots at Fifty-Seventh Myanmar Gems Emporium 2022, can inquire and keep contact with Emporium Central Committee, Myanmar Gems Enterprise (Head Office), Myanmar Pearl Enterprise (Head Office) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Emporium Central Committee

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NAKSKOV MAERSK VOY.NO. (212W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NAKSKOV MAERSK VOY.NO. (212W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-4-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ASIATIC NEPTUNE VOY.NO. (76S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ASIATIC NEPTUNE VOY.NO. (76S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-4-2022 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာစံချိန်စီ
ပုံနှိပ်ပေးပြီး ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်

01 860 4530

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

N Korea test-fired “new-type tactical guided weapon”: KCNA

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un observed the test-firing of a “new-type tactical guided weapon,” state-run media reported Sunday, suggesting that it launched a short-range missile the previous day.

The development came after North Korea on 24 March conducted the first launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile since November 2017, marking an end to its self-imposed moratorium on ICBM tests introduced in April 2018.

The test-firing was “carried out successfully,” the official Korean Central News Agency said. It did not say when North Korea test-fired the weapon, but Kim’s activities are usually reported one day later.

The South Korean military said it detected the launch of two projectiles by North Korea into the Sea of Japan around 6 pm Saturday, and that they flew 110 kilometers at an altitude of about 25 km, traveling at a top speed of Mach 4, or four times the speed of sound.

On Friday, North Korea marked the 110th anniversary of the birth of its founder Kim



Undated photo shows North Korea’s test-firing of a “new-type tactical guided weapon.” **PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO**

Il Sung, the grandfather of the current leader, amid mounting concern that it could conduct military provocations directed against the United States and South Korea.

But despite speculation that North Korea could launch an ICBM or stage its seventh nuclear test on the day, which is the country’s biggest holiday

and known as the “Day of the Sun,” no such move was observed.

Many foreign affairs experts said North Korea could take provocative actions around Monday, the start of large-scale US-South Korea joint military exercises. Pyongyang has slammed them as a “rehearsal” for war. — Kyodo

French presidential debate: pivotal campaign moment

THE live televised presidential debate Wednesday between President Emmanuel Macron and his far-right challenger Marine Le Pen is set to be a crucial moment in a tight race for the Elysee.

The pair will trade blows from 1900 GMT in a clash set to

be watched by millions of French nationwide ahead of the 24 April run-off election.

Unlike the United States, where Republican and Democratic candidates spar at least twice, France’s frontrunners get just one chance to take each down

on live TV.

AFP takes a look at past clashes in what is now a French political tradition, many of which are etched into the memories of the French as turning points in political history.

1974: Hearts and minds

Around 25 million people tuned in for France’s the first ever US-inspired televised presidential debate, pitting Socialist candidate Francois Mitterrand against centrist finance minister Valery Giscard d’Estaing.

The two were neck-and-neck in the polls but the patrician Mitterrand’s attempts to lecture his reform-minded opponent on wealth redistribution backfired. “It’s a matter of heart not just intelligence,” Mitterrand argued, to which Giscard retorted: “You don’t have a monopoly on the heart, Mr. Mitterrand.” — AFP



Le Pen and Macron will trade blows from 1900 GMT Wednesday in a clash set to be watched by millions of French nationwide ahead of the April 24 run-off election. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE**

TOP STORIES in brief

NATO needs bases on eastern border to counter Russia: experts

RUSSIA’S war in Ukraine will lead to NATO radically overhauling its long-term security capabilities in Eastern Europe, defense analysts say.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is likely to establish permanent bases on its eastern flank and significantly boost spending, experts predict.

The United States will continue to play a key role in the region but pressure will be on European members to raise spending in order to address the increased threat from Russia, they say.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said in March the Russian invasion represented the “most serious security crisis in a generation” and there is a need to “reset” defense and deterrence. — Kyodo

Orban’s landslide victory in Hungarian parliamentary elections confirmed

THE final results of Hungary’s parliamentary elections were published Saturday by Hungary’s National Election Office (NVI), confirming the landslide victory of Prime Minister Viktor Orban’s ruling Fidesz-KDNP coalition.

The Fidesz-KDNP coalition will take 135 of the 199 seats in Hungary’s parliament, NVI informed on Saturday, after counting the last votes cast in the Parliamentary elections held on 3 April.

The opposition alliance, consisting of the Democratic Coalition, Jobbik, LMP, Momentum Movement, Hungarian Socialist Party and Dialogue for Hungary, received 57 seats, one more than immediately after the initial count.

The opposition parties, spanning a wide political spectrum, have decided to unite with the aim of having more chances at unseating the government of Prime Minister Orban, who secured his fifth, and fourth consecutive election triumph two weeks ago.

The far-right Mi Hazánk Mozgalom (Our Homeland Movement) got six seats, one fewer than the count right after the Sunday vote showed. — Xinhua

Human trafficking raises alarm in divided Cyprus

CYPRUS’S frozen conflict is providing fertile ground for human traffickers with cases at “alarming” levels in the EU member state, and the breakaway north considered as bad as Afghanistan.

“I love her, but at the same time she reminds me about my past,” said one Cameroonian trafficking survivor, referring to her young daughter.

“There was so much abuse during those months,” added the woman in her 20s, who said she was rescued by a client from her ordeal.

“I didn’t die ... and God saved me, so I know that He has a plan for my life,” she told an NGO working with survivors which requested anonymity to protect her identity. Last year the US State Department downgraded Cyprus in its annual Trafficking in Persons Report from Tier 1, the highest ranking, to Tier 2, citing problems including protracted court proceedings and a lack of convictions.

While the report does not formally rank the breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, only recognised by Ankara, it says the territory would be in Tier 3 with the worst offenders including Afghanistan and North Korea if it did.

Cyprus has been split since 1974, after Turkey invaded in response to a Greek-sponsored coup. — AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Latest Developments in Ukraine

Russia bans Boris Johnson and other top UK officials from entry

MOSCOW on Saturday announced it was banning entry to Prime Minister Boris Johnson and several other top UK officials, after London imposed sanctions on Russia over its military operation in Ukraine.

"This step was taken as a response to London's unbridled information and political campaign aimed at isolating Russia internationally, creating conditions for restricting our country and strangling the domestic economy," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

The ministry accused London of "unprecedented hostile actions", in particular referring to sanctions on Russia's senior officials.

"The British leadership is deliberately aggravating the situation surrounding Ukraine, pumping the Kyiv regime with lethal weapons and coordinating similar efforts on the behalf of NATO," the ministry said.

Russia's entry blacklist includes UK Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace, former Prime Minister Theresa May and the First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon. — AFP

Germany reports 70 pc drop in Ukrainian refugee arrivals by train

BERLIN [Germany], 16 April (ANI/Sputnik): The number of Ukrainian refugees coming to Germany by train each day has decreased by nearly 70 per cent, German Minister for Transport Volker Wissing said on Saturday, stressing that the country will remain open for Ukrainians seeking refuge.

"The number of people fleeing to Germany by train has fallen significantly compared to the peak at the beginning of the war - from around 8,200 to the current 2,500 people per day.

We continue to keep the logistics and transport structures in place, however, because ... (we) can experience an increase in the number of refugees at any time.

We must expect further escalation and be prepared. People who are in need in Ukraine should be able to find refuge in Germany," Wissing told the RND news agency. — ANI

Kyiv gov't asks residents to postpone returning home

THE Kyiv City administration on Saturday asked residents to delay their return to the capital city over security and humanitarian issues.

Russian forces have renewed bombardment of Kyiv, the city administration said in a statement on Telegram, urging people not to ignore the air raid sirens.

Besides, the traffic jams caused by the increased number of people, who return to Kyiv, disrupt the deliveries of humanitarian aid and the work of emergency and communal services, the statement said.

Earlier in the day, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said that one person was killed and several people were injured in a rocket strike on the city.

The Russian Defence Ministry said on Friday that Russia will expand the scale of its missile strikes on Kyiv in response to any Ukrainian forces' attacks or sabotage on Russian territory. In an interview with CNN, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said about 2,500 to 3,000 Ukrainian troops have been killed in the conflict with Russia. — Xinhua

Russia renews attacks on Kyiv, Zelensky issues talks ultimatum

RUSSIA renewed air strikes on Kyiv on Saturday, as President Volodymyr Zelensky warned that peace talks with Moscow will be scrapped if the last Ukrainian troops in the besieged port city of Mariupol are killed.

The fresh bloodshed in Ukraine's capital and the mounting pressure on Mariupol came as Austria's chancellor, the first European leader to meet with Vladimir Putin in person since the invasion began, said he thought the Russian president "believes he is winning the war".

The attacks on Kyiv ended weeks of relative calm in the city.

Smoke rose from the Darnytsky district in the southeast of the capital after what Moscow said were "high-precision long-range" strikes on an armaments plant, killing one person and wounding



A woman examines the debris of her destroyed house in the Ukrainian village of Rusaniv, just east of Kyiv, on Saturday. PHOTO: GENYA SAVILOV/AFP

several others. A heavy police and military presence was deployed around the factory, which was badly damaged. "Our forces are doing everything possible to protect us, but the enemy is insidious and ruthless," Kyiv Mayor Vitali

Klitschko said. The strike came a day after a similar attack on a plant that produced Neptune missiles — the type which, according to Kyiv and Washington, sunk Russia's Black Sea flagship Moskva on Thursday. — AFP

Russia hits Kyiv missile factory after flagship sunk

RUSSIA pounded a Ukrainian rocket factory after losing an iconic warship in the Black Sea, as the Pentagon on Friday backed Kyiv's claim to have sunk the Moskva with cruise missiles.

The Vizar plant, near the capital's international airport, was seriously damaged in the overnight strikes, an AFP journalist saw.

Russia said it had used sea-based long-range missiles to hit

the factory, which Ukraine's state weapons manufacturer says produced Neptune cruise missiles.

"There were five hits. My employee was in the office and got thrown off his feet by the blast," Andrei Sizov, a 47-year-old owner of a nearby wood workshop, told AFP.

"They are making us pay for destroying the Moskva," he said. It was the first major Russian strike around the Ukrainian cap-

ital in over two weeks.

A Pentagon official briefing reporters said Ukraine had hit the Moskva with two Neptunes — contradicting Russia's claim that the ship lost balance in rough seas as it was towed to port after ammunition exploded.

The Moskva had been leading Russia's naval effort in the seven-week conflict, and the fate of its crew of over 500 was uncertain. — Xinhua

Russia claims full control of urban area of Mariupol



The Red Cross said it hoped to lead an evacuation of thousands of civilians from Mariupol on 1 April 2022. PHOTO: EMRE CAYLAK/AFP

THE entire urban area of Mariupol city in eastern Ukraine has been fully cleared of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and foreign

mercenaries, the Russian military said Saturday.

The remnants of the resistant forces have been blocked

inside the Azovstal iron and steel works plants, Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov told a briefing. He said 1,464 Ukrainian servicemen have surrendered during the fighting in the city.

As a key port city on the Azov Sea, Mariupol is witnessing one of the worst violence in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The Ukrainian Defence Ministry said Friday that its forces were still fighting against Russians in Mariupol after almost seven weeks since the city was besieged. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky warned that the elimination of Ukrainian troops in Mariupol would put an end to any negotiations with Russia. — Xinhua

N. Korea test-fired "new-type tactical guided weapon": KCNA
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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.

Rangnick fears for United defence against rampant Liverpool



Manchester United's Interim manager Ralf Rangnick says his side will be fortunate to even get a point against title-chasing Liverpool on Tuesday if they defend like they did in the 3-2 win over bottom side Norwich. **PHOTO: AFP**

RALF Rangnick says Manchester United will be fortunate to even get a point against in-form Liverpool on Tuesday if they show the same defensive frailties they did in the 3-2 win over struggling Norwich.

Interim manager Rangnick's pessimism came despite United's chances of securing Champions League football next season being boosted by defeats for rivals Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur.

United trail Spurs — who occupy the fourth and final Champions League spot — by three points and have the same number of points as Arsenal, although the Gunners have a

game in hand.

Rangnick fears for United's defence against a vibrant Liverpool side who reached the FA Cup final on Saturday with a 3-2 win over league title rivals Manchester City.

Jurgen Klopp's side remain on course for four trophies — they have secured one already the League Cup — as they are a point adrift of City in the table and in the Champions League semi-finals.

Rangnick criticised his defence for the two goals they conceded to bottom side Norwich on Saturday, saying "no other team in the league" gives away presents like that.— AFP

Myanmar to play friendly match with Malaysia on 27 May

MYANMAR national football team will play a friendly match against the Malaysia team on 27 May, said a source with the Football Association of Malaysia.

The two teams will play in preparation for the third round of the 2023 Asian Cup Qualifiers to be held in Malaysia in June.

Malaysia will play two international friendlies before the third round of the Asian Cup, and

the team will also play against Hong Kong on 1 June.

The Myanmar squad has not been formed since the ASEAN Suzuki Cup at the end of last year and has not played any international matches during the International Week in March.

Team Myanmar is expected to spend about a month preparing for the third round qualifiers, with group matches to be played

in Kyrgyzstan.

Myanmar falls in the same group as Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Singapore. The host Malaysian team is in the same group as Bahrain, Turkmenistan and Bangladesh.

Team Myanmar and Malaysia will face the friendly match again after playing their last friendly in 2017. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Spence stops Ugas to seize third welterweight belt

ERROL Spence punished Yordenis Ugas on the way to a 10th-round technical knockout on Saturday to add the Cuban's World Boxing Association title to his World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation belts. Spence, fighting in front of home fans in the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T stadium in Texas, remained unbeaten, improving to 28-0 with 22 knockouts when referee Laurence Cole called a halt at 1:44 of the 10th on the advice of the ringside doctor.

By then, Ugas's right eye was swollen shut from the blows meted out by Spence, who rocked the Cuban in the seventh round and continued to pour in the punish-



Errol Spence connects with a punch against Yordenis Ugas on the way to a 10th-round technical knockout in their welterweight world title unification bout at AT&T Stadium. **PHOTO: AFP**

ment until it was over.

Spence was fighting for the first time since an eye injury suffered in training forced him out of a planned bout with Manny Pac-

quiao last August. Ugas stepped in at the last minute and sent the Philippine legend into retirement with a unanimous decision victory.— AFP

Kim Hyo-joo wins LPGA Lotte Championship

SOUTH Korea's Kim Hyo-joo held off Hinako Shibuno to win the LPGA Lotte Championship by two strokes on Saturday.

Kim teed off with a three-shot lead and was four up after birdies at the fifth and eighth holes at Hoakalei

Country Club in Hawaii.

But Japan's Shibuno, with birdies at the fourth and 11th, was within one stroke after Kim bogeyed the ninth and 17th.

Kim then missed the fairway at the par-five 18th, her

second shot finding the rough.

However, her wedge from the rough rolled within a foot of the cup to leave her a tap-in for birdie that all but sealed the win over Shibuno, who was in a greenside bunker.— AFP