

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 29 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.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives President of the Republic of Tatarstan Mr Rustam Nurgaliyevich Minnikhanov

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received President of the Republic of Tatarstan Mr Rustam Nurgaliyevich Minnikhanov, who has already arrived in Myanmar to pay a working visit, at the Credential Hall of the Office of SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the Senior General expressed his thanks to those who arranged his visit to the Republic of Tatarstan in June 2021 for a smooth process of the visit. The President of the Republic of Tatarstan said he visited the Maravijaya Buddha Park during this trip. He knew the Maravijaya Buddha Image would be the largest marble image across the world, adding that he saw use of modern machinery in stone sculpturing. He recounted his experiences that he saw posting of stone plaques bearing Tri Pitaka treatises in the Buddha Park. He expressed his delightedness for management of the Senior General in building

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Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Mr Rustam Nurgaliyevich Minnikhanov, President of the Republic of Tatarstan in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 April 2022.

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Statements supporting the speech on peace of SAC Chairman Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech on peace on 22 April 2022.

In his speech, the Senior General urged leaders and two members from each ethnic armed organization to join the

talks in order to restore peace and cease armed conflicts across the nation in 2022, as ethnic people have not enjoyed the essence of Independence within 75 years after Myanmar had regained Independence.

As the exhortation of the Senior General was an offer to grant the restoration of genu-

ine and long-term existence of peace to the ethnic people aspire to, various organizations including 23 political parties expressed their support for the speech, respectively.

Likewise, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission issued its statement to the speech. —MNA

Statement of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission on the peace initiative Statement No (2/2022)

ARTICLE 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which Myanmar voted for when it was adopted in 1948, recognizes that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Similarly, the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), to which Myanmar is a party, also recognizes in its paragraph 38 that every person and the peoples of ASEAN have the right to enjoy peace.

To fully enjoy these rights requires peace as a prior and essential condition. It needs not to be overemphasized that the lack of peace in Myanmar has given rise to many serious deprivations and difficulties for its citizens for the last several decades. It is high time that these unfortunate conditions are dealt with effectively and once and for all in the interest of current and future generations of Myanmar.

The initiative of the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services to engage in peace talks with ethnic armed organizations in person, therefore, is a gigantic and forward-looking step in the right direction and the rarest chance of its kind to be seized by all peace-loving people.

The MNHRC wishes to urge all concerned to make every effort to realize the full potential of these envisaged peace talks with a view to establishing lasting peace in the entire country for the benefit of the citizens of Myanmar.

*Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
Dated: 28 April 2022*

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations confirmed

THE State Administration Council has confirmed appointment of the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Kyaw Tun Aye	Director-General Agricultural Mechanization Department Ministry of Agriculture, Live- stock and Irrigation
(2) Dr Moe Moe Thwe	Director-General Department of Intellectual Property Ministry of Commerce
(3) Dr Htay Aung	Rector Lashio University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
(4) Dr Tun Aung	Rector Meiktila University of Economics Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
(5) Dr Myat Wunna Soe	Director-General Department of Medical Services Ministry of Health

57th Myanma Gems Emporium concludes successfully

THE final day of the 57th Myanma Gems Emporium was successfully held yesterday afternoon in Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Since the morning, the local and foreign gem merchants observed the displayed jade and jewel items in the hall and jadestone outside the hall. Afterwards, officials opened the bidding for 600 jade lots from series 1401 to 2000 and announced the sale of 355 jade lots. A total of 1,335 jade lots were sold between 26 and 28 April.

In addition, 330 pearl lots

were sold through the open tender system, while 54 gemstone lots from series 1 to 120 were sold to local and foreign gem merchants during previous events.

The 57th Myanma Gems Emporium, organized by the Myanma Gems Emporium Central Committee from 22 to 28 April, aimed to generate foreign income for the State and bring economic benefits to local citizens. — MNA

The 57th Myanma Gems
Emporium.



41 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 28 April, total figure rises to 612,843

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 612,843 after 41 new cases were reported on 28 April 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 591,754 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 19,434 without casualties for 26 consecutive days.—MNA

I will strive to do my best through the power of the people

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.

(Excerpt from 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 on 17-4-2022)

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives ...



The Senior General hosts the luncheon to honour the President of the Republic of Tatarstan.

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the Maravijaya Buddha Park. He said he thanked those for arranging the smooth process of the visit.

They exchanged views on further enhancement of Rus-

sia-Myanmar diplomatic relations and friendly ties, cooperation in steel and industrial chemical works, production of medical equipment and cooperation in tourism services, sending of military and civilian scholar-

ship students, further promotion of bilateral cooperation between Russia and Myanmar, and exchange of goodwill visits.

Also present at the meeting were SAC Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union Minis-

ter for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Myo Htut and officials. The President of

the Republic of Tatarstan was accompanied by Ambassador of Russia Dr Nikolay Listopadov, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry and Trade of Republic of the Tatarstan Mr Karimov Albert Anvarovich and party.

After the meeting, the Senior General hosted a luncheon in honour of the President of the Republic of the Tatarstan and party.

The luncheon was also attended by Vice-Chairman of the SAC Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party together with the Senior General. The President of the Republic of Tatarstan was accompanied by delegation members.

During the luncheon, artistes from the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture performed songs and dances. After the luncheon, the Senior General and the guest president exchanged gifts. Then, they presented cash award to members of the cultural troupe which performed entertainments at the luncheon.—MNA



The Senior General, the President of the Republic of Tatarstan and dignitaries take a documentary group photo.

Cooperation must be speeded up to minimize illegal trade: Vice-Senior General



State Administration Council Vice-Chair Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win presides over the coordination meeting 2/2022 of the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 April 2022.

AWARENESS must be raised on a broader scale for the people to know about sending complaints about illegal trade to the authorities, said Chairman of the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win at the coordination meeting 2/2022 of the steering committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the Vice-Senior General said that the Chairman of the State Administration Council gave guidance to **effectively speed up the illegal trade** at the submission of the monthly report on seizures of illicit trade in February 2022 and **emphasis to be placed on the supervision of border trade not to**

emerge the illegal trade during his Kengtung trip in Shan State (East).

Illegal trade worth of estimated value of K6.324 billion was seized in 298 cases in January 2022, K3.150 billion in 247 cases in February and K3.430 billion in 301 cases in March.

From January to March 2022, illegal trade volume worth K12.904 billion was seized in 846 cases, exceeding K11.089 billion rather than K1.815 billion in 345 cases in the corresponding period of last year.

Seized goods comprised explosives, chemical precursors and drugs that are dangerous for the entire people. So, assigned personnel need to be loyal to the State in inspection and seizures.

Special task forces for the

illegal trade in regions and states need to submit their difficulties to the steering committee for seeking the fulfillments. Rapid allotment of rewards may improve the keenness of the assigned personnel to combat the illegal trade process.

Combating illegal trade must be done in a similar work procedure without much difference. Restricted action must be taken against those who offended the trafficking of prohibited goods and products without customs duty under the respective notifications and laws.

Staff from the ministries and organizations involved in the anti-illegal trade need to understand the relevant laws and work procedures. Training courses must be conducted for service personnel assigned in the anti-illegal trade process to have knowledge about directives, SOPs, laws, rules and procedures for making correct decisions in seizing the illegal trade goods.

Anti-illegal trade benefits the State but brings loss to those in the illegal trade process. So, some of them are attempting to directly or indirectly harm those

Combating illegal trade must be done in a similar work procedure without much difference. Restricted action must be taken against those who offended the trafficking of prohibited goods and products without customs duty under the respective notifications and laws.

involved in the seizures of illegal trade products. Departmental heads need to arrange security and convenience of service personnel in the anti-illegal trade measures.

Awareness must be raised on a broader scale for the people to know about sending complaints about illegal trade to the authorities. Cooperation must be speeded up to minimize unlawful trade.

Secretary of the steering committee, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Nyunt Aung, reported on the accomplishment

of the minutes of the previous meeting.

Officials explained the letters of submission to the meeting 2/2022 of the steering committee. Vice-Chairmen of the steering committee Union Ministers Lt-Gen Soe Htut and U Win Shein, member Union Minister Dr Pwint San and Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Aung Lin Tun reported on anti-illegal trade measures in respective sectors. Then, the meeting decision (draft) was read out. The Vice-Senior General attended to the needs. — MNA

Awareness must be raised on a broader scale for the people to know on sending complaints on illegal trade to the authorities.

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President of the Republic of Tatarstan visits Uppatasanti Pagoda, construction site of Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw



The President of the Republic of Tatarstan and party pay an observation tour around the pagoda's hollow cave.

PRESIDENT of the Republic of Tatarstan Mr Rustam Nurgaliyevich Minnikhanov, who made a working visit in Myanmar, visited Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, U Kyi Win, member of the pagoda board of trustees explained the history of pagoda

to the delegation.

The President of the Republic of Tatarstan and party paid homage to the jade Buddha images in the pagoda's hollow cave and made donations to the Buddha images and cash contributions after signing the visitor's record book.

They took the commemorative photo on the pagoda platform and visited the white elephant garden.

Then, they went to the construction site of Maravijaya Buddha Image in Dekkhinathiri Township and were welcome by Maj-Gen Ko Ko Lwin, Brig-Gen Zaw Naing Oo and other officials.

At the briefing hall, Maj-Gen Ko Ko Lwin explained the curving and building the Maravijaya Buddha Image using modern CNC machines, step-by-step exploration and conveyance of marble rocks and efforts of

the Senior General to seek the guidance of State Ovadacariya Sayadaws.

Afterwards, Brig-Gen Zaw Naing Oo widely clarified the work processes to publish the Tri Pitaka treatises in the Romanized Language with the use of modern machines and other construction processes of religious buildings with the architectural works of the Yadanabon era.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko Lwin and the President of the Republic of Tatarstan exchanged their gifts.

Then, the President of the Republic of Tatarstan and party inspected the curving processes of Buddha Image with the use of CNC machines.

At noon, they visited the Myanmar Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw), and officials reported on the displayed jade, gemstone, pearl, gold, silverware and natural resources in the museum. — MNA



At the white elephants garden.



At the construction site of Maravijaya Buddha Image.



At the Myanmar Gems Museum.

Yangon region govt social affairs ex-minister U Naing Ngan Lin gets 15 years jail

THE Anti-Corruption Commission examined the complaints against the social affairs ex-minister of Yangon Region U Naing Ngan Lin.

According to the inspections, he accepted bribes amounting to K18 million and gifts from one construction company owner who was permitted to construct the Thingangyun Education College and the West Yangon Technological University in the 2020-2021FY. He also accepted other bribes from another four company owners while he was serving as education building construction tender committee chairman. He was prosecuted under Section 55 of the Anti-Corruption Law on 12 July 2021 with five cases at the Yangon Region High Court.

Yesterday, the High Court sentenced him to 15 years in prison with hard labour for five cases and three years in prison for each case under Section 55 of the Anti-Corruption Law. — MNA

Dr Myo Thant Tin and U Nyunt Swe (Maung Swe Thet) win Pakokku U Ohn Pe Lifetime Awards for Literary Achievement

THE Pakokku Literary Award Fund Supervisory Committee announced the winners of the Pakokku Literary Awards for 2022.

Doyen literati Dr Myo Thant Tin and U Nyunt Swe (Maung Swe Thet) won the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Lifetime Awards for Literary Achievement.

First, second and third winners came out in the selected poem genre, novel genre, selected short stories genre and research literature genre, whereas the second prize

winner emerged in the treatise genre.

Ma Thazin Htet, a second-year student in the theatrical drama department of the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) and Maung Htin Shar Aung, a second-year student of the artist of the Fine Arts Department of the National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay) were awarded the Pakokku U Ohn Pe scholarship.

The books of Kyi Tun Maw and Dr Nyo Aung secured the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Awards for 2020.

The Pakokku U Ohn Pe Lifetime Awards for Literary Achievement winners will be awarded K1 million, the first manuscript award winner K700,000, the second K500,000 and the third K400,000, respectively.

Winners must contact the chief editor of the Sarpay Beikman at 529/531 on Merchant Street in Yangon, dialling 01-240048 and the admin department at 01-381449. The prize-presenting ceremony date and venue will be announced later. — MNA

President of Republic of Tatarstan discusses sending Myanmar students to study in Tatarstan



The discussion between the President of the Republic of Tatarstan and the MIFER Union Minister in progress.

PRESIDENT of the Republic of Tatarstan, Mr Rustam Nurgaliyevich Minnikhanov, discussed the possibility of educating Myanmar students at higher ed-

ucation institutions in Kazan, the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan, during the meeting with Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic

Relations U Aung Naing Oo yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

A delegation led by the President of Tatarstan has arrived in Nay Pyi Taw to pro-

vide cooperation between the two countries. At the meeting with Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo, the President also discussed the implementation of joint ventures through new areas of bilateral economic cooperation, cooperation in repair work, including assembling of motor vehicle and the possibility of holding bilateral business trips

The Union minister explained Myanmar's post-COVID-19 investment priorities and policies, investment facilitation measures, prospects for boosting investment and trade between Myanmar and Tatarstan. The two sides also discussed enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries and further implementing trade and investment prospects.

Afterwards, the ministers and deputy ministers of Myanmar and Tatarstan discussed

opportunities for cooperation in onshore oil and gas exploration and production, motor vehicle assembling, fertilizer production, rice and pulses export and tourism development. Furthermore, business persons from the two countries held a networking session and cordially exchanged views on further cooperation matters.

Following the briefing, the Myanmar Rice Entrepreneur Association and the JSC "RAT-SIN" from the Republic of Tatarstan signed and exchanged two letters of Intent-LoI for the export of Myanmar rice and agricultural products and the import of farm fertilizers and chemicals.

The signing of the two LoIs will increase opportunities for rice and rice products export from Myanmar and expand cooperation in importing quality fertilizers required for Myanmar's agricultural sector. — MNA

MoH Union Minister holds coordination meeting on RDT use for international flight passengers, inspects preparations at Yangon International Airport

UNION Minister for Health Prof Dr Thet Khaing Win presided over a coordination meeting on plans to change into an RDT system for international flights on 27 April.

During the meeting, the Union minister said the infection rate of COVID-19 has declined in most regional countries, including Myanmar. Specific activities are also prioritized systematically to ease COVID-19 rules and regulations as the COVID-19 vaccine coverage becomes high.

The government also arranged to ensure the reopening of international flights and systematic COVID-19 health rules for the tourist and Myanmar citizen arrivals to develop the country's global tourism industry.

He also talked about the declining positive cases among the passengers in commercial flights and relief flights, challenges in the resumption of commercial aviation, and the

COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) to save time and money for flight passengers.

Then, meeting attendees discussed proper services for passengers, plans to change into RDT (draft) and current challenges during the resumption of international flights, visas, health insurance, collection of Myanmar kyats for RDT test, preparations to avoid mass gatherings in RDT test section at the airport, taking swab samples, quality RDT test kits and other matters.

The Union minister instructed necessary things and concluded the meeting.

The Union minister and relevant officials inspected the preparations to conduct COVID-19 tests using RDT on the passengers of regular international flights at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

During the inspection tour, the Union minister instructed officials to systematically



The MoH Union Minister inspects preparation work at Yangon International Airport on 27 April 2022.

collect data from passengers, swab samples, the opening of more swab counters to avoid mass gathers while waiting for their test results, establish an exchange counter, welfare of airport staff and disease con-

trol activities when the results show positive.

The Ministry of Health allowed the international flights starting 17-4-2022 as per COVID-19 health rules under the COVID-19 Central Committee

on Prevention, Control and Treatment and decided to use RDT at the Yangon International Airport soon to save the cost as the infection rate drops. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

MFF to distribute eel larvae to bolster exports, promote domestic consumption

MYANMAR Fisheries Federation will distribute eel larvae to fish breeders in Twantay city, Yangon Region, rather than the eel caught in the wild for exports and domestic consumption.

There are eight native eel species in Asia, and two of them are from Myanmar. The red and black eel species naturally caught from rivers, creeks, ponds, lakes and fields are sent to Yangon and Mandalay eel depots. The eels are delivered to China through the Muse border post. They thrive in wet environments, primarily produced in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin states and Ayeyawady, Sagaing and Mandalay regions. They are found mainly in Rakhine State, yet they are mostly harvested in Ayeyawady Region.

Within the past decade, Viet Nam has generated substantial foreign incomes from the aquaculture sector. This year, the fishery exports are targeted to



There are eight native eel species in Asia, and two of them are from Myanmar. The red and black eel species naturally caught from rivers, creeks, ponds, lakes and fields are sent to Yangon and Mandalay eel depots.

PHOTO: KANU

earn US\$11 billion. Viet Nam's eel farming businesses also contribute to export as well. The federation is also stepping up its effort for eel breeding in Myanmar. It conducted a survey in Viet Nam, and the induced breeding of eel on a trial run was successful in 2019. The eel farming business halted amid the COVID-19 condition. The eel larvae distribution scene aims to increase the income of the

breeders.

"Eel culture was successful in Myanmar after studying in Viet Nam. The eel larvae distribution will begin in May for the breeders to execute eel farming. Myanmar has been exporting the wild-caught eel to China. Even the small-sized eels are included. If so, eels might be extinct from overexploitation. That is why Myanmar will commence eel farming like the Vietnamese farms. It

will enhance individual income as well as the country's economic benefits. Eel is rich in protein. The breeder's eye eels as it has domestic and China's market demand. They can make artificial lakes with tarpaulins, and then the eels can be harvested after one year. Eels are included in the top ten commercially valued fisheries products. Eel farming is affordable yet thriving. MFF will directly distribute them to

the breeders," Dr Toe Nanda Tin, senior vice-chair of MFF, quoted in her sayings.

Snail is the main feedstuff in eel culture. Myanmar's native eel species are mainly spread to Viet Nam, Thailand and Laos. They are highly demanded in China. For Myanmar to penetrate the European market beyond China, processing and packing technologies for fresh seafood are required. Viet Nam has already possessed that and has been increasing market shares in the European market in addition to China.

Myanmar has marketable native eel species, so it has already carried out successful eel farming on a trial run. Value chain development with systematic farming will grow the State's income. The federation will go on a study tour from May and provide breeding and hatchery technology to the breeders. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Myanmar conveys Seintalone mango to China on trial run



Of about 200 mango varieties that originated in Myanmar, Seintalone, Shwehintha, Padamyar Ngamauk, Yinkwe, and Machitsu varieties are primarily grown. The foreign market prefers Seintalone varieties.

MYANMAR delivered Seintalone mango varieties to China with a road test from 27 April, said U Kyaw Soe Naing, general secretary of the Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association (Mandalay).

"One 12-wheel truck carrying Seintalone mango left for China on 27 April. We still do not know the market condition," U Kyaw Soe Naing elaborated.

He added that we still cannot evaluate the transportation cost, duration, and price conditions.

"It is just a trial run. We still do not know how it will be placed in the Chinese market and how much it will be offered," U Kyaw Soe Naing was quoted as saying.

Myanmar's mango exports to China face a series of challenges, such as China's restriction in some border areas amid the COVID-19 and delays related to the COVID-19 containment measure (COVID-19 test for food packaging) and transportation costs. As a result, mango farmers are keen on delivering to the domestic market only at present, Sai Khin Maung from

the Khwanyo fruit depot said.

Additionally, Good Agricultural Practice is required for exports to China. He urged those stakeholders in the supply chain, including workers, employers, and growers, need to take special care of hygiene practices and COVID preventive measures (wearing masks, gloves, washing hands, and sanitization on baskets and cartons).

Of about 200 mango varieties that originated in Myanmar, Seintalone, Shwehintha, Padamyar Ngamauk, Yinkwe, and Machitsu varieties are primarily grown. The foreign market prefers Seintalone varieties.

Ayeyawady Region possesses the largest mango plantation acres, having about 46,000 acres. Bago Region is the second-largest producer with 43,000 acres, and Mandalay has 29,000 acres of mango. According to the association, there are over 24,000 acres in Kayin State, over 20,400 acres in Shan State, and over 20,000 acres in Sagaing Region. — NN/GNLM

177 companies' licences cancelled as they fail to deposit export earnings into local accounts

A total of 177 export/import companies got their licences revoked as they failed to deposit the foreign currency earned from exports in the local bank accounts. Legal action has been taken against them for non-compliance with the law, according to a statement released by the Commerce Ministry on 27 April 2022.

Under the Foreign Exchange Management Law, all export earnings in foreign currency must be deposited back

into the local account within three months after the goods are loaded.

Licences of 177 companies were cancelled as they did not abide by the notifications issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar, including 16 export companies in 2016, 72 in 2017 and 93 in 2018.

According to the notification, the export companies will get their licence revoked and face actions under the existing laws if they fail to comply with them. — KK/GNLM

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

The following telephone numbers, fax and email address can be reached to safely report information in connection with illegal trade.

Auto telephone number - 067 409 883
Mobile phone - 09 404339969
Fax - 067 409 886
Email address - antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

OPINION

Shape the world in harmony with living beings

VARIOUS kinds of sounds in operating machinery, driving vehicles, music and roar in natural disasters come out in the society on a daily basis. Among them, human beings cannot accept too high and too low decibel sounds.

Human beings cannot deter listening to sounds above 70db. Hence, they cannot limit the hearing of sound above 70db, such as loud songs, driving of vehicles and trains, flying of planes, and moves of heavy machinery. But, the sound above 70db can affect the nerves of human beings.

The noisy environments remarkably harm the ability of human critical thinking. Those who grew up in a calm society would have a capacity for patience, consideration, compassion, forgiveness and generous minds. Hence, they can find the best way to succeed in their lifespans.

Development and progress of the world cannot be prohibited. But such a process must be under control for the sake of the peoples. The development process of innovation should not be harmful to human beings, but it should benefit them. Notably, improvement of creation must be suitable for all global people and the environment.

Although the human society is facing advancements in science and arts as well as an industrial process, relevant authorities are striving to control the noisy sounds, settling the factories which can emit noisy sounds in the areas far from the residential places and allotting the land plots of motor roads kept away from the housings.

Noisy sounds may affect not only human beings but animals. As such, the noisy sounds much harm the regeneration of animals during the mating season. Such a loud sound may change the nature of animals due to high decibel vibrations.

Everybody needs to avoid intentional or unintentional disturbance to others. Hence, they have to avoid not being a source of releasing the noisy sounds to the environment so as to take care of their health throughout their lives. As such, they can create a harmonized society for all.

High population density, development of industrial and electronic sectors, expansion of social networks, booming businesses, and better relations among global countries are root causes of transforming the calm world into an active and noisy world. But the world transformed into the noisy one by the global people should be revived into a new world appropriate for the peoples. Global peoples must have such a chance to reshape the world.

Development and progress of the world cannot be prohibited. But such a process must be under control for the sake of the peoples. The development process of innovation should not be harmful to human beings, but it should benefit them. Notably, improvement of creation must be suitable for all global people and the environment.



Discover the 8 New UNESCO Global Geoparks

By **THAN HTUN**
(MYANMAR GEOSCIENCES SOCIETY)

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. A UNESCO Global Geopark comprises a number of geological heritage sites of special scientific importance, rarity, or beauty. These features are representative of a region's geological history and the events and processes that formed it. It must also include important natural, historical, cultural tangible, and intangible heritage sites.

A UNESCO Global Geopark must have a geological heritage of international significance that is assessed by geoscientific experts from the International Union of Geosciences (IUGS) during the evaluation process. It is based on the international peer-reviewed, published research conducted on the geological sites within the area. The experts make a globally comparative assessment to determine whether the geological sites constitute international value following a fixed set of criteria and questions.

A UNESCO Global Geoparks has multiple aims, which include the protection and conservation of its territorial geoheritage and culturally and environmentally sustainable development of the area. UNESCO Global Geoparks are fundamentally about people and about exploring and celebrating the links between our communities and the Earth. The Earth has shaped who we are: it has shaped our farming practices, the building materials and methods we have used for our homes, even our mythology, folklore, and folk traditions.

UNESCO Global Geoparks, therefore, engage in a range of activities to celebrate these links. Many UNESCO Global Geoparks have strong links to the arts communities where the synergy released by bringing science and the arts together can yield surprising results. One of the primary

aims is to promote geoscience education within local communities and to visitors by conveying the importance of the geological heritage to students, teachers, local decision-makers, and the broad public. A UNESCO Global Geopark fosters socio-economic development that is culturally and environmentally sustainable, directly affecting the area by improving human living conditions and the rural environment. It gives local people a sense of pride in their region, strengthens public identification with the area, and promotes a better understanding of the area's geological, natural, archaeological, cultural, and industrial heritage.

The establishment of a UNESCO Global Geopark stimulates the creation of innovative local enterprises, small businesses, sustainable tourism activities and businesses, geotrails, ... and new jobs by generating new sources of revenue (e.g. geotourism, geoproducts) while protecting the geo-resources.

A quick check to verify if an area has got all the important assets to prepare an application for UGGp designation is the Self-evaluation checklist and its explanatory notes, developed by the UGGp Council. This should be the first thing to do for anybody who has the idea to prepare an application dossier for UNESCO.

On 13th April 2022, UNESCO's Executive Board approved the designation of 8 new UNESCO Global Geoparks, bringing the number of sites participating in the Global Geoparks Network to 177 in 46 countries. This year, two new countries, Luxembourg and Sweden, joined the Global Network with the designation of their first geoparks. With these eight new designations, the Network now covers a worldwide surface area of 370,662 km², comparable to the area of Japan. The newly designated UNESCO Global Geoparks are:

- Seridó UNESCO Global Geopark, Brazil
- Southern Canyons Pathways

UNESCO Global Geopark, Brazil

- Salpausselkä UNESCO Global Geopark, Finland
- Ries UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany
- Kefalonia-Ithaca UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece
- Mëllerdall UNESCO Global Geopark, Luxembourg
- Buzău Land UNESCO Global Geopark, Romania
- Platåbergens UNESCO Global Geopark, Sweden

the region's unique biodiversity, especially characterized by the Caatinga ('white forest' in the Tupi language), an ecoregion marked by specific subtropical flora. The Caatinga is the only exclusively Brazilian biome, which means that much of its biological heritage cannot be found anywhere else on the planet.

Southern Canyons Pathways UNESCO Global Geopark, Brazil

The Caminhos dos Cânions



Seridó UNESCO Global Geopark, Brazil. PHOTO BY GETSON LUÍS

Seridó UNESCO Global Geopark, Brazil

The Seridó UNESCO Global Geopark covers an area of 2,800 km² in the semi-arid northeast of Brazil. It is home to more than 120,000 inhabitants, including communities like the Quilombolas, who keep alive the memory of their enslaved ancestors from Africa to preserve their culture through traditional practices, museums and cultural centres. The geopark bears testimony to the last 600 million years of the Earth's history and shelters one of South America's largest scheelite mineralizations, an important tungsten ore, as well as basalt flows that stem from volcanic activity during the Mesozoic and Cenozoic Eras. This geodiversity determines to a large extent

Salpausselkä UNESCO Global Geopark, Finland

Home to around 177,000 inhabitants, the Salpausselkä UNESCO Global Geopark is located in southern Finland, in the southernmost part of the Finnish Lakeland, covering an area of 4,506 km². Around 21% of the geopark is covered by water and over half by forests. The hundreds of lakes in the geopark are a central feature of the landscape, along with the long, distinct Salpausselkä ridges. Extending

Germany

Most of the Ries UNESCO Global Geopark area lies in the state of Bavaria, with a smaller part in the state of Baden-Württemberg comprising the Ries Crater, situated between the Swabian and Franconian Alb in southern Germany. The geopark covers an area of 1,749 km² with around 162,500 inhabitants. Some 15 million years ago, a meteorite collided with Earth in this very place, leaving an impact crater that is the best-preserved meteorite crater in Europe and the most intensively studied impact structure among the nearly 200 known craters worldwide. Visitors can explore the Nördlinger Ries impact crater and learn about its geology and history by following nature trails which take hikers to scenic outlooks on their own or guided tours. Information centres and school programmes are also available. The geopark provides an intriguing insight into the Earth's history through its unique natural landscape and cultural and culinary history.

Kefalonia-Ithaca UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece

In Western Greece, the Kefalonia - Ithaca UNESCO Global Geopark is an island complex belonging to the Heptanese (from the Greek for seven, the number of principal Ionic islands). Kefalonia occupies an area of 773 km² and is home to 35,801 inhabitants, and Ithaca's 117 km² are inhabited by 3,084 people. The geopark is rich in geosites of karstic origin, such as caves, sinkholes, and underground streams, all of which are scattered throughout the islands, telling of a geological history that goes back more than 250 million years. Both islands are located very close to a mountain chain shaped like an arc (the Hellenic arc) formed by the subduction of the African Plate under the Eurasian Plate. It is the most tectonically active region in Europe. The geopark also has a literary significance as Kefalos and Ithaca are named in the Odyssey as the homeland of Ulysses, the hero of Homer's epic poem. The geopark is also home to prehistoric Hellenistic and Roman monuments,

medieval castles, Byzantine and post-Byzantine monasteries, traditional settlements, windmills, bridges, and lighthouses, a rich cultural heritage scattered over the area's extraordinary geological features.

Mëllerdall UNESCO Global Geopark, Luxembourg

In Eastern Luxembourg, the rural Mëllerdall UNESCO Global Geopark covers 256 km² with a population of about 25,500 inhabitants. The geopark is situated in the centre of the Trier-Luxembourg Basin, which extends from the Paris Basin to the Rhenish Massif. It features the Luxembourg Sandstone Formation, which reaches a thickness of up to 100 meters and dates from the Lower Liassic age (205 to 180 million years ago). It forms one of the most spectacular sandstone landscapes in Western Europe and has been a tourist attraction since the late 19th century. Today, the region can be explored by following a dense network of well-signposted hiking trails, including the 112 km-long Mullerthal Trail, which has won the Leading Quality Trails - Best of Europe award.

Buzău Land UNESCO Global Geopark, Romania

In the Carpathian Bend Area in Romania, the hilly and mountainous territory of the Buzău Land UNESCO Global Geopark covers 1,036 km² and is home to some 45,000 inhabitants. Several tectonic plates collided in the region, creating a very complex fold and thrust mountain range that was later eroded by glacial action. One of the most geodynamically active areas in Europe, the geopark exhibits 40 million years of geological history. Over this period, its tectonic movements pushed up mountains and transformed a deep-sea environment into a terrestrial one. Fossils of marine species, terrestrial vegetation, mammals, and birds dating from the last glaciation have been well-preserved in the Carpathians. Many fossils of beetles, spiders, crustaceans, reptiles, and other species are conserved in amber, a fossilized

resin. Some of the world's oldest and deepest salt caves are also found here, remnants of large deposits of salt and gypsum formed by the evaporation of shallow enclosed bodies of water. This rich geodiversity has influenced a unique cultural heritage with local legends in which mud volcanoes become dragons, mud boilers are traps made by giants to catch cattle, and the future can be predicted by looking through a lens of amber.

Platåbergens UNESCO Global Geopark, Sweden

In West Sweden, the Platåbergens UNESCO Global Geopark covers an area of 3,690 km² and is home to 289,198 inhabitants. It presents a unique landscape of 15 flat-topped Table Mountains, platåbergen in Swedish, after which the site is named. These mountains were shaped by erosion during the last Ice Age 115,000 years ago. The area also covers the Västgöta Plain with its shallow floodplain lakes, undulating ridges, and well-preserved cultural landscapes. Some of Sweden's most interesting historical discoveries have been made in this area, where museums preserve numerous vestiges that bear witness to inhabitants' use of the local stone over the millennia: from megalithic graves (5,300-4,700 BCE) to the first known stone church in Sweden, built by Christian Vikings in the early 11th century.

In Myanmar, since 2016, the Forest Department and Department of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and Myanmar Geosciences Society have been striving to establish National Geopark in the Mount Popa region. We look forward to seeing many National Geoparks and UNESCO Global Geoparks in Myanmar in the foreseeable future.

Reference: International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP)



Ministry to provide best things if federations submit difficulties of athletes: MoSYA Union Minister



The MoSYA Union Minister holds talks with officials from Myanmar's sports federations yesterday.

THE ministry is working with the officials to facilitate the work of any federation. It will also provide the needed assistance as the

presidents of sports federations can report on the difficulties of their athletes at any time, said Union Minister for Sports and

Youth Affairs U Min Thein Zan. The Union Minister said that speech during the meeting with officials of Myanmar Sports

Federations to grab achievements in the 31st SEA Games and award-giving ceremony to the medals winners of the 19th Asian Billiards Championship and 37th Asian Men's Snooker Championship held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union Minister also said that all must cooperate in developing the sports sectors while the presidents and vice-presidents of respective sports federations make efforts in accordance with the aims and objectives of the federations. It has already been ordered that the ministry staff work together to develop the country's sports sector.

Myanmar will compete in 20 sports in the 31st SEA Games, and those who grab gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded K30 million, K20 million and K10 million.

He also highlighted the importance of teamwork in competitions, the need to apply the best abilities of athletes who represent the country to uplift the dignity of the country and the establishment of Youth Camp at Gold Camp to emerge qualified young athletes to participate in the 32nd SEA Games to be held in Cambodia.

He gave K1 million cash prizes each to Maung Pauksa, a joint third prize winner in the 19th Asian Billiards Championship and Maung Aung Phyo, a joint third prize winner in the 37th Asian Men's Snooker Championship held in Qatar in March 2022 and concluded the event.

The 30th SEA Games was held in the Philippines in 2019, and 8,750 athletes from 11 countries took part in it. — Htun Htun/GNLM

Online coordination meeting between China (Yunnan) and Myanmar on border trade flows held

AN online meeting on border trade between China (Yunnan Province) and Myanmar was held yesterday at the Ministry of Commerce meeting room.

The meeting focused on bilateral trade and COVID-19 defence, smoothing the border trade with immigration, and economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Permanent Secretary U Min Min from the Ministry of Commerce, Yunnan Province People's Government Foreign Affairs Office Director-General Ms Yang Mu, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai, Consuls from the Consul-General of the People's Republic of China (Mandalay) and the Consul-General of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (Kunming) delivered the opening speeches.

Next, officials discussed Myanmar exporting rotten fruits and vegetables to China as soon as possible, reducing

the high price of Chinese minivans at the border and ensuring the convenient entry of trucks for trade through the Chinshwehaw border trade post. They also discussed the BP-125 temporary border checkpoint to be opened and the issue of exporting Myanmar sugarcane through the Chinshwehaw border post, changes in trade policy between the two countries through real-time information exchange through contact persons and cooperation in customs clearance.

The two sides cordially discussed issues related to cooperation with GACC in the SPS process for pest control.

Representatives of the relevant provincial governments in Yunnan Province, representatives from the Kachin State Government and the Shan State Government, officials from the Department of Trade, Customs Department, Department of Livestock Breeding and Veter-



The online coordination meeting between China (Yunnan) and Myanmar on border trade flow in progress.

inary Department and the Department of Fisheries attended the meeting.

The virtual meeting on bor-

der trade between China (Yunnan) and Myanmar focused on long-term friendly relations between the two countries, with

practical sectoral cooperation between the two countries amidst the COVID-19 epidemic. —MNA

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

SAC makes a special effort to achieve lasting peace in the entire country, designating 2022 as a peace year: SAC's Information Team Leader

THE year 2022 has been designated as a year of peace to end the long-running armed conflict in our country. We are working in various ways to achieve lasting peace in the whole country, said Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, Team Leader of the Information Team of the State Administration Council, at the 13th press conference of the information team held on 27 April.

The State Administration Council contacted ethnic armed organizations-EAOs, which have signed the National Ceasefire Agreement-NCA and the EAOs which have not signed the agreement, hoping that all will work together for the benefit of all the people of the Union. Of ten ethnic armed organizations-EAOs that have signed the NCA -KNU, RCSS/SSA, PNLO, CNF, KNLA, DKBA, ABSDF, ALP, NMSP and LDU, nine organizations were contacted and could attend the meeting. Of 11 ethnic armed organizations which have not

signed the NCA: UWSA, NDAA, NSCNK, KIO, KIA, KNPP, ANC, SSPP, TNLA, MNDAA, WNO and AA, eight organizations were contacted, and there will be a possibility to attend, it is reported.

The Information Team Leader also said that the peace process is essential for the country. The last point in the five-point roadmap of the State Administration Council is to hold a multiparty democracy general election if completed according to the provisions of the emergency period. He added that his government has firmly guaranteed multiparty democracy, a nationwide system supported by all the people.

"We are working to hold the election in the whole country according to the term 'General Election' to end armed conflicts and let the people express their will by voting without any unjust influence," he said.

He urged the people and stakeholders to work together as the SAC exerts its utmost to



SAC's Information Team holds its 13th press conference in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 April 2022.

make a free and fair election happen without armed conflicts, armed domination, intimidation, and unfair influence.

In his speech on peace delivered on 22 April 2022, State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior

General Min Aung Hlaing said that establishing a union based on democracy and federalism, which the government, Tatmadaw and ethnic armed organizations-EAOs have demanded, has been firmly guaranteed. He called on all ethnic armed

organizations-EAOs to hold talks with him to implement it effectively, announce the participants' names by 9 May 2022, and have an honest frank discussion to enjoy peace and development. — Htun Htun/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, foodstuffs and ore antimony seized

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, action is being taken against illicit trade under the law.

On 26 April, combined inspection teams led by the Forest Department under the supervision of the Magway Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections. They seized 7.2932 tonnes of sawn ironwood timber (estimated value of K3,646,600) in Aunglan Township, Thayet District. The official took action under the Forest Law.

On the same day, 30 bags of 10 gallons each of illegal crude oil worth K509,100 were seized in Minbu Township of Minbu District and taken over to Minbu Township Police Station to take action under the law.

Likewise Similarly, under the supervision of the Mon State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, the combined inspection team also confiscated K5,180,000 worth of five tonnes of ore antimony metal in Mudon Township. It took action under the Myanmar Mines Law.



Officials confiscate illegal teak logs.

Moreover, on 27 April, the combined inspection team consisting of Myanmar police members under the supervision of the Chin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force also confiscated K1,611,000 worth of illegal distilled liquor. It took action under the Chin State Act.

Similarly, the Mayanchaung checkpoint of Mon State also captured K1,300,000 worth of illegal imported M-150 energy drink bottles from an express bus heading to Yangon from Myawady and

officials on duty at the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Checkpoint seized K7,120,000 worth of fabrics, which were not declared in the Import Declaration, totally worth K8,420,000, charged under the Customs Law. On 28 April, the Bago Region Forest Department seized K1,070,510 worth of 9.6770 tonnes of illegal timbers in the Pyu and Yedashe townships and took action under the Forest Law.

Therefore, ten arrests (estimated value of K20,437,210) were made from 26 to 28 April. — MNA

Drugs seized in Mohnyin, Bhamo and Myeik Townships

A combined inspection team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a Canter vehicle driven by Nyan Win at the joint checkpoint in Nangsiaung village in Mohnyin Township at 11:40 am on 27 April. It seized 3,200 kilogrammes of ammonium nitrate.

Similarly, at 5:00 pm on the same day, the combined inspection team examined a motorbike driven by Ma Thin Thin

Lei on the Bhamo-Mansi Road near Manyuk village in Bhamo Township and found 1,290 ecstasy tablets.

At 2:00 pm on the same day, the combined inspection team examined and suspected Tint Swe (aka) Bo Bo in Myeik (South) village in Myeik Township and seized 18,000. They are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Myanmar Police Force stated. — MNA



ECONOMY WORLD

Tibet improves infrastructure to boost tourism

SOUTHWEST China's Tibet Autonomous Region pooled more than 500 million yuan (about 76.2 million U.S. dollars) into tourism infrastructure projects to boost its tourism industry in 2021, said the regional tourism development department Wednesday.

The money went to the construction of 39 tourism infrastructure projects and pub-

lic service facilities across the region, as well as significant cultural protection projects and tourism projects in border and rural areas, said Wang Songping, head of the department.

Last year, breakthroughs were made in attracting investment for tourism in the region, with 126 projects signed and an investment of 3.6 billion yuan

in place.

The area received over 41.5 million visitors in 2021, increasing 18.5 per cent compared with figures in 2020. Tourism revenue generated during the period totalled 44.2 billion yuan, rising 20.6 per cent. Rural tourism attracted more than 12.7 million tourists last year, creating over 64,500 jobs.—Xinhua



Tourists visit the Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet autonomous region. PHOTO: HE PENGLEI/CHINA NEWS SERVICE/XINHUA

Nepal bars import of some products over falling forex reserves



Models pose with cars at the Nepal Automobile Dealers' Association (NADA) Auto Show 2018 in Kathmandu, capital of Nepal, 11 September 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA/SUNIL SHARMA

THE Nepali government has imposed a complete ban on the import of some products till mid-July as the country's foreign exchange reserves are depleting fast over rising imports.

In a notice published in Nepal Gazette, the government barred the entry of liquor and tobacco products except their raw materials, diamond, mobile sets priced

over 600 US dollars, colour TV sets larger than 32 inches, jeep, car and van except ambulances, motorcycles with capacity over 250CC, dolls, cards and snacks, among others. Earlier, Nepal's central bank instructed commercial banks not to open letters of credit for luxury goods, including vehicles. "A strict import control for the time being has been nec-

essary to improve the external sector of the economy," Prakash Kumar Shrestha, chief of the economic research department at Nepal Rastra Bank, the central bank, told Xinhua.

"The government's decision to impose a complete ban on some of the products, which are among the top import items, is expected to help to improve the situation of the current account, balance of payment and foreign exchange reserves."

Dwindling forex reserves have sparked concerns over Nepal's ability to pay for sustained growth in imports as remittances, the largest source of forex earnings for the country, have declined, while the contribution of exports, tourism revenues and foreign direct investments to forex reserves has been minimal.

The government notice said the import ban was enforced to safeguard the external financial position and balance of payments in order to forestall the imminent threat to the economy.—Xinhua

Excessively rapid forex movements negative for economy: BOJ chief

BANK of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda said Thursday that while a weak yen is positive for the Japanese economy, the negative aspects of excessively rapid foreign exchange moves should also be noted after the currency tumbled to a fresh 20-year low against the US dollar.

Speaking at a press con-

ference after a two-day policy meeting, Kuroda said it is "appropriate" to continue with the central bank's powerful monetary easing because the sustainability of recent inflation is in doubt.

"The excessive fluctuations seen recently in a short period of time raises uncertainty over the

outlook and makes it difficult for companies to draw up business plans," Kuroda said.

"It's desirable that currency moves are stable, reflecting both economic and financial fundamentals," he said. "We will be watching the impact of currency moves on the economy and prices very carefully."—Kyodo

NEWS IN Brief

UNWTO confirms Russia's intention to withdraw

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) confirmed here on Wednesday that Russia had announced its intention to withdraw from the organization.

"Russia has announced its intention to withdraw from UNWTO," explained the UNWTO in a tweet, adding that nevertheless Russia must "follow due process — and this will take a year to complete upon the receipt of the official communications through the appropriate channels." The extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly of UNWTO is taking place on Wednesday and Thursday in Madrid, the Spanish capital. Its objective is to decide whether or not Russia has to be suspended due to the conflict with Ukraine, among other issues. For the suspension of Russia to be effective, the support of two thirds of the 160 members that make up the organization will be necessary. If the suspension is approved, it will be applied immediately.—Xinhua

Ukrainian, EU leaders discuss further support for Kyiv

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Wednesday he had discussed further support for Kyiv, including macro-financial assistance, with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

The parties talked about the 6th sanctions package on Russia, which would include oil embargo, Zelensky tweeted.

The Ukrainian leader also said that he thanked the European Commission for deciding to abolish tariffs and quotas on Ukrainian industrial goods and foods.—Xinhua

Osaka city to enact 3-month base water rates exemption as bills soar

OSAKA city households are to be exempt from water service base rates for three months starting with July bills, the city government said Wednesday as part of financial support measures amid the prolonged coronavirus pandemic and soaring prices due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The system will not be means-tested for low earners, meaning it applies to all of Osaka's around 1.69 million households receiving water services, the city government said. Base monthly rates for water and sewerage services are 935 yen (\$7.3) and 605 yen respectively for 1,540 yen per month.—Kyodo

Airbus says wins UK court victory over Qatar Airways

AIRBUS said Tuesday that a British court had rejected a request by Qatar Airways for an injunction against the manufacturer selling aircraft the airline had ordered to competitors, as the two firms are locked in bitter dispute.

The airline had asked the High Court in London to suspend Airbus's cancellation of an order of 50 A321 single-aisle aircraft worth more than \$6 billion.

"Airbus is pleased with the Court's decision in recognising Airbus' position that a transparent and trustful cooperation is essential in our industry," the company said in a statement. Qatar Airways has been locked in a dispute with Airbus over



Qatar Airways launched legal action against Airbus over the issue before the High Court in London last December, with Airbus vigorously defending the A350 against any suggestions the aircraft isn't safe. PHOTO: AFP

degradation of the exterior fuselage surfaces on some of its A350 wide-body planes.

The issue has led the airline, one of the Gulf region's "big three" carriers,

to ground 23 of the aircraft and not accept further deliveries from the European firm until the problem is resolved.

Qatar Airways launched legal action

against Airbus over the issue before the High Court in London last December, with Airbus vigorously defending the A350 against any suggestions the aircraft isn't safe. —AFP

China cuts coal import taxes to zero to ensure energy supply

CHINA will slash coal import tariffs to ensure energy security, the finance ministry said Thursday, the latest move to cast doubt on the country's environmental promises. Beijing is the world's biggest importer of coal, but import volumes dropped in the first quarter of the year and energy prices have surged globally since the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The Chinese leadership has pledged the country will curb coal consumption after 2025. Last year half of China's economy was fuelled by coal and imports hit a record high. As the world's biggest

polluter, China has also promised to peak emissions by 2030 and become carbon neutral by 2060.

Policymakers in Beijing have long walked a tightrope balancing climate objectives with domestic growth.

Now as growth slows, authorities are resorting to an old formula of propping up smokestack industries to juice the economy.

A zero tax rate will apply for all coal imports from 1 May until 31 March next year, in a move the finance ministry said would "strengthen the guarantee of energy supply and promote... development". —AFP

Samsung Electronics Q1 net profit up almost 60 per cent

SOUTH Korean tech giant Samsung Electronics posted a near 60 per cent rise in first-quarter net profits on Thursday, largely driven by steady memory chip demand and brisk smartphone sales.

The world's biggest memory-chip maker is the flagship subsidiary of the giant Samsung group, by far the largest of the family-controlled empires known as chaebols that dominate business in South Korea, Asia's fourth largest economy.

The conglomerate is crucial to the South's eco-



A woman walks past advertisements for the Samsung Galaxy Note9 at the company's showroom in Seoul. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

nomie health — its overall turnover is equivalent to a fifth of the national gross domestic product.

The firm said net prof-

it in January-March was 11.32 trillion won (\$8.9 billion) — up 58.6 per cent on-year, beating expectations according to Bloomberg

News.

The tech industry has been hit hard by a shortage of components for chipmaking, blamed on a boom in global demand for electronic products and disruption to supply chains caused by the pandemic.

But analysts say this has largely been benefiting Samsung.

Last year saw a surge in chip prices thanks to strong demand for those used in personal devices and data centres, helping the firm hit record annual sales. —AFP

Brazil mining giant Vale results down in first quarter

BRAZILIAN mining giant Vale reported a first-quarter net profit of \$4.45 billion on Wednesday, down 27.4 per cent from the same period last year.

The group's net profit

in the first quarter of 2021 was \$5.54 billion.

This year's first-quarter profit was also 23 per cent lower than the preceding quarter (\$5.42 billion), the group said in

a statement.

Vale Chairman Eduardo Bartolomeo said the context in which the company was operating represented a "challenge".

"We are facing heavy

rains," which have affected operations in the south-east Minas Gerais, "delays in the granting of permits in the north and under-performance in certain assets," he said. —AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3027S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3027S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-4-2022 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
Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPING LINE

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Young Bhutto scion appointed Pakistan foreign minister

THE scion of Pakistan's most influential political dynasty was appointed foreign minister on Wednesday, the latest step up a ladder likely to take Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to the top of the country's leadership.

Aged 33, Bhutto becomes one of the world's youngest foreign ministers but inherits a diplomatic bag of issues that started well before he was born -- including relations with arch-rival India.

Bhutto was sworn in two weeks after he helped lead an alliance that toppled Imran Khan and saw Shehbaz Sharif become prime minister.

His first foreign mission in the role will be accompanying Sharif Thursday to Saudi Arabia, a key trade partner and regular source of relief for Pakistan's struggling economy.

Bhutto is the son of assassinated former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and ex-president Asif Ali Zardari, as well as the grandson of another former premier, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

His grandfather also served as foreign minister in the mid-



Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is the son of assassinated former PM Benazir Bhutto and ex-president Asif Ali Zardari, as well as the grandson of another former premier, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. **PHOTO: RIZWAN TABASSUM/AFP**

1960s and was the founder of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) that Bhutto now leads.

He became party leader aged just 19, while a student at Oxford University, following his mother's assassination in 2007.

She, in turn, had taken over the party's stewardship from her mother Nusrat, who became chairwoman following the execution of her husband Zulfikar in 1979 under military dictator

Zia-ul-Haq.

The new foreign minister is considered a progressive, in his mother's image, and has frequently spoken out on the rights of women and minorities.

With more than half of Pakistan's population aged 22 or below, Bhutto's social media savvy is also a hit with the young, although he is frequently mocked for a poor command of Urdu, the national language. — AFP

Indian builds Taj Mahal-replica home for universal love, beloved wife



Photo taken in February 2022 shows Indian education entrepreneur Anand Prakash Chouksey's Taj Mahal-replica home, located in Burhanpur in the central state of Madhya Pradesh. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE Taj Mahal in India is both one of the finest architectural structures of the nation's Muslim era and a representation of the epitome of love, with the millions who visit each year witnessing firsthand the physical

representation of Shah Jahan's dedication to his dead wife.

For Anand Prakash Chouksey, the ivory-white mausoleum has been a huge inspiration in life and after researching for many years the 52-year-old

education entrepreneur decided to build a replica in his hometown in the central state Madhya Pradesh.

"I visited Taj Mahal more than three times. I love that building because it's a symbol of love and nowadays this is one aspect which is missing in the world," said Chouksey. Nestled in the small town of Burhanpur, the replica provides a dwelling for Chouksey, his wife and their two children. "Last time he visited Taj Mahal was with a measuring tape," said Kabir, Anand Prakash's 24-year-old son.

"Everybody was laughing at him when he was doing this," as he noted down nearly every measurement he took of the monument with the tape, added his wife Manjusha, 48. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia bans entry to 287 British MPs over Ukraine

THE Russian foreign ministry said Wednesday that it has banned entry to 287 British MPs after the UK blacklisted Russian lawmakers over Moscow's military operation in Ukraine.

"In response to the decision taken by the British government on 11 March to add 386 State Duma deputies to a sanctions list, in a reciprocal move, personal restrictions are being placed on 287 members of the House of Commons," the ministry said in a statement.

It said that the MPs are barred from entering the country from now on. The House of Commons has a total of 650 members.

Moscow said the list is made up of MPs who have played "the most active part" in drawing up anti-Russian sanctions and contributed to "Russophobic hysteria".

Among those blacklisted are Speaker Lindsay Hoyle as well as Cabinet members including Minister for Brexit Jacob Rees-Mogg and Environment Secretary George Eustice.

The list also includes Labour MPs, among them Diane Abbott, a close ally of former party leader Jeremy Corbyn. — AFP

Russia expels eight Japanese diplomats

MOSCOW said Wednesday it was expelling eight Japanese diplomats in a tit-for-tat response to expulsions by Tokyo over the conflict in Ukraine.

Accusing Tokyo of pursuing an "openly hostile anti-Russian course," the foreign ministry said in a statement that the Japanese diplomats must leave by May 10, in a reciprocal answer to Japan's expulsion of eight Russian diplomats.

It accused Tokyo of "taking steps that were unprecedented in modern Russian-Japanese relations" and "abandoning friendly, constructive relations with Russia".

Earlier this month Japan expelled the eight Moscow diplomats and announced it will end imports of Russian coal over the military campaign in Ukraine. — AFP

UK asylum reform bill set to become law

AN asylum reform bill proposed by the British government is set to become law after overcoming a final hurdle in parliament on Wednesday.

The House of Lords, the upper house of the British parliament, passed the bill and rejected a last-minute amendment to the text, meaning it will now become law once it has gained royal assent.

The reform will enforce tougher sanctions on people smugglers and migrants who arrive in the country illegally, as well as outsourcing the consideration of asylum applications to a third country.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative government announced two weeks ago an agreement with Rwanda to send asylum seekers who arrived illegally in the United Kingdom to the African nation.

He had promised to control immigration, a key issue in the Brexit campaign, but the number of illegal crossings to the UK tripled in 2021, a year marked by the deaths of 27 migrants at sea in November.

Faced with criticism, the government has defended the bill as necessary to break lucrative smuggling networks and to dissuade migrants from making dangerous sea crossings. — AFP

Japan's lower house urges gov't to ease Okinawa's base-hosting burden

JAPAN'S lower house on Thursday adopted a resolution urging the government to reduce the burden on Okinawa in hosting the bulk of US forces in the country, in a move that marks the 50th anniversary of the southern island prefecture's reversion to Japanese rule.

The resolution was adopted at a time when defense experts fear for the security of the base-hosting prefecture amid increasing challenges facing the Japan-US alliance in light of situations such as cross-strait tensions between Taiwan and China and the ongoing Ukraine war.

The House of Representatives also called on the government to make utmost efforts to turn Okinawa into a stronghold for global peace and stability.

In a lower house plenary session after the resolution was adopted, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida vowed to "make tangible progress in reducing the base-hosting burden" on Okinawa in consideration of the feelings of local residents, while maintaining the deterrence capability of the Japan-US alliance.

Okinawa remained under US occupation until 15 May, 1972, even after Japan restored its

sovereignty after its defeat in World War II based on the 1952 San Francisco Peace Treaty.

But the prefecture still hosts around 70 per cent of total acreage exclusively used by US military facilities in the country, despite only representing 0.6 per cent of the country's total land area. Okinawa is seen as strategically important given its proximity to North Korea, which continues to alarm Japan due to its ballistic missile tests and nuclear development, as well as to the Japanese-administered, Chinese-claimed Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea. Okinawa is also near Taiwan.—Kyodo



The House of Representatives adopts a resolution on 28 April 2022, urging the government to reduce the burden on Okinawa in hosting the bulk of US forces in Japan, in a move that marks the 50th anniversary of the southern island prefecture's reversion to Japanese rule. **PHOTO: KYODO**

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

EU warns against rubles payments

VON der Leyen warns EU members against giving in to Moscow's demands for rubles payments, unless their contract is denominated in rubles, amid reports some customers have already done so. "This would be a breach of the (EU) sanctions, so a high risk for the companies," she says, adding that "about 97 per cent" of all EU contracts explicitly stipulate payments in euros or dollars.

'Extremely difficult weeks' ahead

UKRAINE'S Defence Minister Oleksiy Reznikov says the country has "extremely difficult weeks" ahead, warning of major "destruction" in a developing Russian offensive in the east of the country.

In a statement on Facebook he says "Russia has already gathered forces for a large-scale offensive in eastern Ukraine," and Moscow "will try to inflict as much pain as possible", warning of "destruction and painful casualties".

Moldova unrest

PRO-RUSSIAN separatists in Moldova claim shots were fired across the border from western Ukraine towards a village housing a Russian arms depot in the breakaway Transnistria region.

Transnistria's interior ministry also says drones overflew the village of Kolbasna, known as Cobasna in Romanian.

SOURCE: AFP

Humanitarian pauses, not corridors needed in Ukraine: NGO

A leading aid agency said Wednesday that pausing hostilities is the best way to allow trapped Ukrainians to flee conflict zones, instead of humanitarian corridors that are often "overcomplicated" and ineffective. In the two months since Russia invaded Ukraine, outsiders have repeatedly called for humanitarian corridors to allow civilians to escape, though both sides have accused each other of violating agreed routes. Several humanitarian corridors have failed, including from the besieged southern port city of Mariupol, leaving vulnerable civilians at risk.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR: ROLLING UPDATES

Guterres arrives in Kyiv

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announces his arrival in Kyiv following talks in Moscow with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"We will continue our work

to expand humanitarian support and secure the evacuation of civilians from conflict zones. The sooner this war ends, the better—for the sake of Ukraine, Russia, and the world," he tweets, ahead

of talks with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Meanwhile, the United Nations is following up on an agreement with Russia to coordinate the evacuation of civilians in the Azovstal plant in Mariupol of Ukraine, said a UN spokesman on Wednesday.

In a meeting with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed in principle to the involvement of the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross in the evacuation of civilians from Azovstal.

Follow-on discussions were to be held with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Russian Defense Ministry.—AFP/Xinhua



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (front L) crosses the border from Poland to Ukraine on 27 April 2022. Guterres said on Wednesday he has arrived in Ukraine. **PHOTO: ESKINDER DEBEBE/ UN PHOTO/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

Moscow trades US ex-Marine for Russian pilot in prisoner swap

RUSSIA and the United States swapped prisoners Wednesday despite fierce tensions over Ukraine, with Moscow handing over a jailed ex-Marine in exchange for a Russian pilot convicted of drug smuggling.

Trevor Reed, a 30-year-old from Texas who was jailed in Russia in 2020, was exchanged for Konstantin Yaroshenko, 53, who had been serving a 20-year

US prison sentence since 2011.

In footage shown on Russian state television, Yaroshenko emerged from a US plane onto a sunlit airfield, wearing a T-shirt and accompanied by two men in dark suits.

Simultaneously, Reed emerged from a plane opposite with a guard carrying bags.

The two men walked past one other, each on their way to

the other's plane.

Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said the exchange was carried out on Wednesday after "a lengthy negotiations process". State television showed footage of Reed talking to guards in Russian as he left his penal colony, and being escorted onto a plane at Moscow's Vnukovo airport by men in military uniform.—AFP

Japan's lower house urges gov't to ease Okinawa's base-hosting burden

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SPORT

Myanmar to compete in 20 sports at 31st SEA Games

MYANMAR teams will compete in 20 sports at the 31st SEA Games to be hosted by Viet Nam, according to the SEA Games Organizing Committee.

The 31st SEA Games, postponed by the COVID-19 epidemic, will be held from 12 to 23 May and feature 40 sports.

Myanmar plans to compete in 20 sports, including Track and Field, Archery, Lethwei, Billiards, Football and Futsal, Sepak Takraw, Wushu, Volleyball, Judo, Taekwondo, Vovinam, Weightlifting, Shooting, Rowing (international boat, canoe and kayak), Petanque, Golf,

Chess, Bodybuilding, Esports and Kurash.

Myanmar previously planned to compete in only 18 sports but has expanded to include Esports and Kurash.

Since last year, most of the Myanmar sports teams have been training local for the upcoming SEA Games, while six sports teams have been training in China in preparation for the Games.

Myanmar women's national football team is training in South Korea, while the men's football team is currently training in the UAE and playing

friendly matches.

The Myanmar national men's futsal team underwent training in Thailand last month. They competed in the Thai Invitational Futsal and ASEAN Futsal Championships.

Likewise, Myanmar women's futsal team continues training in Thailand after the Thai Invitational Futsal Championship, which runs from 20 to 26 April.

Five hundred twenty-six gold medals will be awarded at the 31st SEA Games, and some sports will start on 6 May. — Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

Aston Villa to face Leeds in Brisbane pre-season friendly



Aston Villa's John McGinn (left) and Leeds United's Daniel James could be next squaring up in Brisbane in July. **PHOTO: AFP**

ASTON Villa and Leeds United will clash for a July friendly in Australia, the latest English Premier League clubs to announce a return to pre-season touring after the Covid pandemic.

They will meet on 17 July at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium as part of a three-team tournament with A-league side Brisbane Roar, the clubs announced on Thursday.

"The tour comes at a crucial stage of our pre-season so the fitness programme and the games are important," said As-

ton Villa manager Steven Gerrard, whose side will be making their first trip to Australia.

It will be the third trip to Australia for Leeds, who played in Perth against Manchester United in 2019 before the Covid-19 pandemic hit.

"I'm very much looking forward to taking the team back for what will be an important part of our preparations for the 2022/23 season," Leeds manager Jesse March said.

The Premier League sides and Brisbane Roar will play for the new Queensland Champi-

ons Cup, which had been due to launch in 2020 but was delayed by the pandemic.

Brisbane Roar play Leeds on 14 July on the Gold Coast before facing Villa on 20 July in Townsville.

"We are hoping to see plenty of orange in the stands supporting Queensland's A-League club against two of England's finest clubs," said the Roar's chief executive David Pourre.

Leeds and Aston Villa join a series of high-profile football friendlies announced across Asia and Australia.—AFP

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

PGA Tour winners Im, Kim go for Asiad gold - and military exemption

MULTIPLE PGA Tour winners Im Sung-jae and Kim Si-woo will tee up for South Korea at this year's Asian Games in China, where gold medals could potentially spare the pair from compulsory military service.

Im and Kim, respectively ranked 19th and 51st in the world, have been selected in the four-man squad for team and individual competitions at the Asiad in September, the Korea Golf Association said.

South Korea requires all able-bodied men to serve in

the armed forces for 18 months, normally between the ages of 18 and 28, but Olympic medallists and Asian Games gold medallists are rewarded with exemptions.

The Asian Games, an Olympic-sized multisports event, will this year allow professional golfers to compete for the first time since the sport made its debut in 1982.

The 24-year-old Im, the 2018-19 PGA Tour Rookie of the Year, has won twice on the elite US circuit.

Kim, who is 26, has won three times on the PGA Tour, including the prestigious Players Championship at Sawgrass in 2017. "I am so happy to represent a national squad in the Asian Games. I will work hard to win a gold medal," Im was quoted as saying by Yonhap news agency.—AFP



World Golf Championship-FedEx St Jude Invitational - Round One. **PHOTO: AFP**