

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.

The message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark Workers' Day 1 May 2022

Esteemed workers,

Today is Workers' Day, deeply honouring the workers across the world, including Myanmar. On this historic and significant occasion, I wish the entire workers of Myanmar to enjoy mental and physical well-being with good aspirations for the New Year.

According to the historical records, the 1 May was designated as the International Workers' Day to recognize the efforts of workers to get the deserved rights against the labour exploitation in working overtime at factories in the 19th Century. And that day has been marked yearly throughout the world, including in Myanmar.

When the government is pouring the utmost efforts for ensuring prosperity of the State and sufficiency of food as the national work processes, I take pride in sending this message in honour of the workers who are the vital force of the nation on the workers' day, today.

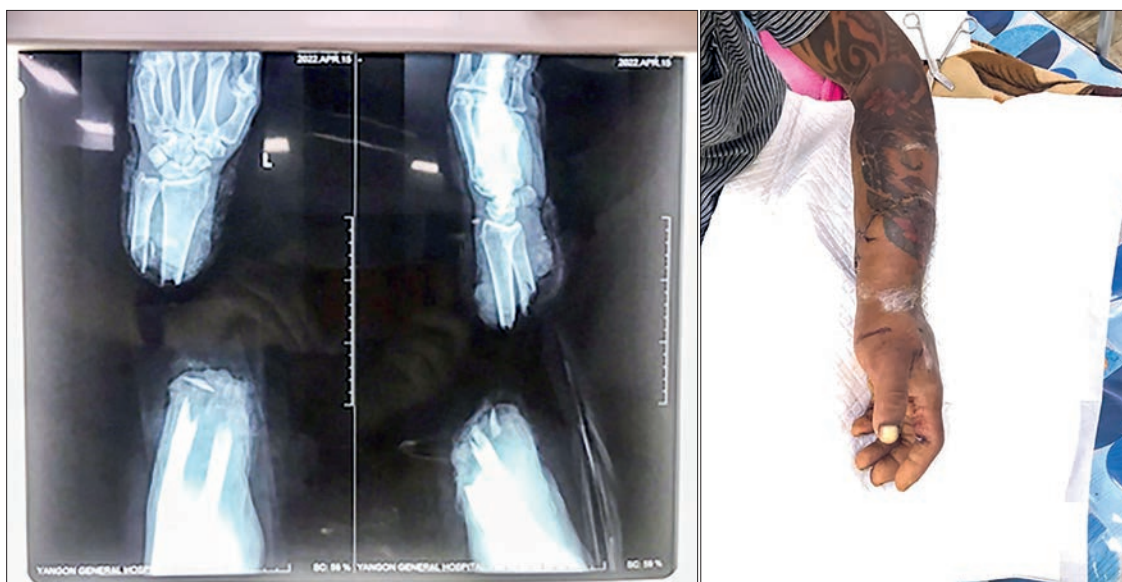
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Part of the life story of an amputated man

THE transitional period between birth and death is described as life. The life of the human being is formed up of various parts. None of these parts should miss. If so, life will become blank, and it will be difficult to define a perfect meaning. However, there is an unusual case where the missed part of the life is restored.

One-armed man 3:00pm, 14-4-2022

A young man in his twenties arrived at the emergency department of Yangon General



An X-ray view of the left arm.

Hospital. The young man, who was drenched with blood, was with his lost arm. It is called Amputated Left Forearm in medical terms. According to the doctor, he was cut by a knife and lost his left arm.

Emergency

Therefore, the doctors, nurses and health workers provided first aid to Amputated Left Forearm. Then, the relevant medical

field specialists were contacted and prepared for emergency operation.

Operation

The medics and health workers who are always getting ready for people arrive at the operation in a timely manner and are prepared to treat the patient. The PhD trainee for hand surgery of Yangon General Hospital, Dr Phyo Maung Maung, led

the operation with the assistant doctor (Orthopaedic) Dr Maung Maung Lwin, post-graduate (Orthopaedic) medicinal trainee Dr Min Thu, Dr Hein Pyae Aung, Anesthesiologist Dr Tun Tun Nang and Staff Nurse Daw May Thura. The group tried to connect a missing part of the young man's life. The operation started at 7:50 pm on 14 April and was completed at 1:30 am on 15 April.

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Press Release

1. Currently, as the COVID-19 infection rate is declining in Myanmar and globally, commercial flights were allowed to resume operations according to COVID-19 health rules starting at 00:00 hour on 17-4-2022. It was found that the COVID-19 confirmed cases among the passengers are very low as of 28-4-2022.
2. According to such findings, the RDT system, which is available at a low cost and gets results quickly, will be applied at Yangon International Airport instead of RT-PCR against the passengers via commercial flights staying at designated hotels for 24 hours.
3. Moreover, the travel restriction period for returnees by relief flights or via border checkpoints will be reduced to three days instead of five days if they have been fully vaccinated and five days instead of seven days if they have not been fully vaccinated.
4. Therefore, the passengers of (a) commercial flights, (b) relief flights and (c) border checkpoints can explore the guidance of travel restrictions and lab test programmes at www.moh.gov.mm of the Ministry of Health.

Ministry of Health
29-4-2022

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions



DOCTORS and nurses from public hospitals, Tatmadaw medical teams, healthcare workers and volunteers are working hard to give COVID-19 vaccines in different states and regions as the vaccination programme is one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease.

COVID-19 vaccines are administered daily to target groups regardless of race or religion, including Buddhist monks and nuns, local people over the age of 40, students, religious leaders, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed organizations, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from People's hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers, in collaboration with volunteers, gave COVID-19 vaccines to 2,717 people from Mon and Kayin states, 15,031 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 13,993 people from twelve townships in Rakhine State, 42,000 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region and 250 people from Toungoo and Htantabin Townships in Bago Region, respectively.

It is reported that officials from the respective regions and states visited the site and coordinated the necessary work. — MNA

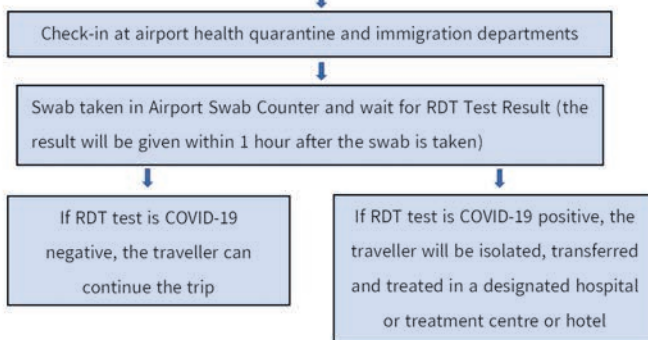


PUBLIC HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN TRAVELLERS WHO WISH TO ENTER MYANMAR THROUGH AIR TRANSPORT (27-4-2022)

Foreign Travellers who wish to enter Myanmar through air transport must use commercial flights and they must prepare the requirements according to their flight plan.

After getting entry Visa and the commercial flight air ticket, document needed -

- a COVID 19 fully vaccinated certificate at least 14 days before arrival to Myanmar, with one of the following vaccines which has been approved by the Ministry of Health (MOH)
- a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test issued at most 72 hours before arrival
- a COVID-19 medical insurance purchased from Myanma Insurance (The health insurance of Diplomats, UN officials and their family members from their respective countries will be accepted)
- a Health Declaration Form
- COVID-19 Rapid Test Requisition Form



PUBLIC HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN TRAVELLERS WHO WISH TO ENTER MYANMAR THROUGH AIR TRANSPORT (27-4-2022) can be downloaded at www.moh.gov.mm. Ticketing agents must thoroughly inform foreign air travellers on commercial flights health quarantine requirements in Myanmar. Travellers who are going to buy air tickets must know the information on commercial flights and completely understand the health quarantine requirements. Airlines and ticketing agents must understand thoroughly, and responsibly follow this SOP.



PUBLIC HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR MYANMAR CITIZENS WHO WISH TO ENTER MYANMAR THROUGH AIR TRANSPORT (27-4-2022)

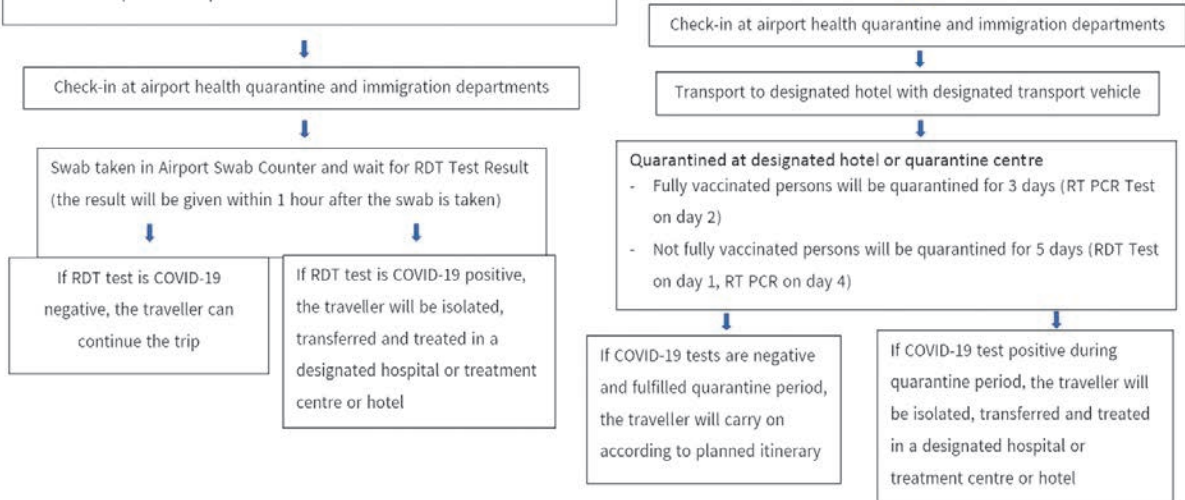
Myanmar Citizens who wish to enter Myanmar through air transport must select whether they want to use the commercial flights or relief flights and they must prepare the requirements according to their flight plan.

After getting the commercial flight air ticket, document needed -

- a COVID 19 fully vaccinated certificate at least 14 days before arrival to Myanmar, with one of the following vaccines which has been approved by the Ministry of Health (MOH)
- a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test issued at most 72 hours before arrival
- a Health Declaration Form
- COVID-19 Rapid Test Requisition Form

After getting entry Visa and the relief flight air ticket, document needed -

- an optional COVID 19 fully vaccinated certificate at least 14 days before arrival to Myanmar, with one of the following vaccines which has been approved by the Ministry of Health (MOH)(leads to quarantine period reduction)
- a Health Declaration Form



PUBLIC HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR MYANMAR CITIZENS WHO WISH TO ENTER INTO MYANMAR THROUGH AIR TRANSPORT (27-4-2022) can be downloaded at www.moh.gov.mm. Ticketing agents must thoroughly inform Myanmar citizen air travellers depending on the relief flights or commercial flights and their respective health quarantine requirements. Travellers who are going to buy air tickets must know the information depending on whether relief flights or commercial flights they plan to take and completely understand respective health quarantine requirements. Airlines and ticketing agents must understand thoroughly, and responsibly follow this updated SOP.

Tatmadaw has to safeguard the National interests

TATMADAW has to safeguard the National interests of the people and the country without the acceptance of all acts detrimental to Our Three Main National Causes, and will put an emphasis on the end of armed conflicts for long-lasting peace.

(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)

The message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark Workers' Day 1 May 2022

FROM PAGE-1

Esteemed workers,

In accord with the objective to promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production, one of three economic objectives of nine objects of the State Administration Council, emphasis is being placed on the development of the State through tripartite cooperation among the government, employers and employees in order to develop State economy based on increased production, create employments for workers and ensure workplace peace and tranquillity.

The State Administration Council is making concerted efforts to enhance livelihoods for individual people with peaceful living, develop the State economy, restore perpetual peace across the nation, and surge recovered businesses as much as possible to escape from losses of COVID-19. In so doing, workers are playing an important role in creating the productivity of the State. As the government prioritizes the sufficiency of food for the people, the role of workers in creating the State's productivity is very crucial.

Esteemed workers,

Currently, the global countries are facing not only economic loss triggered by COVID-19 but also the instability of job opportunities and reduction of labour number. Hence, emphasis is being placed on solving the labour issues and other difficulties through negotiations among the government, employers and employees in Myanmar.

Local and foreign companies put investments in the Cutting, Making and Packaging-CMP system, which can create employment opportunities in a short time, contributing to the improvement of the State economy. As a result, the country can enjoy the fruits of creating labour-approached job opportunities in the CMP system, earning foreign exchange for the State with the least capital and turning out skilled labour.

Moreover, the government assists in developing small and medium scale enterprises and attracting local and foreign investments, technologies, markets and job opportunities. Due to the development of these works, efforts are being made to broaden the industries and services further so as to create job opportunities.

Under the Myanmar Investment Law, Myanmar citizens' investments and foreign investments mostly flow into industries, services, hotels and tourism and electrical sectors to generate a large number of jobs.

Esteemed workers,

As the survey on labour statistics is conducted twice a year as of 2017 for having the labour statistics to compile the research on labour affairs and data on the labour market, the annual labour statistics (first time) report 2020 has been published.

According to the survey, Myanmar is involved in the ASEAN arena with the largest number of workable populations. It can be seen that the abundance of a workable population is an excellent human resource for the development and prosperity of the nation.

In striving for the development of the nation with an abundant workable population, now is time for the government, the employers and the employees to unite among them to ensure the correctness of morals, confidence, concept and perception, adore the jobs and possess the high skills of knowledge and techniques with physical and mental capabilities.

Esteemed workers,

The government has signed the memorandum of cooperation on technological apprentice trainees and the memorandum of cooperation on skilled labour affairs

with Thailand, the Republic of Korea, and Japan to enable Myanmar migrant workers to move to foreign countries safely and provide effective protection.

Moreover, labour officers are assigned to the Republic of Korea, Thailand, and Malaysia, where many Myanmar labourers reside, to protect Myanmar migrant workers abroad so that they can enjoy legal rights in their respective countries.

As the government decided to make utmost efforts to enhance the internal economy through the domestic strength in accord with the saying goes: "Strength of the nation lies within", the power, skill and cooperation of the workers that play a key role in the development of the nation are very important.

Esteemed workers,

Healthcare services are given, and monetary compensation is delivered to insured workers at three workers' hospitals and social security clinics to enable the workers who are the primary productive force of the nation to enjoy the safety of social life and healthcare services.

The government amended the period for paying social security fees for insured workers from factories during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, increased the monetary compensation for ailing insured workers, pharmacy charges and travel allowance in the jobless period and delivered financial assistance to insured pregnant insured workers and those in quarantine for the interests of the workers.

Aiming to prevent infection of COVID-19 to employers and employees from factories and workplaces across the nation and not degrading the momentum of production, vaccination of COVID-19 was administered to workers from Yangon, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Bago regions, where the number of factories is the largest, and the similar vaccination continues at remaining regions and states.

Esteemed workers,

Being a developing country, Myanmar is making preparations to approve the prohibited dangerous jobs and workplaces for children under 18 from the jobs contributing to families' livelihoods.

The team consisting of relevant ministries supervises and inspects the regular running of factories, shops and workplaces, whether they operate works in line with a directive for the COVID-19 pandemic, worksite safety and health guidelines for having successful production, the creation of employment, earning of incomes for employees and employers and increasing more earnings of foreign exchange.

Lessening worksite disputes is crucial for workplace peace and tranquillity, increasing production. Worker coordination committees, township dispute mediation bodies comprising representatives of the government, employers and employees, region and state arbitration bodies and an arbitration council were formed to solve workplace disputes and decide disputes in serving the interests of both sides fairly.

In conclusion, I send this message with wishes for the entire Myanmar workers participating in the critical role in peace, stability and development of the nation to improve social-economic life. May they all be safe in workplaces and peaceful and tranquil. May all employers and employees be capable of increasing productivity through the united strengths of employers and employees. And may all effectively contribute to the State, citizens and national interests to achieve success in gaining more significant development in multiple sectors of the State.

*Senior General Min Aung Hlaing
Prime Minister
Chairman, State Administration Council*

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement enters into force between Myanmar and China

ACCORDING to the Article 20.6 Entry into Force of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement, the two signatory states of the RCEP Agreement, Myanmar and China, start to enter into force from 1 May 2022.

The preferential tariff rate of the RCEP Agreement can be applied between Myanmar and China, and Business Communities from both sides can enjoy the benefit of the RCEP Agreement.

Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations

19 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 30 April, total figure rises to 612,883

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 612,883 after 19 new cases were reported on 30 April 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 591,812 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 19,434 without more casualties. —MNA

Kachin State, suitable land for agriculture: MoALI Union Minister



KACHIN State, which has good land for agriculture and livestock, is located on a border market trade route, said Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo.

The Union Minister made the remarks at a coordination meeting on agricultural production development in Kachin State at the Malikha Hall of the Kachin State Government Office on 29 April.

“With more than 774,000

acres of net cultivated land and abundant land resources that can be cultivated without harming the environment, the Union Ministry and the State Government will work together to bring about commercial agriculture and livestock farming, which is in demand not only for local food security but also for the region,” the Union minister added.

Next, the Union minister said that efforts should be made for the emergence of

sustainable commercial agriculture.

“The Ministry will make arrangements for the use of new technologies and equipment for agriculture,” the Union minister continued.

“Efforts are being made to expand the livestock diploma course at Myitkyina State Agricultural Institute, and efforts are being made to upgrade the college level.

“Sunflower seeds will be supplied for planting as rain-

fed and winter crops. Arrangements will be made to meet the needs of livestock farmers.

“Instead of shifting cultivation, technology will be provided to develop upland farmland and low-cost and long-term farming in the hilly areas.

“To expand the establishment of plant pest control and animal disease control centres near border trade gates and collect waterways for the long-term sustainability of Indawgyi area is a must”, the Union min-

ister added.

Discussions were held on the construction of dams where necessary and the systematic conservation of natural forests.

Then, Kachin State Chief Minister U Khat Htein Nan explained inputs for agriculture and livestock in the region.

Issues related to the development of private investment in the agricultural sector plus demands for technical and skilled human resources were also discussed.

Afterwards, the directors-general and state-level officials in charge of the agricultural sector presented the sector-specific activities and issues related to the development of agricultural production.

The meeting was attended by state ministers, directors-general from the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department, Department of Agriculture, and Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, and state-level agricultural officials. —MNA

Part of the life story of an amputated man

FROM PAGE-1

Significant skills and goodwill

The operation was successful due to the noble, loving-kindness and goodwill of PhD trainees for hand surgery at Yangon General Hospital Dr Phyo Maung Maung and party regardless of who the person may be.

Moreover, the patient did exercises at the Outpatient Department of the Arthritic Centre starting on 25-4-2022 and was discharged on 29-4-2022.

Noticeable

The broken hand must be clean with Normal Saline or cooled boiled water in such a process. After that, it must be packed in a clean plastic bag. (if possible, wrap with a large bandage soaked in normal saline in a plastic bag). Then, put it in a plastic cooler to take to the hospital. It is best if it can take the missing hand to the specialists between 4 or 6 hours after the hand is cut off.

Respect

The Global New Light of Myanmar pays honour to PhD trainees for the hand surgery at Yangon General Hospital Dr Phyo Maung Maung and party for their best efforts in joining the missing hand, which is as essential as a part of human life.—Htun Htun/GNLM

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

Myanmar Engineering Council patrons select new council members for third term

MYANMAR Engineering Council patron meeting to elect new council members for the third term of the council was organized in Yangon yesterday.

First, Council Patron Union Minister for Construction U Shwe Lay said the ministry plays a significant role in the council.

It is also making efforts to seek recognition from the ASEAN region and Asia Pacific regions for Myanmar's Profession Level engineering with the collaboration of the country's skilled experts. It needs to cooperate to achieve the aims of the council.

He also stressed the need to follow the State Administration Council's roadmap in implementing the council's future work plans under the law, rules and regulations, orders and directives.

Then, Council Patrons Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than and U Aye Myint discussed the plans to select council members, ethics of engineers and the council's further work plans.

Afterwards, the Council Patrons coordinated the discussion and selected the council members for the third term. — MNA



Myanmar Engineering Council patron meeting in progress.

Graduation ceremonies held at Computer Science & Technological Universities



The 52nd Convocation of the Yangon Technological University is held on 30 April 2022.

GRADUATION ceremonies were held yesterday morning at Technological Universities in Yangon, Mandalay and Toungoo and Universities of Computer Science in Yangon, Mandalay, Bhamo, Hpa-an, Pyay, Toungoo and Patheingyi, following the COVID-19 guidelines.

All the universities are under the Department of Advanced Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology.

At the graduation ceremony,

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw delivered a speech with Video Message.

“Graduation ceremonies are being held at three technical universities and seven computer universities”, Union Minister said.

“It is also a good day for the emergence of professionals including the Bachelor of Engineering, Bachelor of Architecture, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Computer Tech-

nology, Master of Engineering, Master of Architecture, Master of Computer Science, Master of Computer Technology, Master of Information and Science, and Computer diploma and doctoral degree holders”.

“In the Learning Society, we want all the people and the nation to be able to contribute to the development by learning by themselves.

“The code of conduct for engineers and computer techni-

cians also needs to be adhered to. I would like to instruct them to become good computer scientists and technicians”, the Union Minister added.

The Union minister wished good luck to all the professionals and said he would like to express his sincere congratulations to the graduates at the graduation ceremony.

Then, graduation ceremonies of various universities were continued.

A total of 435 graduates, including 64 graduates in engineering and architecture, 75 graduates with a master's degree in engineering and architecture, 32 PhD graduates, 149 graduates in computer science at computer universities, 18 graduates of Master of Computer Technology and Master of Science, 31 PhD graduates, and 66 computer diploma graduates were awarded certificates by the rector. And graduation speeches were given, and graduation ceremonies were continued.

Yangon Technological University and Mandalay Technological University, where the graduation ceremonies were held, have received ISO 9001: 2015 Accreditation Certification

for Quality Management System (Pre-Accreditation of the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and Pacific) (FEIAP) and Provisionally Accredited and Fully Accredited Certificates.

Similarly, Technological University (Toungoo) has received ISO 9001: 2015 certification in 2018 and is accredited by the Myanmar Engineering Council; Provisionally Accredited Accreditation of Engineering Education Accreditation Committee for Pre-Accreditation for Two Engineering Subjects in 2019 Fully Accredited Accreditation Certification.

Computer universities are also working to establish accreditation for ICT specialization under the Seoul Accord.

Like other international universities, professors are working to make learning easier and more efficient by using Learning Management System (LMS) using ICT technology.

The graduation ceremony was attended by cabinet members from each state and region, departmental officials, graduates and their parents, relatives and friends, members of the University Management and Education Committee, and professors. — MNA

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*

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.

Regarding the “request for money from departmental organizations in conducting trade”, the following numbers can be reached to safely report such information.

- Auto telephone number - 067 409 881
 - Mobile phone - 09 699611116
 - Fax - 067 409 887
 - Email address - antiillegaltradeoffice@gmail.com
- Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee*

MoH Union Minister meets officials of University of Medicine (2), University of Dental Medicine (Yangon), University of Medical Technology (Yangon), University of Pharmacy (Yangon)



The MoH meets medical academics in Yangon on 28 and 29 April.

UNION Minister for Health Prof Dr Thet Khaing Win met rectors, deans, medical superintendents, teachers and officials of the University of Medicine (2), the University of Dental Medicine (Yangon), the University of Medical Technology (Yangon) and the University of Pharmacy (Yangon) on 28 and 29 April.

During the meeting, the Union minister said that health human resource production becomes important as there

is a good drive in the public healthcare services and treatment sector. It should produce human resources that provide for the country and people. The new medicine university entrance system will be introduced in the coming academic year. Those who are studying with stipends from the government must serve as government employees for the country and people without fail. Relevant officials of the medical-related university under

the health human resource department should work together. The teachers should also participate in providing treatment and the medics in the teaching sector.

Then, the attendees coordinated the discussion regarding the teaching aid materials, medical supplies and administrative matters.

The Union minister also inspected the classrooms and teaching aid materials of the respective universities. — MNA

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

THE Ministry of Commerce oversees the importation of necessary medical supplies and anti-COVID-19 devices critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities through trading posts and international airports and seaports.

Twenty oxygen concentrators, 5,000 units of PPE suits, 13 tonnes of gloves and 202.17 tonnes of masks were imported by 28 vehicles and 18 companies from 1 April to 30 April.

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

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, construction materials, electronics and lawn mower spare parts seized



Seized item at the Myanmar Industrial Port.

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

On 29 April, officials on duty at the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Checkpoint seized K6,526,800 worth of marbles,

which were not declared in the import declaration, spray pipe, generators, and K12,482,000 worth of electric motor and lawn mower spare parts, which were imported over the stated amount in the import declaration. The official took action

under the Customs Law.

Afterwards, on 30 April, the inspection team led by the Police Force under the supervision of the Sagaing Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections at the cooperative checkpoint in Yadanabon Bridge in Sagaing Township and seized K7,796,460 worth of 7.4252 tonnes of illegal teak. Similarly, the Bago Region Forest Department also captured K422,464 value of illegal teak, iron-wood and Thingadu 3.7618 tonnes in Toungoo and Pyay Districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, five arrests (estimated value of K27,227,724) were made from 29 to 30 April. — MNA



Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement enters into force between Myanmar and China

By May Sipwa

DURING the negotiation period and signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) between ASEAN and China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, the participation of Myanmar in RCEP has been covered in newspapers and shared the discussions with business people.

The RCEP was discussed for eight years, starting in 2012, and the ASEAN countries, including Myanmar and China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, signed the agreement on 15 November 2020. The RCEP agreement is the world's most significant trade agreement covering 30 per cent of the world's population, 30 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP), 29 per cent of world trade and 30 per cent of foreign direct investment. The agreement with Myanmar comes into force on 1 May 2022, and the country achieves access to opportunities of the agreement.

Among partner countries of ASEAN that signed in RCEP, China is the first one that recognized the letter expressing agreement with Myanmar comes into force starting 1 May 2022, and Myanmar can get the priorities in customs of China and other chances.

Myanmar, an ASEAN member country, is still suffering the chances of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area-ACFTA signed in 2010. However, the ACFTA is the first Free Trade Agreement-FTA among ASEAN and partner countries, so it included only a few of trade and servicing trade, investment, and other sectors.

The RCEP agreement carries multi-sectoral things in line with the trend, and Myanmar-China economic cooperation can be done widely under the agreement.

Myanmar entrepreneurs have previously used the ASE-



AN-China Free Trade Area-ACFTA and can enjoy the chances under the RCEP.

In RCEP, it pre-determines the products to be exported regarding the customs procedures that are not included in ACFTA, customs value and products/produced by Myanmar and customs clearance within 48 hours from the time of products arrive. Therefore, the products exported to China can be taken out faster than before, according to RCEP.

Moreover, it can protect the severe risks for the local enterprises such as the high import volumes, selling with discount, export with the help of other countries. So the trade can be made full of trust between Myanmar and China, according to RCEP.

Myanmar business people will be exempted from customs tax for 5,969 products now. They are 368 animal products, 389 agricultural products, 10 edible oil products, 163 foodstuffs, 181 mineral products, 1,127 chemical products and work materials, 125 plastic materials, 67 leather products, 234 forest products, 146 cement, mirror and its related materials, 62 pearl and valuable gems, 554 units of metal and metal-based materials, 1,058 machines, 124 vehicles, planes, ships and transportation parts, 240 medicines, movie materials and instruments and so on. The remaining goods also receive reduced customs tax to be paid yearly.

The trade between Myanmar and China was \$5420.052 million for export in 2019-2020, while the import volume amounted to \$6729.174 million. The export volume was \$5160.825 million, and the import volume was \$4647.096 million due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-2021.

Therefore, Myanmar can enjoy duty-free and other reliefs for the exports to China, and it can earn export incomes, create job opportunities and increase the taxes.

Regarding the services, Myanmar eased 52 sectors under ACFTA and 80 sectors in the economy, communication, construction, distribution, education, environment, finance, health, tourism, transportation

and other services under the RCEP. China eased 88 sectors under ACFTA and 95 sectors under RCEP.

By easing service sectors, it can improve economic capacity, enhance the competitiveness of exports and products of developing countries in international markets, offer varieties of choices, foreign direct investment inflows into Myanmar, grab chances to create job opportunities and technological aid and extend service sectors and other relevant parts.

Myanmar and China can launch technological cooperation in the fields expressed in RCEP as electronic material trade, MSMEs, procurement of government, supports, and capacity building programmes for IP, which are not included in ACFTA.

The RCEP agreement is a multi-sectoral world standard agreement, and being a member country, it can get chances to reform the laws and frameworks for the country in line with the international norms in implementing the provisions of the agreement and other opportunities to improve the capacity of government and private organizations.

Moreover, Myanmar is a less developed country, so there is no need to follow some commitments in the agreement, and it can enjoy a one-sided chance for three to five years. During that period, the country can draft a legal framework, develop the human resources and promote the capabilities of organizations.

In conclusion, as the RCEP enters into force between Myanmar and China, Myanmar starts a new chapter in regional economic cooperation for future economic collaborations in addition to trade and investment.

Translated.



OPINION BOOKRACK

Mark workers' day with plans to improve workers' life

THE 1st May was designated as the International Workers' Day to recognize the efforts of workers to get the deserved rights against the labour exploitation in working overtime at factories in the 19th Century.

Currently, the global countries are facing not only economic loss triggered by COVID-19 but also the instability of job opportunities and reduction of labour number. Hence, emphasis is being placed on solving the labour issues and other difficulties through negotiations among the government, employers and employees in Myanmar.

Local and foreign companies put investments in the CMP system that can create employment opportunities in a short time, contributing to the improvement of the State economy. As a result,

the country can enjoy the fruits of creating labour-approached job opportunities in the CMP system, earning foreign exchange for the State with the least capital and turning out skilled labour.

As the survey on labour statistics is conducted twice a year as of 2017 for having the labour statistics with the aim of compiling the research on labour affairs and data on the labour market, the annual labour statistics (first time) report 2020 has been published.

The survey proved Myanmar is involved in the ASEAN arena with the largest number of workable populations. Such an abundance of a workable population is an excellent human resource for the development and prosperity of the nation.

The government has signed the memorandum of cooperation on technological apprentice trainees and the memorandum of cooperation on skilled labour affairs with Thailand, the Republic of Korea and Japan for Myanmar

migrant workers to move to foreign countries safely and effectively protect them.

Moreover, labour officers are assigned in the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Malaysia, where a large number of Myanmar labourers reside, to protect Myanmar migrant workers abroad so that they can enjoy their legal rights in the respective countries.

The government amended the period for paying the social security fees for insured workers from factories during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, increased the monetary compensation for ailing insured workers, pharmacy charges and travel allowance during the jobless period and delivered financial assistance to insured pregnant workers and those in quarantine.

Vaccination of COVID-19 was administered to workers from Yangon, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Bago regions for their health. As healthy and fit workers can join workplaces for production, it is necessary to uplift the life of workers without fail.



It can be said that winning the sports events is designed to defend the State. As such, young and talented youths need to emphasize sports training for their health and fitness. If so, their new generations will build a healthy country.

ARTICLE Weather Report



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 30 April 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 1 May 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Shan and Kayah states, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region, scattered in Upper Sagaing, and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin and Mon states and isolated in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay and Magway regions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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 isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 May 2022: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 May 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 1 May 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).



Book Title - Another Way of Looking at Things (Author By Naw Kham La Dhammasami PhD)

Burmese Translator - Swe Swe Mon

Publishing House - Institute of Buddhist Psychology

Publishing Date - April 2022 (Second Edition)

Price - K3,500

Another Way of Looking at Things

THIS book is a Burmese translation of the MA Thesis submitted by Prof/Dr Naw Kham La Dhammasami to the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka. The book was published in English in 2009 in Sri Lanka. The second edition was published in 2015 in Thailand. In 2022, Swe Swe Mon edited and published a Burmese translation book for the second time.

The book highlighted a comparative study of German Philosopher Schopenhauer's philosophy and Buddha's perspectives from the Four Noble Truths on Human liberation.

Daw Swe Swe Mon, a Lecturer at Dhammadu-

ta Buddhist University and Shan State Buddhist University, shared her opinion that Schopenhauer's discovery and Buddha's perspectives are the same as surface thinking yet focus on differences in terms of the underlying essence of life.

This book titled "Another Way of Looking at Things" includes eight chapters. In her preamble, she introduced this book that will contribute to those learners of the Buddha Philosophy, readers keen on philosophy and psychology, and Myanmar students who would like to research a comparative study of Buddhist teachings and the philosophies of the western experts.



Book Title - Overcoming challenges in life with a positive attitude

Author - Dr Htay Hlaing

Publishing House - Maumyit Publishing

Publishing Date - April 2022 (First Edition)

Price - K3,500

Overcoming challenges in life with a positive attitude

THE brain thrives on positivity. A positive attitude will help lessen stress management. It can lead to success in life. Maumyit Publishing House published a book titled Overcoming challenges in life with a positive attitude by Dr Htay Hlaing, in which it's interesting how people have surmounted difficulties in life.

This book is a collection of 28 pieces of writing related to the author's experiences and perspectives, including two es-

says expressing my gratitude to my parents (The voyage and I dreamt about my late father).

One of his written works, "Optimism", stated that rewiring your brain for positivity will give you greater happiness, much contentment, and peace of mind.

The author showed his opinion that the more satisfied with your life, the happier you will be.



Everyone wants to be successful

By Sann Ni Lar Winn

BEFORE summer vacation, the students from the Basic Education High School used to take an examination. According to their efforts, the school examination is the testing ground for school boys and girls. This Myanmar proverb says that "No Pain, No Gain".

Everyone wants to be successful in life, but not all meet with success. Therefore, they are immortalized and look upon as a source of creative inspiration for those who desire to succeed likewise.

The Lord Buddha has taught us the way to success in many of his discourses. According to one of these discourses, there are four virtues that, when developed, lead to success and enable man to achieve his goals in life. They are "Will, Effort, Active thought and Wisdom".

The Four Keys to success

The first key to success is to work or fulfil one's duties to the best of one's ability. It means that one should have the desire, interest and determination to work. There should be the right attitude towards what one is expected to do.

Will is, in fact, a primary requirement in the execution of one's responsibilities, without which nothing much can be accomplished. The English proverb says that "Where there is a will, there is a way".

The second is effort or perseverance in one's undertakings. It implies the ceaseless application of energy to the work one is supposed to do. When we undertake to do something, we should exert ourselves, fully and continually, until it is completed. If students are merely interested in the subjects they study but do not want to

commit themselves actively, the chance for success would be very slim indeed. An effort is, therefore, a very important factor for success. We should try to cultivate this virtue in us.

Active thought means the thought about one's work which is well directed and constantly applied. Whatever we do, be it great or small, we have to apply our active thought to it repeatedly until it is finished. If we do not succeed at the first attempt, we should not feel discouraged but think about it carefully and work even harder. We should be positive in our thinking and firm in our goals.

The last virtue is also very important. Wisdom is necessary for all kinds of activities. When we work, we should always examine our work; we should have good planning and a proper understanding of the work. It is not enough to work hard; we should also work wisely, using our intelligence and common sense.

Only those who work in this way will attain a high degree of success. The use of wisdom will prevent us from doing wrong things and ensure our success. Therefore, it is very important that we learn how to cultivate wisdom and use it in all our activities.

Youth and Student life

I remember that my teacher and benefactor, Saya U Khin Maung Mya (B.A, BL), gave many guidelines on overcoming the difficulties throughout my life.

Youth all over the world have some common characteristics. They are full of youthfulness and vitality. They are fresh, alert and active. They are free from worries and anxieties, not having experienced the twists and turns of life.

They are honest and frank. They are ready to learn from their natural environment and the society they live in. By nature, they are inquisitive. They want to know about new and strange things. So

they have investigative and exploratory minds.

The strong-willed, healthy young men are eager to take adventures to test their strength and capability. As they are raw and do not have fixed habits, they are prone to imitate what they see and hear. The world is open to them, not knowing about any limitation in life. They live by hope and expectation. They want to lead a carefree, independent, peaceful and happy life. They are looking forward to progress and development.

Youth and Buddhism

According to the concept of the Myanmar Buddhists, there are three periods of life. The first period is to gain knowledge. The second period is to accumulate wealth and property. The third period is a devote oneself to meditational practices.

Therefore, children and young people must gain knowledge during the first period. The first source

of their knowledge lies in their parents. The parents are the foremost teachers, as the saying goes. As the children learn by imitation, they follow after their parents' actions, words, and mental attitudes. Children of the wise behave well while children of the fool grow wild. That is conventional wisdom. So the parents are the foremost responsible persons for nurturing the children. It is essential for parents to be good fathers and good mothers.

As youths are still inexperienced and immature, they are in danger of falling into various pitfalls. Being a social animal, youth is very likely to be fallen into bad company. He might be persuaded to play truant, smoke cheroots or cigarettes, drink beer or liquor, and then take illicit drugs. Exploiting youths' sensitive and adventurous nature, some ruthless elements persuaded them to commit acts of terrorism and anti-government activities. In this way, some youths

become criminals and anti-societal rasicals.

Youth and the future life

But luckily enough, the teachings of Lord Buddha are still shining bright in our country. Spotting the danger of bad company, the Lord Buddha had taught us not to get associated with the fools but get associated with the wise. It is the first point among the 38 Auspicious Deeds in the Mingala Sutta. There are many discourses, including the Singalovada Sutta, which deal with social principles for building a good society. Under such influence, our Myanmar Buddhist society does not accept bad behaviour and unwholesome deeds.

We are also trying to keep the Five Precepts as fastened as the longyi is on our waist. We regard morality as the basis of virtue. Along with these religious teachings, the government, the educational authorities, the teachers

and the parents are nurturing and preparing our youths to become well-qualified, disciplined and good citizens.

Some fare well, and some find difficulties. Some succeed, and some fail. This is the time they encounter the grim facts of life. This is when they have the chance to become experienced, mellowed and mature.

This is the time to face the facts of life with courage and perseverance. This is the time to exercise restraint and rationality. Of course, life is a constant process of adjustments to keep up the balance between the two ends.

Most important of all, it is the ability to strike a balance between self-interest and the common good of society. Only by properly balancing these two ends can a man live in peace and happiness. A contented and full life can be achieved only through a well-balanced life.



ENVIRON WORLD

In Scandinavia, wooden buildings reach new heights

A sandy-coloured tower glints in the sunlight and dominates the skyline of the Swedish town of Skelleftea as Scandinavia harnesses its wood resources to lead a global trend towards erecting eco-friendly high-rises.

The Sara Cultural Centre is one of the world's tallest timber buildings, made primarily from spruce and towering 75 metres (246 feet) over rows of snow-dusted houses and surrounding forest.

The 20-storey timber structure, which houses a hotel, a library, an exhibition hall and theatre stages, opened at the end of 2021 in the northern town

of 35,000 people.

Forests cover much of Sweden's northern regions, most of it spruce, and building timber homes is a longstanding tradition.

Swedish architects now want to spearhead a revolution and steer the industry towards more sustainable construction methods as large wooden buildings sprout up in Sweden and neighbouring Nordic nations thanks to advancing industry techniques.

"The pillars together with the beams, the interaction with the steel and wood, that is what carries the 20 storeys of the ho-



Forests cover much of Sweden's northern regions, most of it spruce, and building timber homes is a longstanding tradition. **PHOTO: AFP**

tel," Therese Kreisel, a Skelleftea urban planning official, tells

AFP during a tour of the cultural centre.

Even the lift shafts are made entirely of wood. "There is no plaster, no seal, no isolation on the wood," she says, adding that this "is unique when it comes to a 20-storey building".

Building materials go green

The main advantage of working with wood is that it is more environmentally friendly, proponents say.

Cement – used to make concrete – and steel, two of the most common construction materials, are among the most polluting industries because they emit huge amounts of carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas.— AFP

Videoconferencing hinders creativity, study finds

PEOPLE are worse at coming up with creative ideas during a video call compared to meeting in person, a study said Wednesday, suggesting that workplaces should prioritize brainstorming sessions for the office.

The pandemic has changed the nature of office work, propelling a massive rise in videoconferencing that looks unlikely to abate as homeworking becomes more entrenched across the world.

Seeking to find out how this huge change affects creativity, US researchers studied nearly 1,500 employees of a telecommunications company in Finland, Hungary, India, Israel and Portugal.

In pairs, either in person or on a Zoom call, the employees came up with as many creative ideas as they could for the company's products, then picked the best one.

The pairs who spoke in person came up with around 15 per cent more, according to the study

published in the Nature journal.

The researchers found similar results in an experiment involving more than 600 university students, who were also paired off and told to come up with creative ideas for either a frisbee or bubble wrap. The in-person pairs came up with 14 per cent more ideas.

However, it was not all bad news for Zoom, Skype and the other videoconferencing apps.

Both sets of results found that video calls were just as effective for selecting the best idea, a decision which requires "cognitive focus and analytical reasoning", the study said.— AFP



The pandemic has changed the nature of office work, propelling a massive rise in videoconferencing that looks unlikely to abate as homeworking becomes more entrenched across the world. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/GETTY/AFP**

Power cuts, forest fires in South Asia heatwave

POWER outages compounded the misery of millions of people wilting in a heatwave across India and Pakistan on Friday, with experts blaming climate change for an early onset of roasting summer temperatures.

In the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh hundreds of forest fires have broken out in recent weeks, eating up tinder-dry pine forests including around Dharamsala, home of the Dalai Lama.

Himachal Pradesh normally sees rain, hail and even snow in higher areas at this time of year but many parts have seen no precipitation in two months, sparking more and bigger blazes than normal.—AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

California probes 'Big Oil' over plastic pollution

California launched a sweeping investigation Thursday into plastic pollution by major oil companies, in a probe it says will look at whether fossil fuel giants have been lying about the problem for decades. As part of the wide-ranging probe, the state's attorney-general hit ExxonMobil with a subpoena with the aim of uncovering its role in an alleged cover-up.

"Enough is enough. For more than half a century, the plastics industry has engaged in an aggressive campaign to deceive the public, perpetuating a myth that recycling can solve the plastics crisis," said Rob Bonta, the US state's top lawyer.

"The truth is: The vast majority of plastic cannot be recycled, and the recycling rate has never surpassed nine percent."—AFP

Paris suspends electric bus fleet after fires

Dozens of electric buses will be taken off the streets of Paris temporarily "as a precaution" after two of the vehicles caught fire within a month, in a possible setback for the French capital's green transport ambitions.

Following a second blaze on Friday morning, in which no one was hurt, "RATP has taken the decision to suspend use of 149 electric buses" of manufacturer Bolloré's Bluebus 5SE model, the state-owned public transport operator said.—AFP



The electric buses are a familiar sight on the streets of the French capital. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

PANDEMIC WORLD

'Zero-COVID' policy doesn't harm economic growth: Chinese epidemiologist

A leading Chinese epidemiologist has refuted the claim that China's "zero-COVID" policy has impeded the country's economic growth.

"The ultimate goal of the dynamic "zero-COVID" approach is to safeguard the well-being of the people to the greatest extent possible, and at the same time protect social and economic development as well as people's normal life and production," Liang Wannian, head of the COVID-19 response expert panel under the National Health

Commission, said at a press conference.

The "zero-COVID" approach coordinates measures against the epidemic with economic development, Liang said, noting that the virus is the true cause of the economic downturn.

He made these remarks amid growing criticism of China's harsh COVID measures from people at home and abroad.

"Precision" is what the dynamic "zero-COVID" approach emphasizes, Liang was quoted as saying by Xinhua News

Agency.

Defending the COVID policy decision taken, the leading Chinese epidemiologist said that based on local conditions, governments are required to strike a balance between the fight against the epidemic and social and economic development.

China's economic slowdown and the country's high-handedness in tackling COVID-19 are pushing the investors to move out of the country and shut down their businesses.

This comes amid signs of



A customer buys fruits at a Chaoshifa supermarket branch in Haidian District of Beijing, capital of China, 14 June 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA/REN CHAO

China's economic slowdown as the People's Bank of China has decided to reduce the required

reserved ratio to boost lending through commercial banks, as per reports. —ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

China's commerce ministry boosts supply of necessities to regions with COVID-19 resurgences

CHINA'S commerce ministry has been sparing no effort to boost the supply of daily necessities for regions experiencing COVID-19 resurgences, the Ministry of Commerce said on Thursday.

The ministry has been transporting goods from various locations to the affected regions to ensure the steady supply of daily necessities, ministry spokesperson Gao Feng said at a press conference. By Wednesday, 12 provincial-level regions, including Inner Mongolia, Liaoning, Zhejiang and Fujian, had provided Shanghai with 27,808 tonnes of vegetables, 850 tonnes of rice and flour, 500 tonnes of meat and eggs, and 6,180 tonnes of instant noodles, he said.—AFP

Moderna seeks US authorization for Covid vaccine in children under 6: statement



An employee checks a vaccine card for proof of Covid-19 vaccination at Langer's Deli in Los Angeles, California on 7 August 2021. PHOTO: PATRICK T FALLON/AFP/FILE

US biotech firm Moderna said Thursday it had submitted a request for an emergency use authorization in the United States for its Covid vaccine for children aged six months to under six years.

Children under six are the only age group that has yet to gain access to a Covid-19 vaccine in the United States and in most countries. "We believe (this vaccine) will be able to safely protect these children against SARS-CoV-2, which is so important in our continued fight against Covid-19 and will be especially welcomed by parents and caregivers," the company's CEO Stephane Bancel said in a statement.—AFP

New COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles up 40 pct in one week: media

NEW COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles, the most populous county in the United States, rose by 40 per cent over the past week and hospitalizations have started to creep up as well, local media reported on Thursday.

The renewed surge in coronavirus infections underscored "how important it is for people to be up-to-date on their vaccines and boosters, as well as wear masks in indoor public settings", reported The Los Angeles Times, citing public health officials.

Although neither the number of infections nor the patient census are setting off alarm bells as yet, the trendlines illustrate that the county is contending with reinvigorated coronavirus transmission, the report noted.

Over the last week, the county, home to over 10 million residents, has reported an average of about 1,764 new coronavirus cases per day — up



The scene in downtown Los Angeles on 30 April 2020. PHOTO: ROBYN BECK/AFP/FILE

from 1,261 a week ago, compared with 879 cases a day in early April, according to The Los Angeles Times, which is one of the largest newspapers in the country.

Officials said that the Omicron BA.2 variant is the primary culprit behind the uptick in cases in the county, accounting for at least 88 per cent of cases

here, the newspaper reported.

The number of reported infections still remains an important indicator of where the pandemic is heading, and it's not a guarantee that the coronavirus is now destined to mainly result in milder illness, Barbara Ferrer, the county's director of public health, was quoted as saying.—Xinhua

IMF chief tests positive for Covid-19

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has tested positive for Covid-19, a spokesman said Thursday, stressing she had only "mild symptoms".

"IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has tested positive for Covid-19. She is experiencing mild symptoms and is

working remotely while isolating at home," the Washington-based crisis lender's spokesman Gerry Rice said in a statement.

"She is fully vaccinated and boosted," he added.

Georgieva joins the ranks of Washington elites who have tested positive lately amid a new rise

in daily coronavirus infections.

This group includes multiple members of Congress and Vice-President Kamala Harris, who tested positive on Tuesday.

At the time, she said she was not considered to have been in close contact with President Joe Biden.—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

China suspends freight train operations with N Korea amid virus

CHINA has suspended freight train operations with North Korea amid the outbreak of the novel coronavirus in the Chinese border city of Dandong, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Since earlier this week, many residential compounds in Dandong, which lies opposite the North Korean city of Sinuiji, have been locked down against a backdrop of the spread of the highly contagious Omicron variant, while people living in such areas have been compelled to stay home. Although North Korea claims it has found no COVID-19 infection cases, Pyongyang had suspended land traffic with China since early 2020, with worries mounting that the virus, first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019, could enter the reclusive nation.

The freight train operations between the two countries resumed in January this year, as a plunge in trade with China apparently dealt a heavy blow to North Korea's economy, making it more difficult for its citizens to receive adequate food and daily necessities.

The bilateral trade plummeted around 90 per cent in 2021 from 2019 before the pandemic began. North Korea is seen to be vulnerable to infectious diseases due largely to chronic shortages of food and medical equipment triggered by international economic sanctions designed to thwart its nuclear and ballistic missile ambitions. China is North Korea's closest and most influential ally in economic terms, accounting for more than 90 per cent of its trade.—Kyodo



Photo taken 18 December 2020, shows the Sino-Korean Friendship Bridge (L) that links China's Dandong (front) and North Korea's Sinuiju. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Norway to close ports to Russian ships, except trawlers

NORWAY will follow the European Union's lead and close its ports to Russian ships with the exception of trawlers, the Norwegian government announced Friday.

The Nordic country is not an EU member but has adopted almost all EU sanctions on Russia – often with a slight delay – since Moscow invaded Ukraine on 24 February.

On Friday, Norway said it would implement the fifth set of sanctions that the 27-member bloc agreed three weeks earlier, on 7 April.

This includes a ban, with some exceptions, on transporting goods by road from Russia, with which Norway shares an Arctic border, via the Storskog crossing point between the two countries.



The ban on Russian-flagged ships calling at Norwegian ports will come into force on 7 May and will not affect fishing vessels. **PHOTO: SHORTSEASHIPPING/EU/AFP/FILE**

The ban on Russian-flagged ships calling at Norwegian ports

will come into force on 7 May and will not affect fishing vessels, many of which land their catches on the Norwegian mainland or the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard.

The Arctic archipelago is governed by a century-old treaty that allows all signatory states, including Russia, to take part in economic activities there on an equal footing.

“Sanctions are our main means of pressure against the Russian regime,” said Norwegian Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt.

“It is crucial here that we stand with the EU and other countries to continue to weaken Russia's ability to finance the war in Ukraine,” she added.—AFP

Russian central bank slashes key interest rate again

RUSSIA'S central bank Friday said it was cutting its key interest rate for a second straight time as risks of price rises and financial instability were no longer rising.

The Bank of Russia said it was slashing the rate from 17

per cent to 14 per cent from next week, a greater cut than predicted by many analysts. It said this was because “price and financial stability risks (are) no longer on the rise”. The central bank had cut the interest rate to 17 per

cent earlier this month saying that risks to financial stability had “ceased to increase” for now. This followed an emergency hike to 20 per cent in late February, four days after the start of Moscow's military action in Ukraine.—AFP

NEWS IN **Brief**

Spain cuts 2022 growth forecast over war in Ukraine

SPAIN on Friday slashed its economic growth forecast for 2022, mainly due to the fallout of Russia's invasion of Ukraine which has fuelled inflation and eroded consumer purchasing power.

The gross domestic product of the eurozone's fourth-largest economy is now expected to expand by 4.3 per cent rather than the 7.0 per cent previously forecast, the economy ministry said.

This is lower than the growth of 4.5 per cent forecast by the Bank of Spain and the 4.8 per cent expansion predicted by the Washington-based International Monetary Fund.

Economy Minister Nadia Calvino said the government was being “extremely prudent” due to the “considerable uncertainty generated by the war”.—AFP

Eurozone economy hit by Ukraine war fallout

THE eurozone economy felt the fallout from the Ukraine war as output slowed and inflation stayed at record levels in the first quarter, official data showed Friday, imperilling Europe's recovery from the pandemic.

The EU's official statistics agency said that growth in the 19 countries that use the euro crawled to 0.2 per cent between January and March compared to the previous quarter.—AFP

Russia says paid foreign debt in dollars amid default fears

RUSSIA'S finance ministry said Friday it had completed payments on two dollar-denominated bonds amid mounting fears that the sanctions-hit country may be forced to default on its foreign debt. The ministry said in a statement it had made coupon payments totalling some \$650 million on two bonds maturing in 2022 and 2042 “in the currency of issue of the eurobonds - US dollars”.—AFP

KLM cancels flights as crowds jam Amsterdam's Schiphol

DUTCH national carrier KLM cancelled dozens of weekend flights Friday at Schiphol airport, hit hard by a strike and staff shortages as it struggles to cope with pre-coronavirus passenger numbers.

The airline axed 47 single and return flights on Saturday and Sunday, after cutting 28 return flights on Friday following an urgent plea by the airport, seen as a major gateway to Europe. "The cancellations should contribute to Schiphol's request to



The International Air Transport Association (IATA) condemned Schiphol's request to airlines as "outrageous". PHOTO: AFP

keep operations at the airport manageable because of staff shortages," KLM said in a statement.

"These cancellations in KLM's flight schedule also contribute to reducing the workload" for its own staff,

the airline said. Schiphol -- Europe's busiest airport in terms of aircraft movements in 2019 when more than 70 million passengers passed through its gates -- saw numbers plunge during the coronavirus pandemic.

But after the Dutch government dropped its last major Covid-19 restrictions in mid-March, passenger numbers once again took off, peaking around the Easter weekend which was still continuing.—AFP

Chinese electric cars help boost increase of Israeli imports from China

CAR imports have become Israel's leading import categories from China and contributed greatly to the increase of Israeli imports from China, an Israeli trade leader said. Israeli imports of goods from China rose by 42.1 per cent year on year in the first quarter of 2022, the country's Central Bureau of Statistics said on Tuesday. From January to March, Israeli imports from China, excluding diamonds, totaled 3.41 billion US dollars, compared to 2.4

billion dollars in the same period last year, according to the bureau. Amir Shani, vice-president of the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce, told Xinhua that importing Chinese electric cars contributed greatly to the increase of Israeli imports from China.

Car imports have joined Israel's leading import categories from China, of electronics, textiles, furniture, and construction materials, he added.—Xinhua

Indonesia's palm oil export ban heats up vegetable oil market

INDONESIA'S decision to suspend palm oil exports in the face of domestic shortages has pushed vegetable oil

prices to new highs, further tightening a market already on edge due to the war in Ukraine and global warming.

The prices of palm, soybean, European rapeseed and even its Canadian GMO counterpart, canola oil, have reached historic highs following Indonesia's announcement on Wednesday.

"We already had problems with soybeans in South America, with canola in Canada," said Philippe Chalmin, an economics professor at Paris-Dauphine University in France, stating that both crops had been severely affected by extended droughts.

Then came devasta-

tion for the "sunflowers in Ukraine" due to Russia's destructive invasion, he added.

Palm oil is the most consumed vegetable oil in the world, and Indonesia accounts for 35 per cent of global exports, according to James Fry, chairman of LMC consulting firm.

Indonesia's export ban is designed to bring down prices in the country and limit shortages, according to authorities.

But Chalmin said the move "comes at the worst time."—AFP



The prices of palm, soybean, European rapeseed and canola oil have reached historic highs. PHOTO: AFP

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Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 1st May 2022 hh@kcyangon.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KH DY0316N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KH DY0316N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-5-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GREEN ACE VOY.NO. (216W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GREEN ACE VOY.NO. (216W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-5-2022 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 VENUS C VOY.NO. (2210S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V VENUS C VOY.NO. (2210S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-5-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Over 3,000 Europe-bound migrants lost at sea in 2021

MORE than 3,000 people died in the Mediterranean and Atlantic while trying to reach Europe last year – double the toll from 2020, the United Nations said Friday.

A fresh report from the UN refugee agency demanded urgent action to combat surging deaths among refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants trying to reach Europe.

Last year, a total of 3,077 people were lost while trying to cross the Mediterranean and Atlantic routes to the continent, the report showed, up from 1,544 in 2020.

“Alarming, since the beginning of the year, an additional 478 people have also died or gone missing at sea,” UNHCR spokeswoman Shabia Mantoo told reporters in Geneva.

The report showed that for 2021, 1,924 people were reported dead or missing on the Central and Western Mediterranean routes, while another 1,153 perished on the North African maritime route to the Canary Islands.

“Most of the sea crossings took place in packed, unseaworthy, inflatable boats, many of which capsized or were deflated leading to the loss of life,” Mantoo said.

The sea journey from countries on the West African coast such as Mauritania and Senegal to the Canary Islands was particularly perilous, she said, pointing out that the crossing could take up to 10 days. “Many boats drifted off course or otherwise went missing without trace



The UN refugee agency demanded urgent action to combat surging deaths among refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants trying to reach Europe. **PHOTO: AFP**

in these waters,” she said.

‘Litany of abuses’

The increase in deaths at sea

came amid a surge in the number of crossings.

The UNHCR report showed

that 53,323 migrants arrived by boat in Italy last year – an 83-percent-hike over 2020. —AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU border agency boss quits over alleged mismanagement

FABRICE Leggeri, a figurehead for impenetrable European frontiers who was frequently accused of tolerating illegal “pushbacks” of migrants, offered his resignation Friday as head of the Frontex border agency. Frontex’s board would weigh Leggeri’s offer to step down the same day, a French source told AFP, “following an investigation into his management of the agency by Olaf”, the European Anti-Fraud Office. “I can confirm that he has offered his resignation,” which “opens the possibility of a new start” for Frontex, a German government spokesman said at a regular press conference in Berlin. —AFP



Frontex was founded in 2005, shortly after the EU jumped from 15 to 25 members with the accession of the formerly eastern bloc countries the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia as well as Malta and Cyprus. **PHOTO: FRONTEx/AFP**

Germany takes Italy to court over Nazi compensation claims

Germany on Friday brought a case against Italy before the International Court of Justice on the grounds that Rome is continuing to claim World War II compensation, thereby “failing to respect its jurisdictional immunity”, the court said.

The UN’s highest court ruled in 2012 that Italy had failed to fulfil its obligations by allowing victims of Nazi crimes between 1943 and 1945 to make compensation claims against Germany. —AFP

Student’s death stokes anger over Mexican femicide crisis

THE death of an 18-year-old Mexican student has unleashed anger against authorities accused of negligence over the murders and disappearances of thousands of women each year, few of which receive as much attention.

The case of Debanhi Escobar has generated unusually intense media interest in a country where nearly 100,000 people are missing and most homicides fail to make national headlines.

Escobar’s body was found on 21 April in a motel water tank, nearly two weeks after she disappeared on the outskirts of Monterrey, capital of the northern state of Nuevo Leon.

Prosecutors said they were not ruling anything out in her case, which has generated in-



A protester holds a picture of 18-year-old student Debanhi Escobar whose death in northern Mexico has triggered outcry. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ternational attention from South America to the United States and Europe. An eerie photo taken on the night she disappeared show-

ing Escobar standing in the dark went viral, and she quickly became a symbol for an angry women’s rights movement. —AFP

At least 50 killed in explosion at Kabul mosque: media

AT least 50 people were killed in an explosion at a mosque in Kabul on Friday, Reuters reported.

The blast in the Afghan capital may have been another in a series of terrorist attacks in the country during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, though

no group has yet claimed responsibility. The latest incident reportedly occurred after worshippers finished their Friday prayers at the mosque.

A day earlier, 11 people died when two minibuses blew up in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, with the Islamic

State claiming responsibility for bombing the vehicles.

The militant group has also claimed responsibility for the bombing of a mosque and adjacent religious school in the same city last week that killed 33 worshippers, US media reported. — Kyodo

N Korea's Kim vows pre-emptive use of nuclear weapons if threatened

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un has reiterated his intention to “pre-emptively” use the country’s nuclear weapons if the nation is threatened by what it regards as “hostile forces”, state-run media reported Saturday.

While praising top military officials who directed a vast military parade in Pyongyang earlier in the week, Kim was quoted by the official Korean Central News Agency as expressing his eagerness to continue developing nuclear weapons.

North Korea will “pre-emptively and thoroughly contain and frustrate all dangerous attempts and threatening moves, including ever-escalating nuclear threats from hostile forces, if necessary”, Kim told the military officials, according to the news agency.

On the occasion of the military parade on Monday to mark the 90th anniversary of the found-



On 24 March North Korea announced the “successful launch” of a newly developed monster ICBM, called the Hwasong-17. PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO

ing of North Korea’s army, Kim pledged to bolster development of nuclear weapons at a faster pace and use them if the coun-

try’s fundamental interests are jeopardized.

Kim’s remarks were an apparent warning to the United

States, which has recently deployed a nuclear aircraft carrier to the Sea of Japan, and South Korea, where conservative Presi-

dent-elect Yoon Suk Yeol will take office on 10 May.

South Korea has said it has detected activity to restore tunnels at North Korea’s only known nuclear test site. In May 2018, Pyongyang said it had “completely” demolished the Punggye-ri site in the presence of foreign reporters. The United States and its security allies South Korea and Japan have strengthened surveillance of North Korea, with concern mounting that Pyongyang will launch an intercontinental ballistic missile or conduct its seventh nuclear test in the near future.

On 24 March, North Korea conducted the first launch of an ICBM since November 2017, marking an end to its self-imposed moratorium on such firings stretching back to April 2018. KCNA said the missile was a Hwasong-17.—Kyodo

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine.

Ukraine says evacuation from Mariupol plant planned

KYIV said Friday plans were in place to evacuate civilians from the besieged Azovstal steel plant in the southern city of Mariupol where Ukrainian forces and civilians are encircled by Russian troops.

“An operation to evacuate civilians from the Azovstal factory is planned for today,” the Ukrainian presidency said in a statement.

Russia last week said it had gained full control of the strategic port city, except for the huge Azovstal industrial area.

Russia confirms ‘high-precision’ strike on Kyiv during UN visit

Russia’s defence ministry on Friday confirmed it had carried out an air strike on Kyiv during a visit by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

“High-precision, long-range air-based weapons of the Russian Aerospace Forces have destroyed the production buildings of the Artyom missile and space enterprise in Kyiv,” the ministry said in its daily briefing on the conflict in Ukraine.

Netherlands set to reopen Kyiv embassy

The Netherlands will reopen its embassy in Kyiv on Friday, more than two months after it was closed just before Russia invaded Ukraine. Dutch embassy staff were pulled out of the Ukrainian capital on 20 February, four days before Russia crossed its neighbour’s border. Since 16 April, the embassy has been operating out of the western Ukrainian city of Lviv.

SOURCE: AFP/Xinhua

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT : ROLLING UPDATES

Zelensky, Putin invited to G20 summit: Indonesian leader



Ukraine’s second city Kharkiv was hit by multiple Russian shellings Saturday. PHOTO: AFP

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky has been invited to the G20 summit in November, which will also be attended by

Russian President Vladimir Putin, the president of host nation Indonesia said Friday.

“I have invited President

Zelensky to attend the G20 summit,” said Joko Widodo, suggesting a compromise had been reached following Western pressure to bar Russia from the event in response to its invasion of Ukraine. Putin confirmed in a phone call with Widodo he will attend the summit, to take place on Bali island, the Indonesian leader said in a livestreamed address.

Russia is a G20 member, while Ukraine is not. Since the start of the war in Ukraine, Indonesia has faced fierce pressure from Western countries, led by the United States, to bar Russia from the summit. But Jakarta had insisted that, as the host, it must remain impartial, while US President Joe Biden had suggested Ukraine could take part.—AFP

Radio Liberty producer killed in Kyiv strike during UN chief’s visit

THE US-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty said Friday that one of its staff had died in a Russian strike on Kyiv during a visit by UN chief Antonio

Guterres.

“Radio Liberty journalist and producer Vera Gyrych died as a result of a Russian missile hitting the house where she

lived in Kyiv.

The shelling took place on 28 April,” the Ukrainian branch of the news organization said in a statement.—AFP

N Korea's Kim vows pre-emptive use of nuclear weapons if threatened

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SPORT

MFF selects women's futsal team final squad for SEA Games



The Myanmar women's futsal team pose for a group photo at an international futsal tournament. PHOTO: MFF

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Football Federation, the Myanmar women's futsal team has selected 16 finalists for the 31st SEA Games.

The women's futsal squad has reduced the number of players brought to Thailand from 22 to 16.

Coach U Tin Maung Htay will head the team.

Goalkeepers: Khaing Nhin That (ISPE), New New Soe (Ayeaywady United) and players:

Aye Aye Htwe (YREO Team), Nang Kham Mho (SPED Team) Win Win Khaing (Futsal Lover Team) Nant May Thazin (ISPE Team), Khaing Thazin Oo (ISPE Team), Khaing Pyae Lin (ISPE Team), Su Po Po Kyaw (Shin Lay-2 Team), War War Khaing (SPED Team), Khin Mar Lin (SPED Team), Zin Moe Pyae (Yangon United), May Thet Paing (Bago United), Nhin Sandar Hlaing (Thitsar Arman FC), Yamin Lwin (Thitsar

Arman FC), and Yoon Mi Mi Lwin (Thitsar Arman FC) are included in the lineup list for the tourney.

Indonesia pulls out of the SEA Games women's futsal competition, and thus Thailand, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Malaysia remain in the tourney. According to the SEA Games organizing committee, the women's futsal event will run from 15 to 19 May. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

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.

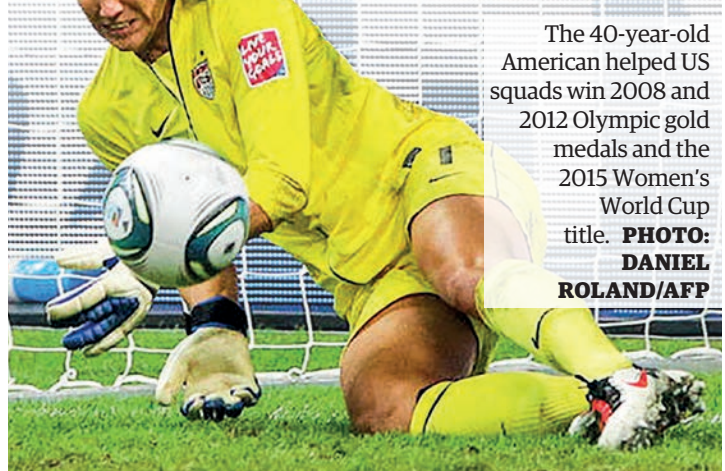
Former US women's goalie Solo begins alcohol treatment

FORMER US women's national team goalkeeper Hope Solo, arrested last month on alcohol-related charges, said Friday she is entering an in-patient alcohol treatment programme.

The 40-year-old American helped US squads win 2008 and 2012 Olympic gold medals and the 2015 Women's World Cup title.

"I will be voluntarily entering an in-patient alcohol treatment programme to address my challenges with alcohol," Solo said in a Twitter post. "At this time, my energies and focus are totally directed to my health, healing and taking care of my family."

Solo was granted a request to have her induction into the US National Soccer Hall of Fame delayed from this year to 2023. "I want to thank the Hall of Fame for their support and for understanding my decision," she tweeted.—AFP



The 40-year-old American helped US squads win 2008 and 2012 Olympic gold medals and the 2015 Women's World Cup title. PHOTO: DANIEL ROLAND/AFP

Real Madrid win 35th Spanish La Liga title



Real Madrid's French forward Karim Benzema (C) and Real Madrid's players celebrate at the end of the Spanish League football match between Real Madrid CF and RCD Espanyol at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 30 April 2022. PHOTO: AFP

REAL MADRID secured a 35th La Liga title on Saturday with four games to spare after a 4-0 home win over Espanyol fuelled by two goals from Rodrygo.

Needing just one point to clinch the trophy, Madrid struck twice through the Brazilian in the first half at the Santiago Bernabeu before goals from Marco Asensio and Karim Benzema. Madrid moved 17 points clear of second-placed Sevilla with four matches to play. Barcelona have a game in hand but are 18 points adrift. Given they have been top since November, there was no surprise about Madrid winning a league they have dominated for months, but dips in form from Barcelona and Sevilla offered the chance for an earlier coronation

than expected.

With La Liga wrapped up, Madrid can now turn their full attention to the second leg of their semi-final at home to Manchester City on Wednesday, when they will need to overturn a 4-3 loss from the opening game last week to advance to another European final. Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti rested Benzema and Vinicius Junior from the start for the visit of Espanyol, and Rodrygo seized his chance with two goals late in the first half.

He combined with compatriot Marcelo to put Madrid ahead on 33 minutes as he steered into the far corner for only his second league goal this campaign.—AFP