CHOOSE THE BEST WAY FOR USING RENEWABLE ENERGY PAGE-8 (OPINION)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

# The peace talks will get a reasonable answer, and further talks will be arranged: Senior General

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the State Administration Council meeting 4/2022 in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 May 2022.

BOTH sides' coordination should not disorder the essence of democracy and should emphasize the creation of chances for them, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the SAC meeting 4/2022 at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

**Plan to meet ethnic armed organizations for restoring internal peace**

The Senior General said although relevant organizations are striving for the restoration of peace, deserved achievements could not be secured due to some restrictions. Likewise, some EAOs face difficulties with PDF terrorists in their areas. Hence, arrangements are being made to soonest meet with those EAOs. The peace talks will get a reasonable answer, and further talks will be arranged. Both sides' coordination should not disorder the essence of democracy and should emphasize the creation of chances for them. If so, all the people will taste the independence and democracy which is a primary requirement of the State.

Leaders of the ethnic armed organizations together with two members each are invited to the talks. So far, seven NCA signatories and three non-NCA signatories have replied to attend the talks. Some EAOs will send the persons representing the chairmen for their health conditions.

SEE PAGE-3

> ... although relevant organizations are striving for the restoration of peace, deserved achievements could not be secured due to some restrictions. Likewise, some EAOs face difficulties with PDF terrorists in their areas. Hence, arrangements are being made to soonest meet with those EAOs.

INSIDE TODAY

**NATIONAL**
National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee meets Karen National Democratic Party-KNDP delegation
PAGE-4

**NATIONAL**
MoPF Union Minister attends 25th ASEAN+3 finance ministers and central bank governors' meeting
PAGE-5

**NATIONAL**
Information released on legal migration, risk of illegal migration to Thailand
PAGE-6

**CURRENT AFFAIRS**
Temporary power outage occurs due to relocation of unsafe power lines during construction of Yangon-Pathein highway
PAGE-10

# Public Notice

1. Since it is important to get the full revenue from exports, the main source of foreign exchange into the country, Section 38-b of the Foreign Exchange Management Law and Paragraph 35 of the Foreign Exchange Management Rule stipulate that the exporter is required to have export earnings in foreign currency into his/her bank account within six months from the date of shipment (within three months from 10-11-2021).
2. Therefore, in order to ensure that export earnings of the exporters who exported between 2016, 2017, and 2018, are credited back to their bank accounts in foreign currency within six months from the date of shipping, the Central Committee on Ensuring the Smooth flow of Trade and Goods, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, the Ministry of Legal Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce, the Central Bank of Myanmar, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), and the Foreign Exchange Authorized Dealer (AD) Licenced Banks, have already done the following: —
   (a) Clarification by AD Banks (within three years)
   (b) Clarification by the UMFCCI (60 days)
   (c) Announcing to clarify in the newspapers and the website of the Central Bank of Myanmar (60 days)
   (d) The Ministry of Commerce closes the registration certificate of importers and exporters (Pa-Tha-Ka) for those who do not clarify (30 days)
   (e) Five meetings with exporters led by the Central Committee
3. Exporters are required to comply with Section 38-b of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, which states, "No one shall fail to deposit all export earnings into his bank account in the country in foreign currency within the stipulated period," and "Violation of this prohibition is punishable by imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or a fine or both punishments must be imposed under Section 42-a of the law."
4. Sending notification, revocation of the business registration licence, and holding meetings were done to discuss several times under Paragraph (2) above, but there are 177 companies that exported within 2016, 2017, and 2018 and they remain to enter the revenue. An announcement was made on 10-5-2022 that action is being taken against 158 companies of 177 companies under Section 42-a of the Foreign Exchange Management Law and the boards of directors listed together with the companies have been blacklisted.
5. The remaining 19 companies (list attached) are under prosecution under Section 42-a of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, and the boards of directors of the attached companies have been blacklisted. Other companies are also under investigation for taking action on remaining export earnings.

*Central Bank of Myanmar*
*12-5-2022*

**The list of company still remain to enter the revenue for 2016.**

| Sr | Company | BoD members | Company Address | CSC number |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | GOLDEN BATTERY RECYCLING COMPANY LIMITED. | U Zaw Lin Tun<br>U Tun Tun Mon | Nan Htay Mon Kyaung, Kyar Tawya Street, Myoma Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon | 10/La Ma Na (N)-008174<br>10/Ya Ma Na(N)153643 |

**The list of companies still remain to enter the revenue for 2017.**

| Sr | Company | BoD members | Company Address | CSC number |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | DPS CO.,LTD. | U Tun Tun Htet<br>U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing | No.(1), Yuzana Housing, Laydauntkan Street, (26) Ward, Dagon Myothit(South), Yangon<br>95-1-382781,09-73024888 | 12/Tha Ga Ka (N) 003675<br>12/0ua Ka Ta (N) 069050 |
| 2 | KHIN KYAW COMPANY LIMITED. | U Soe Thu Latt<br>U Khin Maung Latt<br>U Kyaw Thu Latt | Myintawthar Road,no.5(B, Htuparyone (1) Quarter, Thakayta Township, Yangon | 12/PAKHANA( N )353204<br>12/KATANA( PYU )002329<br>12/KATANA(PYU)001050 |
| 3 | PENG SHENG EXPORT & IMPORT YOU XIAN COMPANY LIMITED. | Daw Sandar Lin<br>Daw Ye Ye Cho | Myawady Mingyi (2) Street No.765/ Shwe Paukkan 16 Quarter/ North Okkalapa Township, Yangon | 14/LAPATA(N)113341<br>14/ AHGAPA(N) 000991 |

**The list of companies still remain to enter the revenue for 2018.**

| Sr | Company | BoD members | Company Address | CSC number |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | DPS CO.,LTD. | U Tun Tun Htet<br>U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing | No.(1), Yuzana Housing, Laydauntkan Street, (26) Ward, Dagon Myothit(South), Yangon<br>95-1-382781,09-73024888 | 12/Tha Ga Ka (N) 003675<br>12/Oua Ka Ta (N) 069050 |
| 2 | FATEMA TRADING COMPANY LIMITED. | U Mohammed Raffi<br>Daw Aisha Bi | No.(307),(41x42)Street, Mahabandula Street, (8) Ward, Botahtaung, Yangon<br>09-795296289,09-73241021 | KTDA-009106<br>12/Ka Ta Ta (N) 020854 |
| 3 | INTERNATIONAL BRILLIANT POWER COMPANY LIMITED. | U Kyaw Thein<br>Daw Hla Hla Win<br>U Thein Naing | No.(58/60),3rd Floor, 55th Street,Pazundaung,Yangon | 12/Pa Za Ta (N)004549<br>PZDG-008895<br>PZDG-008940 |
| 4 | JU XIAN COMPANY LIMITED. | U Aik Chwan<br>Daw Aye Shwe | No.(63),(3) Street, Zayar Mon Ward, Kyaikto | 13/Na Ma Ta (Pyu) 001070<br>13/Na Ma Ta (N) 058168 |
| 5 | MACRO TRADE LINK CO,LTD. | Daw Myat Thida Than Htay<br>U Myat Zaw | No.(128),(4th) Floor, Sayar San Road, Sayar San North East Quarter,Bahan, Yangon City, | 12/La Ma Ta (N)-000982<br>12/Ma Ya Ka (N)-002376 |
| 6 | MAJESTIC GLORY CO.,LTD. | Daw Khaing Su Hlaing<br>U Min Zin Aung | No.(887/B), Badar Street (1), 8 Ward, Dagon Myothit (East)Township, Yangon | 12/SAKHANA (N)062848<br>12/MAGATA (N) 104073 |
| 7 | MOUNT VEBHARA TRADING COMPANY LIMITED. | Daw Thida Aye<br>Daw Yin Yin Win | Building No (239),Room No.(3), Seinpanmyaing Street, (25) Ward,Thuwunna, Thingangyun, Yangon | 12/Tha Ga Ka(N) 083018<br>12/Ta Ta Na (N) 223184 |
| 8 | MYANMAR BALAJI COMPANY LIMITED. | U Kay Zin Soe<br>Daw Thin Thin Naing | No. (182),(4th) Street, Ward No. (93),Dagon Myothit (Seikkan)Yangon | 14/Ah Ga Pa (N) 221114<br>7/Da Ou Na (N) 001412 |
| 9 | OMDG (MYANMAR) COMPANY LIMITED. | U Htin Aung<br>Daw Khin Myat Thu<br>U Han Tun | Room.(108), (1st)Floor,San Pya Yankin Market, Sayar San Road,(2)Ward, Yankin, Yangon | 12/Sa Kha Na (Pyu) 000078<br>12/Pa Ba Ta (Ei) 000701<br>13/Ka Ta Na (Ei) 000288 |
| 10 | PA DA MYARR NYI NAUNG COMPANY LIMITED. | U Ye Min Zin<br>U Kaung Myat Kyaw<br>U Khin Maung Win<br>U Soe Min Lwin<br>U Min Ko<br>U Aung Naing Oo<br>U Lin Bin Hu @ Win Naing | No.(106),Myothit, Asia Main Road (1), Thin Gan Nyi Naung,Myawady, Kayin State, | 8/Pa Kha Ka(N) 208046<br>9/Ma Kha Na(N) 149234<br>3/Ma Wa Ta(N) 024223<br>3/Ba Ah Na(N) 313829<br>8/Pa Ma Na(N) 107574<br>12/Ma Wa Ta(N) 041138<br>12/La Tha Na(Ei) 000309 |
| 11 | PHONE NAY HTUT KHAUNG COMPANY LIMITED. | U Phyo Min Shein<br>U Tin Htut | No.(93),(30th)Street, Between (65× 66 ) Streets, Pyi Gyi Myat Shin Ward,Chanayethazan, Mandalay | 12/Ya Ka Na (N) 067261<br>12/Pa Ba Ta (N) 024006 |
| 12 | PIXIO MYANMAR COMPANY LIMITED. | Mr.Wong Tooe Hawk<br>Mr.Tham Khai Wor<br>Ms.Wee Swee Neo Doris | No.(81),Yadanar Road, (8)Quarter,South Okkalapa, Yangon | Singaporean Passport No.E3103783J<br>Singaporean Passport No. E2932162L<br>Singaporean Passport No. E3302156K |
| 13 | SOE LWIN AUNG CO.,LTD. | U Soe Lwin | No. (243),Bogyoke Street, Zay Tan Ward,Yaksawk | 13/Ya Sa Na(N)-007639 |
| 14 | THE SEA SMELL TRADING COMPANY LIMITED. | U Myo Ko Ko Oo<br>U Htut Htut Min | Block (63),No.(15), Nawadday Market Inner Street, (6) Ward, Hlinethaya Yangon | 7/Ka Ta Kha (N) 162277<br>14/ Ah Ga Pa (N) 149833 |
| 15 | U KAUNG TRADING CO.,LTD. | U Thar Oo<br>U Aung Zay Yar Oo | Building No.(10/12), Room No.(103/D),(35th) Street, Kyauktada, Yangon | 12/Sa Kha Na (N)-052851<br>12/Ka Ma Ya (N)-011575 |

# This year is identified as the Year of Peace

THIS year is the pre-year of the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day. So, we have to make utmost efforts to enjoy the fruits of Independence and democratic administration fully. Hence, this year is identified as the Year of Peace. We are trying our best to restore the peace and tranquillity of the entire nation.

*(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 peace talks will get a reasonable answer, and further ...

FROM PAGE-1

Those representatives must have guarantees. The Senior General expressed his hope that the talks will be held to come out an effective resolution from the talks. These talks will focus on negotiation over the desires of EAOs and the State to be a beneficial meeting.

**Need for all students to learn education**

A plan is underway to open basic education schools in the coming June. Arrangements are being made to turn out qualified faculty members to be appointed at universities. All teachers must be qualified. All students from basic and higher education need to attend the schools. If they do not complete the learning, not only students and parents but the State will face loss. It means a loss of workable forces for the State as well as for individual citizens. The Senior General urged all students to learn education.

> Whenever foreign countries interfere in internal affairs, it is very difficult to ensure the peace and stability of the nation. Myanmar citizens need to decide on the issues in Myanmar. It will never give chance to other countries to decide something.

So far, more than 50 per cents of students have enrolled the medical universities and more students will enrol there.

**Healthcare services for the people and vaccination for the Covid-19 pandemic**

As all the people who participated in battling the COVID-19 due to the high infection rate in 2021, they could overcome difficulties. Now, the infection rate reaches less than 0.2 per cent. The WHO released that if the infection rate declines less than five per cent, the disease will be controllable. But, the people need to continuously abide by COVID-19 restrictions not to cause more infection. Chin State and Sagaing Region are less vaccinated, and efforts are being made to administer the COVID-19 vaccination there as much as possible.

**Need for the economic development**

The government strived for earning incomes. If the country practises the thrifty use of fuel and reduces cooking oil, it can reduce importation and save spending on foreign exchange. Only when farmers can do cultivation of mixed and double crops will the GDP of the country rise. So, the government needs to fulfil the needs of farmers for full cultivation. All the people need to strive for the development of the State economy based on agriculture and livestock.

SAC members discussed the installation of machines to check arms and ammunition at the entrances to Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, regions and states, the continuous opening of the ways for remaining EAOs to attend the peace talks, plans to use digital currency and taking action against some personnel who committed malpractices in farmland issues.

In response to the discussions, the Senior General replied that the peace talks will be held with each EAO. The government and the Tatmadaw have guaranteed multiparty democracy and the Union system based on democracy and federalism.

The Senior General continued that priority is being given to peace to assign health staff to necessary regions and states. The peace talks must be based on trust, honesty and interests of the Union.

In his conclusion, the Senior General emphasized peace. He said: "We find two groups in the discussions. The first one is the plan of seven EAOs who have signed the NCA to attend the talks and the second is the plans of three non-signatories to attend the talks. Three signatories will not attend the talks for reasons. Three non-signatories will not join the talks. At this juncture, KNU decided not to attend the talks after showing its wish to attend the talks at first. KNU, KIA and KNPP are related to PDF and CRPH were declared terrorists. Moreover, they are related to some foreign countries. So, we found that they released statements not to attend the talks.

> The first one is the plan of seven EAOs who have signed the NCA to attend the talks and the second is the plans of three non-signatories to attend the talks.

"Whenever foreign countries interfere in internal affairs, it is very difficult to ensure the peace and stability of the nation. Myanmar citizens need to decide on the issues in Myanmar. It will never give chance to other countries to decide something. Myanmar citizens must decide on the issues of Myanmar. So, we will march towards the political goal that we would go to and the people aspire to after holding the peace talks with our strengths. We have adopted a five-point road map. The achievement of this road map is related to peace issues. So, we will implement the peace issue in harmony with the people's desire. If the emphasis is placed on a single region or group, we will find that it will be difficult to be conformity with the people's desires. If one wishes to restore peace actually, one needs to come to the talks with the desire for peace. If people wish to enjoy the fruits of democracy truly, if the entire ethnic people of the Union do it in the Union spirit and they have the perspective to secure the achievement, I think the peace talks would be successful."

The Senior General said prosperity is based on peace. if all employment opportunities can be created under democratic rules, the country will be prosperous. if so, food will be sufficient. Hence, the target must be set to restore peace to be able to implement the above-mentioned issues. — MNA

# Maha Mingala donation ceremony of alms, offerings to 10,264 monks in four corners of Mandalay to be broadcast live on MRTV

IN commemoration of the Sasana Year 2566, the Maha Mingala Donation Ceremony of the alms and offerings to 10,264 monks in four corners of the Mandalay Moat will be simultaneously held at 6 am with 2,566 monks on each of the four corners of the Mandalay Moat on 14 May, Kason Full Moon Day-Buddha Day.

The ceremony will be broadcast live on Myanma Radio and Television MRTV-HD, MWD, MWD Variety, Forever Mahabodhi Channel, Sky Net Up to Date, Buddha Channel and Channel 9, MOI Website, MOI YouTube and MRTV website from 5:45 am on 14 May. — MNA

# National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee meets Karen National Democratic Party-KNDP delegation

THE National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) held a meeting with the delegation from the Karen National Democratic Party-KNDP yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by SAC Member NSPNC Chairman Union Minister at the Government Office (1) Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and committee members, and Chairman of the Karen National Democratic Party-KNDP Mahn Aung Pyi Soe and representatives.

The meeting discussed issues related to holding the multi-party general election with a PR system, election-related peace issues, and peace developments in Kayin State. They also discussed ways to reduce armed conflicts and address the plight of the people fleeing the fighting. — MNA

The meeting between the NSPNC and KNDP in progress.

# The 8th Coordination Meeting of the Task Force to facilitate the provision of Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar through the AHA Centre

THE 8th Coordination Meeting of the Task Force to facilitate the provision of Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar through the AHA Centre was held at 10:00 am on 12 May 2022 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Meeting was physically attended by the Chair of the Task Force, U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for International Cooperation, Vice-Chair (2) of the Task Force, Dr Thet Thet Khine, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, members of the Task Force and virtually attended by Ministers for Security and Border Affairs from Governments of Kayah State, Kayin State, Shan State, Rakhine State, Magway Region, Sagaing Region and Bago Region.

The Meeting discussed the follow-up actions of the Consultative Meeting particularly identifying the areas where Joint Needs Assessment for Phase-2 provision of ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar and pilot projects will be conducted, necessary preparation for the safe and effective deployment of the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN ERAT) in designated areas and deliberating tools and methodologies which will enhance the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Delivery Arrangement as well as the Joint Vaccination Framework.—MNA

# MoI holds Broadcasting Governing Body-BGB meeting (3/2022) online

THE Ministry of Information held the online meeting of the Broadcasting Governing Body-BGB (3/2022) yesterday morning. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, officials from the ministry, the Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV), and the Myawady Television, and broadcasting companies that are working together with MRTV and Myawady TV.

While addressing the meeting, BGB Chairman Deputy Minister U Ye Tint discussed the need to be careful of broadcasting companies that are working together with the MRTV not to broadcast in a way that could endanger the stability and security of the country, to abide by the existing laws, terms of the partnership agreement with the department, and with media ethics, to include the dissemination of information and programmes that will benefit the country and the people, including the peace process being carried out by the State, to broadcast real news in time and to eliminate false information. The deputy minister also discussed matters related to the security of the staff and equipment and coordinated as required.

The Broadcasting Governing Body-BGB meeting 3/2022 underway online.

The Broadcasting Governing Body-BGB is chaired by the MoI deputy minister and is formed with a total of 21 members from the ministry, MRTV, and broadcasting companies in partnership with MRTV. — MNA

Trade Mark Ads Call 09251022355, 09974424848

# MoPF Union Minister attends 25th ASEAN+3 finance ministers and central bank governors' meeting

UNION Minister for Planning and Finance U Win Shein attended the 25th ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting jointly chaired by the People's Republic of China and Cambodia via a virtual system yesterday.

The meeting discussed global and regional macroeconomic perspectives and priorities on inclusive recovery plans in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the progress of the ASEAN + 3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), the status of the ongoing implementation of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM) Action Plan, technical assistance programmes for the development of the Asian bond market and future plans.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said Myanmar support the implementation of AMRO as a Regional Knowledge Hub and the implementation of the medium-term plan (2022-2026). He urged AMRO to work on the development of financial digitalization and digital transformation methods that have been developed in conjunction with the COVID-19 outbreak. Myanmar is working with other member countries for technical assistance for the development of the Asian bond market. In addition, it is also involved in the capacity building activities of the financial resilience against climate and natural disasters working group and is working to revive its economy after the COVID-19 pandemic. They also discussed closer cooperation with ASEAN + 3 countries in the regional economic recovery process.

The ASEAN + 3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting is held annually by China, Japan and the Republic of Korea in rotation. This year's ASEAN + 3 meetings are being held in the form of virtual meetings. The meeting was attended by ASEAN + 3 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, Heads of the International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank, and ASEAN + 3 Macroeconomic Research Office and ASEAN Secretariat. — MNA

# MoCRD Union Minister attends 5th ASEAN Rural Development, Poverty Eradication Leadership Awards ceremony

ASEAN Rural Development Leadership and Poverty Eradication Leadership Awards Ceremony was co-hosted by the Philippine Poverty alleviation Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat yesterday afternoon via video conference.

The ceremony was attended by a delegation led by Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe and officials from Myanmar award-winning Mega Global Green Automation Company and Techno-Hill Engineering Company.

The aim of the 5th ASEAN Rural Development Leadership and Poverty Eradicaiton Leadership Awards Ceremony was to recognize effective achievements of NGOs/CSOs and private sectors from ASEAN countries in the areas of livelihood development and poverty alleviation and to enhance government-private-public participation.

ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General Mr Ekkaphab Phantavong and Lead Convener Mr Noel K. Felongco of the Philippine Poverty alleviation Commission gave introductory speeches, and the NGO/CSO and private sectors from respective ASEAN countries which received awards explained their rural development activities.

Myanmar's private sector winners Mega Global Green Automation and Techno-Hill Engineering presented a PowerPoint presentation on rural lighting, and received the ASEAN Rural Development Leadership and Poverty Eradication Leadership Awards, respectively.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe congratulated the NGOs/CSOs and Private Sectors from various ASEAN countries who were awarded the Leadership Awards, saying that this award is not the result of a single group but all stakeholders. He also called on the winning organizations to work more closely with their respective countries and in the ASEAN rural development and poverty alleviation activities and awarded certificates to Mega Global Green Automation and Techno-Hill Engineering, the ASEAN Leadership Award winners in Myanmar. — MNA

## 6 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 12 May, total figure rises to 613,088

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 613,088 after 6 new cases were reported on 12 May 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 592,012 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 19,434 without more casualties. —MNA

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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.

# Information released on legal migration, risk of illegal migration to Thailand

THE Memorandum of Understanding on Myanmar-Thailand Labour Cooperation was signed on 21 June 2003 and the employment agreement was signed on 24 June 2016.

The MoU system was used to send 915,980 legal workers to Thailand as of 18 March 2020.

The Ministry of Labour resumed the process of officially sending workers to Thailand after negotiations between the two countries.

A total of 287 workers on 10 May and 301 workers on 11 May were officially sent through Myawady-Mae Sot to work in their respective workplaces, and the MoU system will continue to send legal workers on a regular basis.

Myanmar migrant workers are seen systematically migrating to work in Thailand.

Myanmar workers working in Thailand through illegal brokers, but not through legal foreign employment agencies, have to pay exorbitant fees and stay in Thailand illegally.

The workers are facing a lack of full employment benefits and arrests are being made in Thailand for illegal work during inspections by the relevant departments.

The arrests took place in several provinces in Thailand, injuring 19 Myanmar migrant workers and 19 others were killed.

Therefore, Myanmar citizens who want to go illegally to Thailand to get a job are more likely to be trafficked. Next, they could face human rights violations, lack of full protection under the law and other human rights violations.

Officials have urged migrant workers not to make illegal entries as they may face various difficulties.

Full legal protection of workers' rights can be achieved by going abroad legally, officials said.

Information required to work abroad, procedures and a list of foreign employment agency licencing agencies can be found on the Ministry of Labour's website www.mol.gov.mm and also available on the Department of Labour's Safe Migration Facebook Page and Safe Migration Telegram Channel.

Further information can be obtained by contacting phone numbers of the Labour Department (Head Office) Nay Pyi Taw, 067-430183 and 067-430284 or enquiring at the Union Territory, Region and State, District and Township Offices. — MNA

## CRIME NEWS

# Illegal timbers, chemicals, motorbikes and textile seized

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, action is being taken under the law against illegal trades across the country.

An inspection team led by the Forest Department under the Mon State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections on the road of Kyaikmaraw-Mudon in Kyaikmaraw Township and seized K2,783,120 worth of 13.9156 tonnes of illegal iron-wood. Police opened a file on this case under the Forest Law.

Similarly, on 11 May, the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Checkpoint captured K4,580,000 worth of thinner solution, which was not declared in the imported declaration, and charged under the Customs Law.

In addition, Myanmar Police Force seized K1,495,620 worth of illegal teak in Sagaing Region and action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 12 May, the MPF inspection team confiscated K600,000 worth of an unregistered Kawasaki Esterlla motorbike and action was taken under the Export/Import Law.

Similarly, on the same day, the inspection team on duty conducted inspections at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint and captured K4,162,500 worth of textile that did not show any official documents. The action was taken under the Customs Law.

Afterwards, the Bago Region Forest Department confiscated 2.9322 tonnes of illegal teak at an estimated value of K879,660 and took action under the Forest Law.

Therefore, from 10 to 12 May, seven arrests were made (an estimated value of K14,500,900), according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Seized illegal timbers in Mon State.

# Fresher welcome, subject orientation ceremonies held at technological and computer universities

Fresher welcome and orientation ceremony are underway at the Yangon Technological University. **PHOTO : KANU**

FRESHER welcome and subject orientation ceremonies were held respectively yesterday at 60 technological and computer universities under the Department of Advanced Science and Technology (DAST) of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

A total of 57,218 – 40,447 students in 33 technological universities, and 16,771 students in 27 universities of computer studies will attend since the university reopening period across the country.

A total of 1,884 first-year undergraduate students were warmly welcomed to relevant universities by rectors and deputy pro-rectors and faculty members at the fresher welcome and subject orientation ceremonies were held on 12 May.

Not only undergraduate and postgraduate courses were opened at technological and computer universities but also master and doctoral programmes were opened at 33 technical universities and 27 universities of computer studies across the country.

Moreover, the University of Information Technology opened for engineering (honours) first-year students in the 2019-2020 Academic Year, the third year to fourth-year (honours) students in the 2021-2022 Academic Year and the students who have been passed the matriculation exam in 2020 of the 2022-2023 Academic Year.

The technological universities and computer universities under the Department of Advanced Science and Technology (DAST) of the Ministry of Science and Technology admitted students for the first year of the 2022-2023 Academic Year on 20 April and for the programmes of the 2019-2020 and 2021-2022 academic years on 2 May. — MNA

# LOCAL BUSINESS

## Sino-Myanmar bilateral trade plunges by 32.9 per cent in April

THE statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce indicated that the value of border trade between Myanmar and a major trade partner China dropped by 32.9 per cent (US$69.307 million) in April 2022 compared to the corresponding period last year.

The value of Myanmar-China border trade in all five border areas touched a low of $141.343 million in April, comprising exports worth $128.94 million and imports worth $12.399 million

The figure significantly plummeted from over $210.65 million recorded in the year-ago period.

Last month, border trade values amounted to $100.9 million through Muse border, $17.424 million via Lweje, $5.3 million via Chinshwehaw, $16.259 million via Kampaiti, and over $1.43 million via Kengtung. The Commerce Ministry's data showed a drop in trade value through Muse and Chinshwehaw border areas between Myanmar and China.

China shut down all the checkpoints linking to a major border post Muse amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the checkpoints, Kyinsankyawt has resumed trading activity from 26 November on a trial run.

China banned Myanmar trucks and drivers to enter its side because of the COVID-19 protocols and only Chinese short-haul drivers are allowed to transport the goods. Another trade barrier is the red tape of the COVID regulations, causing trade delays, according to Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

The transport delays caused damage to the quality of the goods and hike up the transportation rate, said a trader from the Muse border.

Only if China lifted COVID restrictions can Muse border trade revive, said U Min Thein, vice-chair of the Muse Rice Wholesale Depot.

China shut down all the checkpoints linking to a major border post Muse amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the checkpoints, Kyinsankyawt has resumed trading activity from 26 November on a trial run. Myanmar daily delivers rubber, various beans and pulses, dried plum, watermelon, muskmelon and other food commodities to China through Kyinsankyawt post with about 30 trucks.

Myanmar has opened five border trade zones with China; Muse, Lweje, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung. The majority of the trade is carried out through the Muse land border, the Ministry of Commerce's data showed. — GNLM

## Black sesame market sluggish on low prices

Farm workers seen picking up the sesame.

THE market of black sesame seeds is seemingly inactive as the prevailing market price is not profitable for the traders, said traders from Mandalay.

"It is one week that the market is sluggish. The inventory is low at present. Some growers are thinking of reducing the sowing acreage on the low prices," said a trader from Mandalay market.

The prices of black sesame seeds hit over K200,000 per 45-viss bag in early 2022. The prevailing price is approximately K185,000 per viss.

Among the agricultural products that are allowed to be exported through the border posts, oil crops (peanut and sesame seeds) except black sesame are temporarily suspended for exports to secure local consumption. The Trade Department released a statement on 9 May to discuss with the related organizations to ensure peanut and sesame export ban.

Myanmar's sesame was earlier exported to China, South Korea, Japan, Singapore and China Taipei (Taiwan). However, it is now relying solely on China through sea trade and the shipments to other foreign countries have certain difficulties.

Additionally, some growers turned to other oil crops over the sesame owing to the high input burden and low price.

Sesame is cultivated in the country throughout the year. Magway Region, which has gained a reputation as the oil pot of Myanmar, is the main producer of sesame seeds. The seeds are also grown in Mandalay and Sagaing regions.

Of the cooking oil crops grown in Myanmar, the acreage under sesame seed is the highest, accounting for 51.3 per cent of the overall oil crop plantations. About 600,000-800,000 tonnes of sesame seeds are yearly produced. — KK/GNLM

## Pure gold price down by K50,000 per tical within 2 weeks

THE prices of pure gold fall by K50,000 per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme) within the two weeks, according to Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

The price of 24-carat gold stood at K2,024,000 per tical on 2 May, whereas it slightly falls to K1,976,500 per tical on 12 May.

The domestic gold prices plunged following the price slip in the global market.

The global gold price is valued at $1,854 per ounce at present, which fell from $1,888 per ounce.

The figures showed a slight decrease of $34 per ounce in the past two weeks. Consequently, the domestic gold price was also down by K47,500 per tical.

Moreover, YGEA also decided on 4 May to import raw gold from foreign countries in the coming rainy season not to fall short of raw metal supply.

Additionally, gold traders and retailers are urged to make gold transactions by adding up to K5,000 to the price set by YGEA.

In a bid to stabilize the gold market, gold transactions had better made according to the reference rate of the Central Bank of Myanmar (K1,850), according to the CBM's statement released on 3 April.

YGEA called for an urgent meeting on 8 April. The meeting determined to carry out gold transactions depending on the CBM's reference exchange rate. However, it has not come into force yet, said U Myo Myint, chair of YGEA.

The US dollar stands at around K2,000 in the unofficial black market.

Additionally, the domestic gold price is highly correlated with the global gold price, YGEA stated.

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

# Choose the best way for using renewable energy

NOWADAYS, instability of prices for fossil fuels and hiking of fuel prices push the global to use renewable energy as a global opportunity. At present, renewable energy is increasing five per cent each year from 2009 to 2019.

Renewable energy indicates hydropower, solar power, wind power, bioenergy power and geo-energy which are benefiting the long-term energy development.

The global people used 10 per cent of electricity generated from solar power in 2021. Meanwhile, 50 countries used more than one-ten of energy from wind and solar energy, according to the report of AMBER (Advanced Materials and BioEngineering Research).

Hence, Myanmar should emphasize the consumption of electricity generated from renewable energy. People should not too much rely on the efforts of the government. As it is a cheap process, they need to take initiative measures for generating electricity based on renewable energy on a self-reliant basis. If so, societies across the nation will have the chance to improve themselves through the electricity of solar energy and wind energy in running their livelihoods.

So also, Myanmar is striving for generating electricity from solar energy based on the solar panel centre in the dry region. Using electricity from solar energy saves the expenditure and electrifies the residences. Such kind of electricity will be supplied to the people residing in the areas where the national grid cannot electrify.

Thanks to electrification in any way, local people will have the confidence to build their families and societies in order to uplift their living standards. As electricity is an important tool to operate industries for production on a manageable scale or commercial scale, manufacturing of products will be beneficial for the local people so that they can earn increased incomes for their families.

In a day, experts predicted that conventional fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas would run out. However, the renewable energy generated through the energy from the Sun, the water and the air will not run out whenever the Universe, atmosphere and waters still exist. Hence, only when the global people consume renewable energy will they successfully meet the global energy demands.

Indeed, renewable energy does not need fuel requirements, cheap maintenance charge, lessening of carbon dioxide emission, development of technology and mitigating the releasing of waste which can be dirty for the environment. As such, use of the renewable energy is very cost-effective.

Hence, Myanmar should emphasize the consumption of electricity generated from renewable energy. People should not too much rely on the efforts of the government. As it is a cheap process, they need to take initiative measures for generating electricity based on renewable energy on a self-reliant basis. If so, societies across the nation will have the chance to improve themselves through the electricity of solar energy and wind energy in running their livelihoods.

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# Risks of Psychological Warfare, Fake News and Disinformation To Care About

By Min Khant

DELIBERATED dissemination of fake news and disinformation on social networks are daily witnessed. Particularly, individuals and organizations from local and abroad are spreading the fabricated news and disinformation with the mixture of truths and falsities created by using texts, photos and video footages using various accounts claiming as media agencies on Facebook.

Like a law of propaganda "Repeat a lie often enough and it becomes the truth", when the people repeatedly hear and read the fake news and misinformation again and again daily, the people of social network users eventually fall victims to the 'illusory truth effect' and they often come to believe such news reports are true. It is also learnt that even the ones who have carefully used the social networks encounter such situations. Such situation signals that Myanmar is certainly under the attacks of psychological warfare.

The psychological warfare is no more a new subject as it has been one of the approaches used in battles since prehistoric times to weaken the morale of opponents. To present its brief history, during the Pellucidum battle that occurred between Persian Empire and Egyptians around BC 525, the Persian side had used cats as psychological tools against the Egyptians. The reason behind was that the ancient Egyptians had regarded the cats as sacred animals according to their religious faiths and spells. It was an instance of using a religious belief as a psychological tactic.

During the First World War, the British forces used the psychological warfare means of distributing pamphlets. In the Second World War, the means of radio broadcasts was widely used for propaganda. Nowadays, the Internet and social media networks play major role in psychological warfare. Digital platforms are widely used in applying various forms of psywar including disseminating fake news and misinformation to change the ideologies, creeds, cultures and concepts of targeted countries, societies and groups.

Recalling what occurred in a regional country located near Myanmar, the Phoenix Program and Chieu Hoi Programme run by United States during the Vietnam War were found to be prominent ones. The Phoenix Programme had certain components ranging from infiltration into Viet Cong personnel and actions of interrogation and tortures to weaken their morale to violent assassinations. Chieu Hoi Programme primarily aimed at defections of the enemy. As the outcomes of Phoenix Program, 81,740 civilians and Viet Cong personnel were arrested and 25,369 assassinated. The Chieu Hoi Programme resulted in 101,511 defections of Viet Cong.

At present, Myanmar also encounters the tactics of psychological warfare similar to the Phoenix and Chieu Hoi programs run by US in the Vietnam War. It is a crucial time for national security because such psychological warfare tactics are obviously found using in online media platforms and social networks.

The Tatmadaw's assumption of the State responsibilities in accordance with the State constitution was shaped into the form of military coup after neglecting the root cause of using the government power to ensure the victory in the elections with premediate ballot riggings that led Myanmar to a political crisis. Following the move, the people being suffocated with the COVID-19 pandemic were also instigated to take to the streets. The rallies under the name of non-violent movement were soon morphed into riotous mobs and then start to commit violent acts in anarchic manner. At that time, an American provided online trainings of terrorism to Myanmar youths. Likewise, some Ethnic Armed Organizations-EAOs with the supports of some powerful countries provided terrorist trainings to Myanmar youths and also armed them. Such outcomes are not opportune but by the deliberate attempts of manipulators behind to make people to follow irrationally what the former wanted.

The psychological warfare provoking the terrorism, and the killings of innocent people, civil servants and Buddhist Sangha are taking place simultaneously while such acts are continuously fuelled by fake news and misinformation. In this regard, the psychological warfare is being waged by disseminating fake news, fabrications and misinformation after providing cash assistance to one-sided lobbyists, social influencers, and some traitorous media outlets in order to provoke the acts of terrorism; encourage the terrorists; demoralize the Tatmadaw personnel, their family members, nationalists and pro-Tatmadaw people.

**"Fake news" are the news reports which are fabricated using edited photos and video clips as if an event has actually occurred on ground though it really has not. For instance, the death toll figure of security force members is found to be mendaciously increased daily.**

**"Disinformation" are the news reports of fabrications with distorted views based on a truth event. For instance, although there were no casualties of security force members in the actual events of bombing and clash, the fake death toll was intentionally described at high number with the mixture false and true facts in disinformation.**

It is the actual truth that such groundless fake news and disinformation are toxic to the people using social networks because some people weak in rationality believe in such news which provoke certain incitements. Hence, the so-called media outlets from local and abroad, that are repeatedly describing the toxic news and disinformation without reviewing them, are worth to be named as the media of nation-destruction.

According to the daily findings of FACT CHECK, a volunteering team which has watched the fake news and disinformation, it is reported that around 20 to 30 fake news are being described on Facebook.

**It is seen that the FACT CHECK, an impartial volunteering team, is daily reviewing the news reports described on the social media platforms of Facebook, Telegram, and Twitter, and differentiating between true and fake news. According to analytical data of the team on the recent period from 1 to 30 April 2022, there were 630 fake and fabricated news while the true news reports were only 32 on the Facebook pages of the so-called media of nation-destruction.**

**Analytical Data on the News Reports of Some Local and Foreign Media Outlets from 1 to 30 April 2022**

| Sr. | Media Name | Disinformation | Fake News | True News |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Khit Thit Media | 189 | 83 | 9 |
| 2 | DVB | 79 | 51 | 8 |
| 3 | Mizzima | 80 | 46 | 8 |
| 4 | Delta News Agency | 34 | 18 | 3 |
| 5 | Irrawaddy | 13 | 2 | 2 |
| 6 | Tachileik News Agency | 19 | 16 | 2 |
| | Total | 414 | 216 | 32 |

**The detailed analytical data can be accessed at https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077272015649**

Out of the many fake news and disinformation assessed by the team, some news reports were found to be just fabrications without actual accidents such as the one describing that CDF-Mindat, The Youth Force and CDF-Matupi groups carried out remote-mine attacks on the military convoy on the way from Mindat town to Matupi town of Chin state on 5 April leaving over 30 soldiers of military council killed; the news report of Khit Thit media on 11 April claiming that at least 25 soldiers of military council were dead during the clash that occurred between military forces and the PDF members near Kya-Oh village, Pauk town of Magway region; and the news report of DVB on 19 April claiming that a combined forces comprising four PDF alliances carried out remote-mine attacks against the troops of military council that left Monywa town of Sagaing region at 8:20 am leaving 16 military council soldiers killed and a jammer car destroyed.

For the instances of disinformation, the news report posted by Khit Thit on 2 April describing that PDF carried out remote-mine attacks against the force comprising military council soldiers and Pyu-Saw-Htee members near Wayin Nge village and Sein Lan office of Tanze township of Sagaing region leaving a military vehicle destroyed in fire and 15 soldiers and Pyu-Saw-Htee members dead. In reality, the incident of remote-mine attack actually took place but no military vehicle was on fire while only a policeman was killed and a militiaman injured. Similarly, another news report described by the DVB on 7 April claimed that PDF carried out a remote-mine attack against a military convoy of five vehicles on Mandalay-Monywa road causing deaths of 30 to 40 soldiers. Although the remote-mine attack incident actually occurred, only two soldiers were injured and no death case was reported.

**The NUG exile group has certain intention of disseminating such fake news and disinformation repeatedly. It is surely to convince people that NUG is winning everywhere and the peace and stability become deteriorating across the country as per their course of utter devastation. Likewise, their move is also to motivate the PDF terrorists who are totally hopeless without direction as well as their supporters, to encourage the acts of terrorism, and to collect money from domestic and foreign donors on the pretext of supporting PDF.**

Particularly, they are waging psychological warfare so as to depict that the country is in imminent danger of being a failed State since the incumbent SAC Government cannot govern the country. Moreover, other additional intents are to defame the image of the Tatmadaw, make people have misleading impressions on the Tatmadaw, cause dissension between people and the Tatmadaw, and demoralize the security forces. As the worst thing, they are attempting to drive home to the public the message of fear saying 'they will get killed if they do not support them' by killing the innocent people, civil and public servants, and even Buddhist monks and nuns.

Hence, we all must respond and fight against such warfare by the strength of the Tatmadaw and the people in unity. The people are also conscientiously required to fully prevent the fake news and misinformation from spreading because such kinds of news reports are created to cause dissents between the Tatmadaw and people, and among people as well.

People need to take heed of the point that media of nation-destruction and local and foreign destructionists are broadly spreading and sharing such fake news and disinformation on their social networks while the masterminds behind are attempting to disseminate such news reports among the public more by using money and manpower. Like the Phoenix Program run by US in Vietnam War, the violent acts and forms of psychological are found to be jointly practiced while other approaches like Chieu Hoi Program are also exercised aiming at the defections of security force members.

The reason behind such acts is very dangerous for the country. The unscrupulous people, who want to create instabilities and unrests in Myanmar, are providing financial, manpower and technological assistances to the ones who will implement their strategic interests because the country will disintegrate provided that the Tatmadaw institution becomes broken up. According to the current political situation, they are attempting not only to destroy the Nation's interests following dissensions among people, but also to emerge a government that can be easily manipulated by them. Their psychological warfare will not end soon as they are waging it as a prolonged war until the Tatmadaw institution breaks up; dissensions break out between people and the Tatmadaw; and a government they can manipulate comes to power. Hence, we all must respond and fight against such warfare by the strength of the Tatmadaw and the people in unity. The people are also conscientiously required to fully prevent the fake news and misinformation from spreading because such kinds of news reports are created to cause dissents between the Tatmadaw and people, and among people as well.

Therefore, I'd like to urge the entire people to join hands together with the Tatmadaw with full nationalism and patriotism for the State's peace, stability and development after rationally reviewing the acts of propaganda and psychological warfare that is using the media as a weapon by describing fake news and disinformation.

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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Temporary power outage occurs due to relocation of unsafe power lines during construction of Yangon-Pathein highway

THE 33kV Hlinethaya-Hlinethaya (1, 2) Feeder, funded by the Yangon Region Government, is being constructed in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon North District, from 6:00 am to 9:00 am on 13 May to replace the unsaved power lines while expanding the Yangon-Pathein highway.

The Yangon Electric Power Corporation has announced that 33kV Nawade + Shwe Thanlwin Feeder will be temporarily shut down from 9 am to 1 pm on 15 May.

During the temporary shutdown, limited power outages will occur in some parts of Hlinethaya (East) and Hlinethaya (West) townships, but there will be no power outages in important areas, officials said.

In addition, the Yangon City Development Committee performed the cutting and clearing of branches adjacent to the 33kV power line provided by the Department of Engineering (Water and Sanitation) to the Lagunbyin Water Supply Project yesterday.

Repair work underway at the substation in Hlinethaya.

Officials have also arranged 33kV Hlinethaya West Joint Office to get backup power and 33kV Hlinethaya-Kungyangon power line forAuto Recloser installation.

Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Hlegu Township, Hlinethaya Township (East), Hlinethaya Township (West) and Kungyangon Township faced temporary power outrages from 10 am to 2 pm on 12 May. — TWA/GNLM

## Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma 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*

## Students must sit placement tests to relocate to international/private schools in the 3rd week of May: Ministry of Education

STUDENTS who want to relocate to international and private schools must sit placement tests in the third week of May, according to the Ministry of Education.

When applying for the placement test, students must take the test for a lower class than the class they intend to attend. The test will include subjects according to the curriculum set by the Ministry of Education for each level. The level and the age of the student must be appropriate, and the original school recommendation or school certificate, original and a copy of the birth certificate must be presented.

Those who want to sit the placement test can contact the State/Region Education Departments where the application is issued for the schedule and details of the test from 25 to 28 May. — TWA/GNLM

## 233 Myanmar nationals arrested for entering Thailand illegally

THAI authorities have arrested 233 Myanmar illegal immigrants in Prachuap Khiri Khan province and Kanchanaburi province, according to their yesterday's announcement.

On 10 and 11 May, a total of 158 Myanmar nationals, including 89 men and 69 women, were arrested in three districts in Thailand.

A total of 75 Myanmar people including 39 male workers, 36 female workers and 10 guides were arrested in seven places in five other provinces.

The detainees were from Bago, Dawei, Mandalay, Yangon, Myeik, Magway and Mawlamyine Townships and had to pay between 20,000 and 25,000 baht to enter Thailand. No suspects were found to be infected with the COVID-19 virus.

On 6 May, Thai Police and Special Forces found a 35-year-old Myanmar man dead with gunshot wounds at the back and head on a Thai highway.

Two other Myanmar men and one woman were shot near the scene, and four Myanmar men and six women were found hiding nearby.

According to investigators, they entered Thailand illegally, fell into a car to cross a checkpoint and were shot while driving at high speed.

Thai authorities have arrested a 51-year-old gunman responsible for local administration, according to the announcement on 8 May. — TWA/GNLM

PANDEMIC WORLD

# North Korea declares Covid-19 'severe emergency': state media

NORTH Korea on Thursday confirmed its first-ever case of Covid-19, with state media declaring it a "severe national emergency incident" after more than two years of purportedly keeping the pandemic at bay.

The official KCNA news agency said samples taken from patients sick with fever in Pyongyang on Sunday were "consistent with" the virus' highly transmissible Omicron variant. The country's top officials, including leader Kim Jong Un, held a crisis politburo meeting to discuss the outbreak and announced they would implement a "maximum emergency" virus control system.

KCNA said Kim told the meeting that "the goal was to eliminate the root within the shortest period of time."

"He assured us that because of the people's high political awareness … we will surely overcome the emergency and win the emergency quarantine project," it said.

Kim called for tighter border controls and lockdown measures, telling citizens "to completely block the spread of the malicious virus by thoroughly blocking their areas in all cities and counties across the country", KCNA said.

All business and production activities will be organized so each work unit is "isolated" to prevent the spread of disease, it added.

The impoverished nuclear-armed nation has been behind a rigid self-imposed coronavirus blockade since early 2020 to protect itself from the pandemic, with the economy suffering and trade all but stopped.

North Korea had not confirmed a single case of coronavirus until Thursday.—AFP

Employees spray disinfectant as part of preventative measures against the Covid-19 coronavirus at the Pyongyang Children's Department Store in Pyongyang on 18 March 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 10% suffer COVID-19 aftereffects 1 yr after discharge: survey

AROUND 10 per cent of people admitted to hospitals due to coronavirus symptoms continued to suffer from aftereffects a year after they were discharged, a recent survey compiled by a health ministry research group showed.

The most prevalent lingering symptom was reduced muscle strength at 7.4 per cent, followed by difficulty in breathing at 4.4 per cent and lethargy at 3.5 per cent, according to the survey.

Individuals experiencing a lost or altered sense of smell accounted for 1.6 per cent, while those with altered taste were recorded at 1.0 per cent. Some people suffered from multiple symptoms.

The survey covered 693 people with moderate or severe COVID-19 symptoms who were admitted to hospitals between September 2020 and July 2021. Individuals who continued to consult medical facilities about symptoms that appeared to be aftereffects one year after being discharged stood at 9.8 per cent.

While the rate of people complaining about lingering symptoms is declining with the passing of time, aftereffects "remain in some," said Akihito Yokoyama, leader of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare group.— Kyodo

### Rapid scale-up of COVID-19 vaccination delivers greater health benefits

EARLIER start dates and rapid scale-up of COVID-19 vaccination delivered greater health benefits in terms of hospitalizations and deaths averted, and were more cost-effective in Africa, a newly published study by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention has disclosed.

The newly released study incorporated the results of a 27-country analysis on the health and economic impact of COVID-19 vaccination.

The analysis finds that the scale-up speed, a focus on at-risk populations and the choice of COVID-19 vaccine brands are critical to structuring successful programmes in the African context.

The benefits of COVID-19 vaccines vary widely depending on the pace of roll-out, the population targeted, and the type of vaccines used in the campaigns, the research found.

The analysis also drew on research from Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia and South Africa.—Xinhua

# US to limit next-generation COVID-19 vaccines to high-risk people without more funding: report

THE United States will have to limit the next generation of COVID-19 vaccines this fall to individuals at the highest risk of getting seriously sick from the virus if Congress fails to approve funding to purchase the new shots, reported CNBC on Monday.

The national broadcaster cited an official source as warning that the country faces a substantial surge of COVID-19 infections this fall as immunity from the current vaccines wanes and the Omicron variant mutates into more transmissible subvariants, and more money is needed for next-generation vaccines.

A healthcare worker wearing face mask prepares a dose of vaccine at a pop-up vaccination site in Los Angeles, California, the United States, 15 December 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Pfizer and Moderna are developing redesigned vaccines that target the Omicron variant's mutations to boost protection against infection. As the virus has evolved over the past two years, the current shots have become less effective at preventing mild illness, though they generally still protect against severe disease.

The Food and Drug Administration is expected to make a decision by early summer at the latest on whether the country should switch to the redesigned shots for a fall vaccination campaign, with its advisory committee set to hold a meeting on 28 June to discuss the issue, according to the report.

"However, the United States currently does not have enough money to purchase the new shots for everybody" in the country ahead of the fall, and the US Senate has failed so far to pass 10 billion US dollars in additional COVID-19 funding for vaccines, therapeutics and testing, it added. — Xinhua

# WHO says China's zero-Covid strategy unsustainable

CHINA'S zero-Covid strategy to defeat the pandemic is not sustainable, the World Health Organization's chief said Tuesday, adding that the WHO had told Beijing so.

Draconian measures have trapped most of Shanghai's 25 million people at home for weeks as China combats the country's worst outbreak since the pandemic began.

Yet the Shanghai lockdown has intensified, causing outrage and rare protest in the last major economy still glued to a zero-Covid policy. "When we talk about the zero-Covid strategy, we don't think that it's sustainable, considering the behaviour of the virus now and what we anticipate in the future," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a press conference.

"We have discussed about this issue with Chinese experts and we indicated that the approach will not be sustainable and considering the behaviour of the virus, I think a shift would be very important."—AFP

# ECONOMY
## WORLD

# Biden says "discussing" whether to drop hiked tariffs on Chinese products

US President Joe Biden on Tuesday said the administration is discussing whether to drop the additional tariffs on Chinese imports imposed during the Trump administration, while noting that no decision has been made.

"We're discussing that right now. We're looking at what would have the most positive impact," Biden said in response to a question after making remarks on inflation at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

Following Biden's remarks, outgoing White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said at a press briefing that the US government has already announced some tariff exclusions back in March, and it has been an "ongoing review."

"We are continuing to review where it would be advantageous to take steps that would help reduce wages — or increase wages and help certain industries that are impacted by these tariffs in a way that we don't feel is effective," Psaki told reporters. "There will be more and he's (Biden's) continuing to weigh them," Psaki said, adding that US Trade Representative Katherine Tai is leading that effort. Biden's remarks followed recent statements by Deputy National Security Adviser Daleep Singh and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, who spoke about potential easing of tariffs on Chinese goods in late April. Such voices came as the United States is experiencing the highest inflation in four decades. The March consumer price index (CPI) surged 8.5 per cent from a year earlier, the largest 12-month increase since the period ending December 1981, according to data from the US Labour Department. The April CPI, set to be released on Wednesday, is expected to remain elevated.— AFP

Workers stock the shelves at a Home Depot store in Passaic, New Jersey, the United States, 14 August 2018. **PHOTO: IC/XINHUA**

# Germany's inflation reaches all-time high at 7.4 pct in April

A man fuels a vehicle at a gas station in Berlin, capital of Germany, on 11 May 2022. Germany's inflation rate in April rose to 7.4 per cent amid soaring energy prices, according to confirmed figures published by the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) on Wednesday. **PHOTO: STEFAN ZEITZ/XINHUA**

GERMANY'S inflation rate in April rose to 7.4 per cent amid soaring energy prices, according to confirmed figures published by the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) on Wednesday.

"The inflation rate reached an all-time high for the second month in a row since German reunification," said Georg Thiel, president of Destatis.

A similarly high inflation rate was last recorded in Germany in autumn 1981 when mineral oil prices had sharply increased as a consequence of the war between Iraq and Iran. Prices of heating oil in April nearly doubled year-on-year, according to Destatis. Marked price increases were also recorded for motor fuels and natural gas, up 38.5 and 47.5 per cent respectively. The development of energy prices since the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict had a "substantial impact on the inflation rate," Destatis noted.

Food prices also picked up and rose by 8.6 per cent year-on-year, accelerating significantly from an increase of 6.2 per cent in the previous month, according to Destatis. Prices for edible fats and oils rose particularly sharply at 27.3 per cent.—AFP

## NEWS IN Brief

### S.Korea logs trade deficit in first 10 days of May

SOUTH Korea logged a trade deficit in the first 10 days of this month due to a faster increase in import than export, customs office data showed Wednesday.

The trade deficit reached 3.72 billion US dollars in the 1-10 May period, up from a deficit of 2.21 billion dollars recorded in the same period of last year, according to the Korea Customs Service.

Except for February, the country has posted trade deficits this year amid the faster growth in import.

Export advanced 28.7 per cent from a year earlier to 16.05 billion dollars in the 10-day period in May, while import jumped 34.7 per cent to 19.77 billion dollars.—Xinhua

### Japan books 19.68 bln USD current account surplus in March

JAPAN logged a current account surplus of 2.55 trillion yen (19.68 billion US dollars) in March, the government said in a report on Thursday, with the surplus being in the black for a second straight month. According to the Finance Ministry, the country had a goods trade deficit of 166.1 billion yen (1.28 billion dollars) and a services trade deficit of 127.7 billion yen (985.57 million dollars), among key components in the recording period.—Xinhua

# UK and EU polarized over post-Brexit N.Irish trade rules

THE UK and the EU appeared on a collision course Tuesday over post-Brexit trading arrangements in Northern Ireland, after London branded them unsustainable but European leaders insisted they would not be renegotiated.

It comes as political tensions rise in the UK province after historic elections last week saw pro-Irish nationalists Sinn Fein become the biggest party for the first time and now bid to lead a power-sharing executive.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said in a call with his Irish counterpart Micheal Martin that the so-called Northern Ireland Protocol governing trade there "was not sustainable in its current form".

In the latest threat to take unilateral steps to address the "very serious" situation, he added his government "would take action to protect peace and political stability in Northern Ireland if solutions could not be found".—AFP

Trucks carrying freight from Scotland disembark a ferry at the Port of Larne in County Antrim, Northern Ireland. **PHOTO: AFP**

BIZ WORLD

# Scandinavian Airlines to cancel 4,000 flights this summer

SCANDINAVIAN Airlines (SAS) is set to cancel around 4,000 flights this summer, citing staff shortages and delayed deliveries of aircraft, Swedish financial daily Dagens Industri (DI) reported on Tuesday. The staff shortages are a result of the COVID-19 pandemic since around 5,000 employees were laid off as demand for international and domestic flights plummeted, DI reported.

Karin Nyman from Scandinavian Airlines said that most cancelled flights will be rescheduled for the same day, to avoid leaving passengers stranded.

The news about this summer's cancellations came less than three months after the airline announced it was in financial trouble. An interim financial report released in late February showed the company's earnings before tax stood at a negative 2.6 billion Swedish crowns (about 260 million US dollars) for the period November 2021-January 2022. Compared with the same period in 2019 — before the pandemic struck — total revenues were down 42 per cent. SAS, therefore, announced it would "aggressively pursue reducing costs" by 7.5 billion Swedish crowns annually, by adjusting its fleet and product offerings, among other things. (1 US dollar = 10.06 Swedish crowns)— Xinhua

A man walks into a COVID-19 vaccination centre in Stockholm, capital of Sweden, on 6 May 2021. **PHOTO: WEI XUECHAO/XINHUA**

# Production at all four 3M factories in Shanghai resumed

ALL four factories of the US manufacturing company 3M in Shanghai had resumed production by Saturday, sources with the company said, adding that it will continue improving their production capacity.

Since the resurgence of COVID-19 cases in March in Shanghai, 3M has not suspended its East China Distribution Centre and the production of medical protective masks at its Caohejing base to ensure the stable supply of anti-epidemic materials, the company said.

"3M has received strong support from the governments at all levels in Shanghai," said Ding Hongyu, president of 3M China. "Now, 3M is gathering the strength of the entire company to actively deploy resources, so as to ensure the closed-loop production of epidemic prevention supplies."

People visit the 3M booth during the second China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, east China, on 7 Nov 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA/ FAN PEISHEN**

According to a press conference held on 5 May, over 70 per cent of Shanghai's 1,800-plus major enterprises had resumed work and production as the city's epidemic situation eased.

Key industrial chains such as automobiles, integrated circuits and biomedicine continued to recover and increase production capacity, while leading enterprises have maintained stable production.

On Monday, Shanghai reported 234 confirmed locally transmitted COVID-19 cases and 2,780 local asymptomatic cases, according to the municipal health commission.— Xinhua

# East China's Zhejiang sees robust foreign trade in Jan.-April

THE foreign trade value of eastern China's Zhejiang Province rose 19.3 per cent year on year to 1.43 trillion yuan (about 212.5 billion US dollars) in the first four months of this year, according to Hangzhou Customs on Wednesday. Of the total, exports exceeded one trillion yuan, up 23 per cent year on year, while imports grew by 10 per cent to 381.6 billion yuan.

Statistics show that since March 2020, Zhejiang's foreign trade has maintained year-on-year growth for 26 consecutive months. From January to April, Zhejiang's foreign trade with the top three trading partners, the European Union, the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, registered an increase of 24.1 per cent, 25.6 per cent and 15.9 per cent respectively, accounting for 45 per cent of the province's total.

Meanwhile, the province's imports and exports to the markets of Belt and Road countries and member countries under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership rose by 24.2 per cent and 10.5 per cent, respectively.—Xinhua

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ukraine car cable output close to pre-war levels at Leoni

CAR cable production at Leoni's factories in Ukraine is almost back to normal, the German supplier said Wednesday, after production stoppages caused by the Russian invasion rattled the auto industry.

Output figures from plants in western Ukraine were "approaching pre-war levels again" after a "rapid resumption" of production following the outbreak of the war at the end of February, Leoni said in a statement.

Ukraine is the main European supplier of the wiring harnesses that run through cars and act as a sort of central nervous system for the vehicle.

The Russian invasion and the disruption to supplies of the key part led to production stops among Europe's top auto manufacturers.– AFP

### Russia car sales sink 78.5% in April

NEW car sales in Russia sank by over 78 per cent in April, industry data showed Wednesday, after the country was hit by a barrage of sanctions over Moscow's military campaign in Ukraine.

Only 32,706 units were sold in April, according to the Association of European Businesses.

This was down 78.5 per cent from the same month in 2021 and followed a 60-per-cent drop in March.

The fall comes on the heels of Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to send troops into Ukraine on 24 February.

Sales of the country's most popular and affordable brand, Lada, whose Avtovaz manufacturer is majority-owned by the Nissan-Renault group, fell 78 per cent.– AFP

### Philip Morris offers US$16 bn for Swedish smokeless tobacco firm

MARLBORO-maker Philip Morris International said Wednesday it offered $16 billion to acquire smokeless tobacco company Swedish Match as the US group aims to move away from its traditional cigarette business.

The board of Swedish Match recommended that its shareholders accept the bid of 106 Swedish kronor per share, nearly 40 per cent above its closing share price on Monday, the companies said in separate statements.

The deal would total 161.2 billion Swedish kronor (15 billion euros).–AFP

# GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Tom Cruise will appear at Cannes for the first time in 30 years. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Cannes marks its 75th year in nostalgic form

FROM Maverick to Bowie to Elvis, the Cannes Film Festival launches its 75th-anniversary edition on Tuesday with a roster full of icons from the last century.

The world's foremost film festival always tries to strike a balance between serious arthouse fare and popcorn-guzzling entertainment. It has scored some big crowd-pleasers for its diamond jubilee, with Tom Cruise coming to the French Riviera for the European launch of "Top Gun: Maverick", the sequel to his era-defining mega-hit from 1986.

Music legends will feature prominently, with flamboyant Australian director Baz Luhrmann screening his biopic "Elvis" along with new documentaries about David Bowie ("Moonage Daydream") and rock'n'roller Jerry Lee Lewis ("Trouble in Mind" by one-half of the Coen brothers, Ethan Coen). While those are all playing outside the main competition, there are also iconic names in the race for the top prize Palme d'Or, not least Canadian horror maestro David Cronenberg. The 79-year-old returns to his body-horror (dis)comfort zone with "Crimes of the Future", in which Kristen Stewart, Lea Seydoux and Viggo Mortensen turn gruesome surgical alterations into a sexualised performance art.—AFP

## In Kyiv, boxing gyms offer chance to ease war stress

THE sound of hip hop mixes with the dull thud of fists walloping heavy bags as a group of Ukrainian boxers unleash combinations, burning off weeks of pent up stress.

"With the curfew in the city and restrictions on movement, we needed some place to blow off steam and discharge emotional tension," said Oleksandr, a 38-year-old employee of the International Red Cross in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv who did not give his family name.

"Naturally, this helps a lot," he added after wrapping up a workout involving pad work, running and several rounds hammering away at a punching bag.

Weeks after Russian forces retreated from Kyiv's suburbs, the city is slowly returning to life, where nearly two-thirds of the capital's residents have returned following the outbreak of the war.

Restaurants are reopening and pavement cafes are once again attracting customers with the arrival of a late spring, where many appear to be ignoring the occasional air raid sirens echoing through the city.

Gyms have also begun to reopen, among them the All Stars Boxing Club in downtown Kyiv.

At All Stars, trainers put boxing enthusiasts, fitness fanatics, and newcomers through their paces -- jumping rope, doing crunches and sparring.

For the past two decades, Ukraine has maintained a dominant presence in the boxing world, with their fighters gaining a reputation for speed, movement, and fighting IQ -- skills that also appear to have been adopted on the battlefield.—AFP

An amateur boxer trains at the All Stars Boxing Club in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv on Tuesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Iran archaeologists oppose bill allowing antiquities trade

IRANIAN archaeology professors have published an open letter calling on parliament to step back from a draft law that would allow trade in antiquities, Iranian media reported Wednesday.

"A group of archaeology professors from across the country called for the withdrawal of a bill that would allow the trade of ancient artefacts," the ISNA news agency reported. According to the news agency, 46 out of 290 MPs proposed the draft law earlier this week, dubbed the "optimal utilization of ancient objects and treasures".

Lawmakers said they hope to turn Iran into a "regional centre" for antiquities trade, aiming to prevent the "cheap smuggling of national heritage", ISNA said, citing the text of the draft.

Iranian media regularly report arrests of individuals accused of smuggling artefacts out of the country. In their letter, the professors strongly criticized the MPs for proposing the bill "without any consultation with official archaeological institutions".—AFP

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Victims of Florida condo collapse reach $997 mn settlement

SURVIVORS and families of people who died in last year's collapse of a beachfront condo building near Miami have reached a settlement of at least $997 million, a lawyer for the plaintiffs said Wednesday.

"The settlement right now is $997 million. There will be approximately another hundred million dollars that we will recover for the victims," said attorney Carlos Silva.

Part of Champlain Towers South, a 12-story building built in 1981 in Surfside, a town north of Miami Beach, came tumbling down on June 24, 2021 as dozens of residents slept inside.

Except for a teenager rescued hours after the tower collapsed, search crews found no survivors in the rubble and soon focused on recovering human remains.

A total of 98 people died in the collapse, with the last body identified nearly a month later.

A final report on the causes of the collapse has not yet been issued, although preliminary findings showed some of the building's structure appeared degraded.—AFP

### Somalia registers record 39 candidates for presidential vote

SOMALIA has registered a record 39 candidates for the presidential elections on 15 May, a parliamentary committee tasked with organizing the long-delayed polls in the fragile Horn of Africa nation said Tuesday.

The election is well over a year behind schedule, marred by deadly violence and a power struggle between President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, better known as Farmajo, and Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble.

Lawmakers and senators will choose the next head of state inside Mogadishu's heavily-guarded airport complex in the country battling a decade-long Islamist insurgency.

The candidates include two previous presidents, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud (2012-2017) and Sharif Sheikh Ahmed (2009-2012) as well as former prime minister, Hassan Ali Khaire (2017-2020). Puntland region president Said Abdullahi Dani and a former foreign minister who also served as deputy minister, Fawzia Yusuf Adan (2012-2014) are also among those who have registered their candidacy. The winning candidate must secure the backing of two-thirds of the deputies and senators, which means a minimum of 184 votes.—AFP

# SPORT

## SEA Games Billiards Tournament to start on 14 May

Myanmar Snooker Player Aung Phyo. **PHOTO: KO ZAW**

BILLIARDS Tournament for the 31st SEA Games will be launched on 14 May.

There will be ten events in the tournament featuring Billiard, Snooker, Pool and Carom.

The Myanmar Billiards Team will compete in only six events, with five players.

Myanmar Billiards Team will compete in Billiards Individual Tournament, Billiard Double Tournament, Snooker Individual Tournament, Snooker 6 Reds Tournament, Pool 9 Ball Men's Individual Tournament, and Pool 10 Ball men's singles event.

Pauk Sa, and Min Sithu Tun will represent the Myanmar Billiard Team while Aung Phyo, and Win Ko Ko will compete in the Snooker event.

Thaw Zin Htet will compete in the Pool Event.

Billiard Player Min Si Thu Tun and Pauk Sa will compete in both singles and doubles events. Aung Phyo and Win Ko Ko will compete in the Snooker 6 Reds Tournament.

Pool player Thaw Zin Htet will compete in Pool 9 Ball Men's Individual Tournament, and Pool 10 Ball men's singles.

The Myanmar Billiards Team won two gold, one silver and three bronze medals at the 2019 SEA Games. – Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

## Asia's biggest tennis court complex opens in Bac Ninh, ready for SEA Games 31

TENNIS COURT complex Hanaka Paris Ocean Park, a venue for SEA Games 31 competitions in the northern province of Bac Ninh, has been named Asia's biggest complex of its kind located in an urban area by the Asia Book of Records, according to the Organising Committee for SEA Games 31. The 10-ha complex was officially inaugurated by its developer Hanaka Group JSC on May 10 evening. It was built in six months at a total cost of 120 billion VND (nearly 5.2 million USD).

The main court has a capacity of 3,000, a floor area of 4,348 square meters and a height of 22.34 meters. **PHOTO: VNA**

Located in Hanaka Paris Ocean Park in Tu Son city, the complex has seven international-standard tennis courts, including one main covered tennis court and six outdoor tennis courts with a total capacity of over 5,000 seats.

The 3,000-seat main tennis court covers a floor area of 4,348 sq.m and has a height of 22.34m while the outdoor courts are built on a ground of 920 sq.m each.

The main tennis court is equipped with retractable roof and hawk-eye systems, capable of hosting national and international tournaments meeting the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) standards.

Tennis player Ly Hoang Nam, a Vietnamese medal hopeful, and his teammates have gathered at the complex for training and practicing for SEA Games 31. Tennis competitions will take place from May 13-22.—VNA

## Kurash athletes secure two more gold for Viet Nam

THE Vietnamese kurash team won two more gold medals on May 11, the second day of the event's competition, at the 31st Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games 31), exceeding the target of five golds.

In addition to the two golds, kurash athletes clinched two silver and two bronze medals.

Le Cong Hoang Hai won a gold medal in the men›s under-60 kg category, while his teammate Le Duc Dong took a gold in the men's under-66 kg category at Hoai Duc Gymnasium in Hanoi's Hoai Duc district.

This is the first gold medal of Le Cong Hoang Hai as he attended the regional sports event for the first time, while Le Duc Dong successfully defended the gold medal he had won at the previous games in the Philippines.

The Vietnamese kurash athletes won four kurash gold medals on May 10.—VNA

Le Cong Hoang Hai wins a gold medal in the men's under-60 kg category on May 11, the second day of competitions of Kurash, at SEA Games 31. **PHOTO: VNA**

## Malaysia likely to advance to men's football semi-finals

GROUP B matches in the men's football of the ongoing SEA Games 31 took place in Thien Truong Stadium of Nam Dinh northern province on 11 May. Malaysia defeated Laos 3-1 and gained a major chance to qualify for semi-finals with two victories. Their Lao rivals had only one point.

Malaysia's No 16 Muhamad Syahir Bin Bashah scores the second goal for his team. **PHOTO: VNA**

Bin Shamsudin opened the score for Malaysia in the 35th minute and Muhamad Bin Bashad doubled its lead only eight minutes later.

Bin Shamsudin fired again to raise the score to 3-0 for Malaysia in the 69th minute.

Phitthack Kongmathilath sealed a consolation goal for Laos five minute before the final whistle. On the same day, Singapore obtained a 1-0 win over Cambodia.

Before the kick-off, Singapore had only one point after two games while Cambodia got three with their 4-1 victory over Laos in their first match.—VNA

# SPORT

**GLOBAL AFFAIRS**

In Kyiv, boxing gyms offer chance to ease war stress

PAGE-14

## 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 inves tment 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.

# 3rd Batch of Myanmar sports team leaves for Viet Nam to compete in SEA Games

THE third batch of the Myanmar sports team left Yangon International Airport at 8 pm yesterday to compete in the 31st Southeast Asian Games to be held from 12 to 23 May in Hanoi, Viet Nam and other related cities.

The sports team was seen off by Yangon Region Development Minister Mayor U Bo Htay, Chairman of the Yangon Region Sports and Physical Education Committee and Region Attorney-General U Htay Aung and officials from the Department of Sports and Physical Education.

Eight male and four female golfers, three male and seven female athletes for Petanque Event, 11 male and one female for Fitness and Physique Contest, 15 male and 10 female athletes for Sepak Takraw, 28 male athletes for Esports, seven male athletes for Billiard and Snooker event, ten male and nine female athletes for track and field contest, 11 male athletes and seven female athletes for Archery event and Myanmar international referees are included in the sports team.

In turn, the fourth batch of the sports team will leave for Viet Nam on 13 May, the fifth batch on 16 May, and the sixth batch on 20 May by Myanma Airlines charter flights from Yangon International Airport. —MNA

# 31st SEA Games opened in Viet Nam

THE opening ceremony of the 31st SEA Games, hosted by Viet Nam, took place on 12 May at My Dinh Stadium in Hanoi.

The opening ceremony featured traditional dances from the host country, followed by sport teams from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and the host Viet Nam entering the field.

After that, the flag of the SEA Games Federation; The SEA Games flag was hoisted and opened by Vietnamese President Nguyen Xuan Phuc. Athletes from Viet Nam then carry the SEA Games torch relay to the designated spot.

The 31st SEA Games will be held from 12 to 23 May, and some sports will be held from 6 May. More than 5,400 athletes from 11 Southeast Asian countries are competing in the event.

The competition includes 40 sports and a total of 526 gold medals will be awarded. The Myanmar sports team have win one gold, one silver and one bronze medal at the tourney. —Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Myanmar sport team enters the SEA Games Opening Ceremony at the My Dinh Stadium in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 12 May 2022. **PHOTO: VNA**

## SEA Games Football: Myanmar Men and Women teams' matches to be played today

THE Group matches of the SEA Games will be played today and there will be two important Myanmar matches to advance to the semi-finals.

Myanmar men's national football team will take on Viet Nam at 6:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time and the Philippines team will play against the Indonesia team at 3:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

The Myanmar team's hopes of reaching the semi-finals can only be sustained if the Myanmar team holds at least a draw or win against Viet Nam.

Viet Nam beat Indonesia 0-0 in the first leg but unexpectedly drew with the Philippines to advance to the semi-finals.

Likewise, Group B matches of the 31st SEA Games Women's Football Tournament will continue today and the match between Myanmar and Thailand is important for the first place in the group.

In Group B, only Myanmar and Thailand are almost certain to reach the semi-finals.

Myanmar will play against Thailand at 6:30 pm and Singapore will take on Laos at 3:30 pm of Myanmar Standard Time. —Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM