

Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

New Cultural Museum to illustrate heritage, daily lifestyle of Rawang ethnics

UNDER the close supervision of the Kachin State government, the new Rawang cultural museum built with the fund of the Union National Disaster Management in the 2019-2021 financial year was inaugurated in the Rawang National Park in Duttan Ward of PotaO, Kachin State, on the morning of 16 May.

The new museum aims to display traditional cultural heritage and customs of Rawang ethnics in PotaO Township.

Patron of Myanmar Rawang Literature and Culture Association U Rei Dam Tang, Chairman U Hton Phu Dagon and officials cut the ribbon to open the museum archway.

Household utensils and equipment made of stone, wood and bamboo of Rawang ethnics, musical instruments, costumes and lifestyle, weapons used in hunting, ethnically traditional loom and precious herbal plants from the snow-capped mountains are displayed in the museum.

Local authorities and ethnic people joyfully enjoyed the Azeelam traditional dance of Rawang ethnics in commemoration of the opening of the museum in the Manaw Post Ground.

On the occasion, the Chief



Local authorities and ethnic people joyfully enjoyed the Azeelam traditional dance of Rawang ethnics in commemoration of the opening of the museum in the Manaw Post Ground.

Minister of Kachin State said roads are under construction to Khaunglanphu, Sheinkhaung, Nagmon-Pannandin region and Phonkanrazi snow-capped hilly areas as well as the circular road of PutaO plain for ensuring better transportation with the aim of developing the tourism industry based on scenic beauties of PutaO region, **SEE PAGE-4**

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Re-invitation for basic education staff who are absent from duty

THE State Administration Council is implementing nine objectives, including a social goal of national health and higher education, and is working hard to restore education to the next generation of young people in order to develop the nation's human resources.

For the education of the new generation, basic education schools across the country were reopened on 1-11-2021, and higher education universities/colleges were reopened on 12-5-2022. Basic education schools for the 2022-2023 Academic Year will be reopened on 2-6-2022.

Basic education is very important in the education of the new generation of young people who will be the leaders of the future. So those students can learn fully and to make the teachers/students ratio balance, experienced teachers are needed.

In order to resume their teaching duties for the next generations, teachers and educators who have been away from their duties due to intimidation, participation in peaceful protest, or worry, and teachers and educators who have been prosecuted under staff discipline are informed to report to the relevant Township Education Offices where the schools are located or the nearest Township Education Offices in their current area of residence to file an appeal voluntarily by 31-5-2022.

Among the basic education staff who are absent from duty due to various reasons, those who are absent without leave due to various reasons, those under the investigation, and those who file an appeal, shall be considered as unpaid leave for the period of non-duty and will be re-employed except for those who have committed serious crimes.

State Administration Council
Information Team

Reference wholesale prices for Union territory, Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay and reference retail prices for cities of regions and states

18-5-2022Kyat/Litre

Fuel (Retail Price)	Yangon	Mandalay	Nay Pyi Taw	Bago	Magway	Dawei	Monywa	Patheingyi	Myittha	Sittoung	Hpa-an	Mawlaikine	Lashio	Taungtha	Loileik	Haka	Kengtung
92 Ron	2,180	2,225	2,220	2,185	2,220	2,245	2,230	2,210	2,305	2,320	2,215	2,225	2,260	2,260	2,260	2,480	2,430
95 Ron	2,235	2,280	2,280	2,240	2,280	2,300	2,285	2,265	2,360	2,375	2,270	2,290	2,315	2,315	2,320	2,535	2,605
HSD (500 ppm)	2,200	2,245	2,240	2,205	2,245	2,265	2,260	2,230	2,345	2,340	2,235	2,245	2,280	2,280	2,285	2,500	2,690
HSD (50 ppm)	2,225	2,275	2,270	2,235	2,270	2,295	2,290	2,260	2,375	2,370	2,265	2,275	2,310	2,310	2,310	2,530	2,725
HSD (10 ppm)	2,225	2,275	2,270	2,235	2,270	2,295	2,290	2,290	2,260	2,375	2,370	2,265	2,275	2,310	2,310	2,310	2,725

Fuel (Wholesale Price)	Yangon	Mandalay
92 Ron	2,074	2,149
95 Ron	2,129	2,205
HSD (500 ppm)	2,095	2,166
HSD (50 ppm)	2,122	2,194
HSD (10 ppm)	2,122	2,194

Remarks: (1) It's calculation is based on MOPS price.
(2) If people are not satisfied with purchase of fuel, they may safely send complaints to telephone numbers of the committee as follows: -
067-409881 and 09-699611116, 067-411129, 09-440433533
Fuel Import, Storage and Distribution Supervisory Committee



An annual meeting of the Pyay Township Writers' Association in progress.

Pyay Township Writers' Association holds its annual meeting

AN annual meeting of the Pyay Township Writers' Association of Bago Region was held at 9 am on 17 May in Pyay Township.

In the meeting, Pyay Township Writers' Association Member U Aung Myint (Aung-Chemistry) served as the master of ceremonies and Dr Yin Wai Lwin (Yin Wai Lwin-Pyay) gave the opening speech.

Afterwards, members elected the Pyay Township Writers' Association Executive Committee members.

Chairman of the Pyay Township Writers' Association Dr Yin Wai Lwin, members of the township writers' association, special invitees, and new generation literary enthusiasts attended the ceremony. — Maung Shwe Win (Pyay)/GNLM

24 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 17 May, total figure rises to 613,168

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,168** after **24** new cases were reported on 17 May 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,123** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.— MNA

We will have to continue to consolidate the strength of the national unity in the future also

AS for the country which is a heterogeneous society, historical lessons have taught us that only the national unity can ensure the non-disintegration of the Union and the perpetuation of sovereignty. We will have to continue to consolidate the strength of the national unity in the future also.

(Excerpt from the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing on occasion of 74th Anniversary Union Day on 12 February 2021)

State Administration Council’s Information Team to hold press conference 14/2022

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold a press conference (14/2022) at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in

Nay Pyi Taw at 1:00 pm on 19 May. Local and foreign media personnel are invited to the press conference, it is learnt. — MNA

14th Press Conference of Information Team to be broadcast live on 19 May

THE 14th press conference of the Information Team of the State Administration Council will be broadcast live on MRTV HD, MRTV News, MWD, MWD

Variety, MITV, MOI Website, MOI YouTube, MRTV Website and aired live on Radio Myanmar, Thazin FM, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe

FM, Padamyar FM, FM Bagan and Cherry FM starting from 1:00 pm on 19 May, at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information. — MNA

Local guides urged to provide accurate information, good services to tourists: MoHT Union Minister

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung instructed that it is important to have accurate information and good services when it comes to providing services to tourists. He made this remark during a meeting with locals attending the awareness-raising seminar for guiding domestic tourists, conducted at Thiri Pyitsaya Sakura Hotel on 16 May.

He said there are more than 3,800 ancient pagodas in Bagan, and local and international tourists are interested in visiting Bagan because of its architectural works, design, and mural paintings. Especially domestic tourists mainly visit significant pagodas

and they are guided by the locals who explain the history of the pagoda, he continued. He said he believed the attendees will provide services well by applying the facts such as a warm welcome to guests, placement, explanation, and adding the need to promote local-made products.

The five-day awareness-raising seminar was attended by 147 local people, and Union Minister Dr Htay Aung handed over certificates to those who completed the awareness-raising seminar. A total of 51,921 domestic pilgrims visited Bagan in February, according to the Department of Hotels and Tourism (Bagan Branch). — Htun Htun/GNLM



Ministries emphasize implementing AITSC’s meeting decisions

THE Ministry of Planning and Finance held the coordination meeting to discuss the timing

of the deployment of personnel to be sent to regional camps and checkpoints to engage in

anti-trafficking activities yesterday, under the decision of the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering

Committee’s meeting (2/2022).

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win, the permanent secretaries from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Deputy Chief of Police of the Myanmar Police Force, and the deputy directors-general of the Ministry of Defence, the Directorate of Road Transport Administra-

tion, the Customs Department, the Immigration Department, and the Office of the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee.

At the meeting, the deputy minister called on participants to discuss the timing of the deployment of staff from various departments to regional camps and checkpoints in order to effectively combat the illegal trade, and the steps to be taken. The participants provided suggestions on the deployment and the timing. — MNA



MoI Deputy Minister inspects IPRD work processes in Taninthayi Region

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint met department head and staff of the Kyunsu Township IPRD in Myeik Township yesterday.

On 16 May, he inspected the MRTV retransmission station of Myeik Township and called for the need to ensure continuous broadcasting, systematic maintenance of machines and preparations for natural disasters.

He then went to the Myeik sub-printing house and gave proper directives.

At noon, he visited the district public library of Myeik IPRD and greeted book borrowers and student readers in the kids' reading room.

Then, he met the district head, staff, and departmental heads of Taninthayi, Pulaw and Palauk townships, in-charge persons of the retransmission station and the Myeik sub-printing house and pointed out the main duties of the ministry and other matters.

IPRD heads of relevant townships of the Taninthayi Region joined the meeting via videoconferencing. — MNA



New Cultural Museum to illustrate heritage, daily lifestyle of Rawang ...

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urging the ethnic people to participate in respective sectors for the development of the region.

At the opening ceremony, leaders of local ethnic groups reported on requirements to the Chief Minister who fulfilled the needs in coordination with the departmental officials.

As the old museum building is damaged, cultural heritage in the museum may face losses. Hence, the government allotted K397.247 million in the 2019-20 financial year in order to construct the new steel structure with 100 feet in length and 50 feet in width.

Moreover, the Kachin State government provided K30 million for putting various kinds of traditional cultural heritage on display.

Rawang is mostly residing in PutaO, Machanbaw, Nagmon, Kawnglangphu, and Panandin townships. —Kachin State IPRD/GNLM



Public Notification

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

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

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

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

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

Capturing, trading, exporting, and stocking alive aquatic animals banned for certain period



Myanmar exports fishery products to more than 40 countries, including the Middle East, with China and Thailand being the main exporters.

A period has been set to ban the capturing, trading, exporting, and stocking of some aquatic animals, and the violation will be prosecuted under the existing law, according to a statement from the Department of Fisheries.

The statement said the stocking period for lobster, shrimp, and mottled eel (*Anguilla nebulosa*) was set from 1 July to 31 August; from 1 July to 30 September for Rockfish; from 1 May to 31 July for all

kinds of freshwater fish; from 1 June to 31 August for sea shrimps. It is not allowed to engage in capturing, trading, exporting, and stocking activities.

The purpose is to increase fish/shrimp production in the freshwater/saltwater areas in the country, prevent the extinction of fish/shrimp species, promote the long-term sustainability of good and pure species and conserve the fish resources.

Notices and directives have

been issued annually, setting a period of not fishing during the mating and breeding season of aquatic animals in the Myanmar sea.

Myanmar exports fishery products to more than 40 countries, including the Middle East, with China and Thailand being the main exporters. Until April this year, more than 30,000 tonnes of shrimp were exported, earning US\$49.9 million, according to the Department of Fisheries. — TWA/GNLM

Multi-traffic control teams rehearse to take action against unruly vehicles

MULTI-TRAFFIC control teams conducted a rehearsal to take action against unruly motor vehicles that drive through the red light.

Combined teams consisting of the Yangon City Development Committee, staff of the Engineering Department (Road and Bridge), members of the traffic control police, and security personnel, participated in the rehearsal since YBS buses, taxis and private vehicles often drive through the red light in Yangon Region.

During the rehearsal, they waited at the Hanthawady roundabout, U Wisara roundabout, the corner of Pyay road

and Min Ye Kyaw Swar traffic light, Ahlon road traffic lights and Pyay junction traffic lights, and could prevent the vehicles from driving through the red light.

Awareness-raising activities will be increased so that the people drive vehicles in a disciplined manner and reduce traffic accidents within the Yangon City municipal area, and in the future, mobile applications, websites and online pages will be available for timely notification of violations to vehicle owners and drivers, as well as it will be broadcast on newspapers, radio, and television. — TWA/GNLM



Pork and chicken prices surge due to raw materials, transport costs



THE prices of pork and chicken have risen due to the increased costs of raw materials and transport. The pork price has risen from under K10,000 per viss to between K12,000 and K18,000 per viss in the market. If traders come and pick up the pork at the pig farms in towns, the price is around K6,000 pe viss, whereas K7,400 in Yangon and K7,500 in Bago.

In addition, due to increased consumption of chicken and rising chick feed prices, the price at chicken farms is at K5,500 per viss in Yangon, K5,300 in Mandalay, and between K4,800 and K5,500 in other regions/states. It is traded at K7,000 per viss in the market. — TWA/GNLM

Advanced Mingala Market completes 46% reconstruction

THE reconstruction of the Advanced Mingala Market was completed by 46 per cent, according to the Yangon City Development Committee.

Chairman of the Yangon City Development Committee Mayor U Bo Htay conducted an inspection to provide requirements to complete the construction with set standards during the work period, to coordinate the placement of shops, according to U Htay Win, a shop owner at the market.

The new market is built 223 feet above the ground, with two undergrounds and 15 storeys, and is an RC concrete building, which will include banks, City Mart, shops, offices, and car parking for 700 vehicles.

Although it was scheduled to complete the construction by July 2021, it was suspended due

to COVID-19. It is now under construction to be completed by April 2023, under the collaboration of Sann Myat Tun Company with the Department of Markets and Brokerages at the corner of the Banyar Dala Road and the Setyon Road.

The first-time fire happened on the evening of 24 May 2010 at around 8 pm, for about 20

hours. The market was planned to rebuild a new one in 2019 after the second time fire happened in January 2016. Following the completion of the construction of the new market, the original 4,500 shops will be relocated as before. The construction project has been implemented with K68 billion since the end of 2018. — TWA/GNLM



Announcement of the resumption of Tourist
Visa service on Online e-Visa System

1. The Ministry of Immigration and Population resumed the Online e-Visa services on 1 April 2022 for business visa applications to facilitate the entry of foreign investors and businessmen to Myanmar. Moreover, commercial international flights operations are allowed to operate in accordance with the COVID-19 rules and regulations of the Ministry of Health, and therefore, the number of foreign visitors to Myanmar has been increasing.
2. With an aim to develop tourism sector and to have a harmonized tourism with the neighbouring countries, e-Visa (Tourist) applications will be allowed and accepted from 20 May 2022.
3. Requirements for the application of Online e-Visa (Tourist) will be available at the Ministry's website <https://evisa.moip.gov.mm>.

Ministry of Immigration and Population

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, international airports and seaports.

A total of seven tonnes of masks were imported by a vehicle and a company via the Chinshwehaw border checkpoint yesterday.

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

Over 800,000 pilgrims, 411
tourists visit Shwedagon
Pagoda as of May second week

THERE are 807,336 local visitors and 411 foreign visitors to the renowned Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon between 1 and 15 May, said the pagoda board of trustees.

According to the data from 1 to 15 May, a total of 807,747 visitors - 5,945 monks, 3,817 nuns, 356,442 males (local), 441,132 females (local), 258 male foreigners and 153 female foreigners visited the pagoda.

Most of the tourists are from Asian Buddhist countries. China recorded the highest numbers of visitors followed by Viet Nam and Thailand. Similarly, the visitors from European countries, Africa and the US came here to study the architectural works of Myanmar.

The pagoda hosts more than 20,000 visitors per day and between 30,000 and 50,000 on weekends.

The visitors were from European countries such as French including the US, Russia, India, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Korea, Japan, Germany, Australia, the UK, Switzerland,



Shwedagon Pagoda on Kason full moon day. PHOTO: HTUN HTUN

Canada, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Mexico, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Guatemala and African countries.

Due to the fears over the spread of COVID-19, the Shwedagon Pagoda was closed to visitors for more than 10 months starting on 9 April 2020.

When the disease reached under control to a certain extent, the pagoda was opened to the public on 11 February with three-time visiting hours in the morning and the afternoon for 3,000 visitors per day. Then, the

visiting hours were changed like 6 am-11 am and 1 pm-6 pm on 24 March. Moreover, the officials allowed the public to pay homage to the pagoda peacefully between 6 am and 6 pm starting Myanmar New Year's Day. They also changed the visiting hours between 5 am and 7 pm for the visitors on weekdays, weekends and public holidays on 27 November 2021 and between 5 am and 6 am on office days. Starting 26 March 2022, the visiting hour was set from 5 am to 8 pm. — Pwint Thitsa/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, construction tools, diesel oil and vehicles seized



Officials confiscate illegal timbers.

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

At the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Terminal Checkpoint, officials captured K4,305,000 worth of construction tools that were not declared in the import declaration on 13 May. The action was taken under the Customs Law.

In addition, on 17 May, the inspection team led by the For-

est Department under the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force made inspections. They captured 6.1096 tonnes of illegal timbers at an estimated value of K1,489,406 in the forest reserve areas of Bago and Toun-goo Districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, on the same day, the combined inspection team confiscated K127,800,000 worth of 15,975 gallons of pure diesel oil from four 12-wheel trucks at an estimated value of 140,000,000 in

Kanbalu Township. The action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

Moreover, Police confiscated an unregistered Canter car at an estimated value of K6,000,000 in Monywa Township and the action was taken under the Export/Import Law.

Therefore, on 13 and 17 May, 12 arrests were made (an estimated value of K279,594,406), according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

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

LOCAL BUSINESS

Sepauk village in NyaungU District executes nursery business with grafted seedlings

SEPAUK village located between Kyaukpadaung and Mt Popa in NyaungU District, Mandalay Region is engaged in commercial nursery business with grafted seedlings, said U Tun Tun, a seller of grafted plants.

Sepauk village is a village relying on a commercial nursery business, which produces and distributes plants including fruit plants and flowering plants. The majority of locals carry out business through eCommerce. Also, the buyers come to nursery farms to purchase the plants. Sepauk village is well-known for nursery farms across the country.

Additionally, the village is recognized for its horticultural techniques; grafting and budding. For propagating, native mango trees are planted from seeds and then, they can be grafted from a bench. The villagers have learnt multiple ways to graft the plants. The nursery business in Sepauk village is flourishing and the villagers are well equipped with knowledge of grafting techniques. Grafted star-flower trees, seedless guava, jackfruit, mango, fruit plants, roses and other floral plants are sold, U Tun Tun explained. —Ko Htein (KPD)/GNLM



Sepauk village is a village relying on a commercial nursery business, which produces and distributes plants including fruit plants and flowering plants.

Growers deliver large amounts of chickpeas to market at high price

THE growers in Monywa District are sending a large number of chickpeas to the market on account of the high price and they keep only a small inventory on hand.

“The growers store only 30 per cent of chickpeas production. Some growers sell them out amid the market uncertainty. In the previous years, the growers hold about 50 per cent of stocks on hand,” said U Chan Hein, secretary of the Monywa Commodity Centre.

The prices of chickpeas usually rise in June because of the donation and events. At present, the price is on the rise.

“The price rise is attributed to the hike in global fuel oil price and restriction on wheat and green pea import. The chickpeas fetched K25,000-30,000 per basket at the beginning of the harvest season. It gradually rose to K35,000 in the post-Thingyan period. The price is expected to reach K45,000 per basket in June and July,” said U Chan Hein.



Approximately 2,000-3,000 bags of chickpeas are daily entering the Monywa market through Budalin, Ayadaw, and ChaungU and regions in the west of the Chindwin River, according to the Monywa Commodity Centre.

The prevailing price is pretty high, yet the growers can receive a higher price if they wait for some time.

Approximately 2,000-3,000 bags of chickpeas are daily entering the Monywa market through Budalin, Ayadaw, and ChaungU and regions in the west of the Chindwin River, according to the Monywa Commodity Centre.

White chickpeas are primar-

ily shipped to Pakistan. The mills in Monywa and Mandalay cities purchase red chickpeas, U Chan Hein added.

Chickpeas are primarily cultivated in the upper Myanmar region and it is also found in Bago Region in the lower Myanmar. Chickpeas (V2 and V7 varieties) are commonly exported to foreign markets. — Lu Lay/GNLM

Gold transactions to be made only at YGEA office to eliminate black market

IN a bid to end the black market and stabilize the volatile prices, transaction of gold bars has to be carried out in the office of Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA), said U Myo Myint, chair of YGEA.

“Some traders manipulate the price outside the office. YGEA offers a lower price than the retailers. The cross-border smugglers buy them from the association, causing the price to fluctuate. Some resell them with a gap of K20,000-K30,000 on the digital platform. Such transaction is not allowed to make. The gold transaction can be undertaken inside the YGEA's office. Licence for gold bar transaction is also required,” said U Myo Myint.

Additionally, YGEA urged the members and gold traders to make gold transactions with immediate payment. Cross-border

trade is not allowed without reporting to the association, according to its statement released on 17 May.

The statement includes seeking a trade licence for gold shops, a licence for gold bar transactions and taking actions against those unauthorized dealers involved in online trade platforms.

After that, gold shops engaged in gold bar transactions must make an inventory list of gold bar and gold trading reports. Those individuals and gold shops will face legal actions under the existing law if they fail to follow that statement, according to YGEA.

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



Gold jewellery is seen at one of the gold outlets in Yangon.

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 K2,000 in the unofficial black market.

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

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

At present, pure gold is worth K2,040,000 per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme) in the domestic market, while the global gold price stands at US\$1,822 per ounce. — NN/GNLM

Encourage the creativity of youths to benefit the society

TODAY'S Myanmar society needs to create chances for youths so that they can initiate creations in all sectors to be able to benefit the society. To do so, the senior citizens should allow the youths to encourage the keenness of the youths for improvement of their creativities.

Extreme controlling the moves of youths may cause hindrances to the creativity of the youths. If so, the bad result will bring stupidity to the critical thinking skills of the youths. Such a bad result regrettably may stop the creativity of youths in all aspects, and then, the society will end the development.

As such, the parents and guardians need to encourage the youths since their childhood to be able to improve their capacity to keep abreast of others in critical thinking, rationality over all various problems, and consideration for analyzing all issues to correctly select the right things and wrong ones.

One day, the society of Myanmar must be handed over to today's youths. Hence, it is necessary to enhance their capacity for overcoming the challenges in various issues without trembling. They must have the skills to analyze any situation both on paper and on the ground. As such, they will have the knowledge about approaching real situations to be able to secure the victory.

The opportunities to participate in the creation and innovation will raise the possibilities for the youths to have the capabilities of creativity in the future, contributing to the creative activities led by the youths.

The cultural attitude with a negative sense hampers the creative measures of the youths. Indeed, those youths must have confidence in their creativity. Hence, the senior citizens need to encourage the youths in the society with the assistance of social networks and the guidance of ideal persons.

In Myanmar society, the youths are trying their best to initiate themselves to be able to take a position for the improvement of their families as well as their societies with their earnest efforts. In so doing, the restricted control of parents and guardians should not be a burden for those youths in their creativity and innovations. Actually, those senior citizens need to give advice and guidance based on their year-long experiences to the youths on how to overcome the challenges and how to analyze the problems. If so, Myanmar youths will have a high capacity for creativity in keeping abreast of other countries.

Opening A Window into The World

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

OF LIVING literature types until now, short stories are my favourite piece of writing. Just as they are called so, short stories are not often long to be read non-stop from beginning to end. They usually contain only a few main characters, being written about imaginary events of life. Ma Sanda, who has been around as a famous Myanmar novelist, also said that writing short stories looks like throwing one fish in the water with a harpoon. What she means is that only if a short story can give its only purpose to readers will it get to her point. As for me, I prefer reading non-fiction to fiction. However, I knew that short stories can be like windows in the world. This means that short stories can tell us many real-life situations in the world very often.

As mentioned above, short stories may show us a short read, the only significant purpose of

life, and a practical outlook on this world. Since going to university I have read a lot of short stories by many writers including U Phoe Kyar, Min Thu Wun, Theikpan Maung Wa, Mg Htin, Thawda Swe, Nay Win Myint, Khin Khin Htoo and Nu Nu Yi Innwa. Almost all their stories are always based on real-life rather than imagination only. Accordingly, I think that these stories are not only a good read for bookworms but also an absolute must for all lovers of short stories.

Effects of Working Like a Coolie for Free (A-Kha-Mae-Kuli-Htan-Chin-Ei-Akyoe) was one of the short stories from Personal Stories (Kotwe-Wuthtu-Myar) written by U Phoe Kyar, a minister of national education in the colonial age. This story expresses the foolish characteristics of an unqualified learner

Pwe) by Theikpan Maung Wa was my favourite short story. From the auction, I realized that any job or work should never be hurried indiscriminately. In the fifteen-minute time of the auction, a character Pan Oo's personal wealth was brought low while he was suffering disfigurement in future. Furthermore, we can see some reflections on the Myanmar administration during the colonial times if we have read this story. Both stories are from Modern Stories (Khitsan-Ponepyin-Myar) written by the five writers and edited by U Pe Maung Tin.

Like Theikpan Maung Wa, Mg Htin took a position of administration under the British colonies. Ko Daung written by him has become a popular book of short stories among devotees of social satire.

Besides the above-mentioned story, Auction (Le-Lan-

ferred was Dawei Longyi, which is an allusive satire on a person's unadaptable style of life. To my amazement, the whole book fully contains a good sense of humour about life. He and Theikpan Maung Wa were mostly found to have written short stories relying on their job experiences.

Thawda Swe's descriptive short stories of life take a favourite place in mine. The author had achieved literary awards up to three times for his work of short stories. The names of his three books to be awarded were Various Lives (Bawa-Htohto), The Life Cycle of Animals (Thattawa-Doe-Ei-Thanthaya), and In This World (Ei-Lawka-Myaemahi-Wal). Because I have loved all his short stories of life descriptions, I find it difficult to choose my favourites. As for me, three great favourites of his are Experienced (Kyune-Kae-Ya-Thi) from the first one, Tatee

and Maedu (Tatee-Nint-Maedu) from another, and People's Mind (Lu-Manaw) from the other. He had been around as the cabby of a pony cart for years to my knowledge. He, therefore, relied consciously upon his cabby experiences while writing a quite large number of short stories.

Nay Win Myint's Parrot (Kyattuyawe) has become an unforgettable short story for me. It is from Watering River Short Stories (Yethonemyit-Wutthuto-Myar) of his. The story has shown that anyone need view the long-term effects of some work whatever he does, as the writer's professional connotation. The main characters in the story were Ko Kyauk Tone, his wife Ma Toyote Ma and his only son Than Gae. In the story, Ko Kyauk Tone did the performance as an assumed parrot for his beloved Than Gae whenever he wanted to see so. After several months,

Ko Kyauk Tone looked like a real parrot strangely. I am sure that story will beckon you to its end with a large amount of humour by the time you read it.

Among Myanmar woman writers, Khin Khin Htoo and Nu Nu Yi Innwa are the ones I admire most about short stories. I like The Betel Basket (Phatsame-Kuntaung) by Khin Khin Htoo and One Little Htami (Htami-Lay-Ta-Hte) by Nu Nu Yi Innwa best in comparison with their other pieces of story writing. Author Khin Khin Htoo had won the 2003 National Literary Award for the above book of short stories collection. Writer Nu Nu Yi Innwa began setting foot in the field of literature with the mentioned short story in 1984. Their short stories were concerned with the real lives of people and their social environments in all seriousness as well. There are still other short story writers

such as Mann Tin and Min Shin in the Myanmar literature field.

Importantly speaking, a short story seems to be a kind of fiction sometimes since the situations in every place are different from each other quite often. That means we require putting ourselves in others shoes. Hence, we must try to think about the characters and events in the story to find out whether or not these facts ensure the consistency of naturalness or logic to its ending. We have to consider the three manners of a character — how to do, what to say and which attitude to have — when reading some short story. Subsequently, we need not search for happy endings during our read of any story. If short stories let us know lots of truths about life, they will probably open a window into the world for us.

Hard-won progress in fighting COVID-19 must not go to waste

CHINA'S megacity of Shanghai on Tuesday announced that it has cut off the community transmission of COVID-19 in all its 16 districts. This latest progress in containing the virus again shows that China must unswervingly implement its epidemic response policy and consolidate its gains in the fight against COVID-19.

The global fight against the pandemic is still ongoing, the novel coronavirus keeps mutating, and mounting uncertainties still lie ahead. This all points to the importance of keeping a clear head about the complex and arduous nature of the battle.

The policy of "preventing imported cases and domestic resurgences" and the dynamic zero-COVID approach must be firmly carried out.

Any tendency to let our guard down, become weary of the fight, take chances, and slacken efforts must be rejected. The hard-won progress China

has made against the epidemic must not, under any circumstances, go to waste.

Nearly 15 million deaths globally were directly or indirectly associated with the COVID-19 pandemic by the end of 2021, according to the estimates of the World Health Organization.

As a developing country with a population of 1.4 billion, China has managed to stand out with the lowest coronavirus infection and fatality rates globally. This is a clear sign of the institutional strengths of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

China has protected the health and safety of its people to the greatest extent possible while trying its best to minimize the epidemic's impact on development.

China's COVID-19 response measures are based on its national conditions.

It is a populous country with a large number of elderly people, unbalanced regional develop-



Tian Ge (L) and He Yanping go to a residential area by tricycle for nucleic acid tests in Beicai Town of east China's Shanghai, 26 April 2022. Tian Ge and He Yanping, both general practitioners, conduct a door-to-door nucleic acid test for residents without negative results in mass testing or antigen testing in Beicai. PHOTO: XINHUA/JIN LIWANG

ment, and generally inadequate medical resources. The gap still

exists between China and developed countries in terms of the

per capita medical resources and medical technology levels.

SOURCE: Xinhua

MYANMAR Daily Weather Report
(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Tuesday 17 May, 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay of Bengal. Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay and East central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 18 May 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway Region and southern Shan, Chin, Kayah States, fairly widespread in lower Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and Rakhine State, widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squall with moderate to rough sea are likely at time Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (30-35) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (8-10) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and (5-7) feet in off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of thundery activities in the Deltaic Areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 May 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18 May 2022: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

ENVIRON WORLD

Canada to develop first climate adaptation plan

CANADIAN Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault on Monday launched a public consultation to develop the country's first National Adaptation Strategy.

Guilbeault said the climate adaptation is a subject that is preoccupying every level of government and every community in Canada, kicking off a virtual adaptation conference attended by over a thousand participants, including provinces, territories, leaders of National Indigenous Organizations, as well as climate adaptation experts, industry representatives, and members of the public. "We have to look at climate action in this 21st century as a matter of both offence and defence,"

the minister said. "As we increase our preparations for the many impacts of our changing climate, it feels like fighting a war on two fronts."

"We must reduce carbon pollution and we must prepare for the impacts of climate change," he said.

Climate-readiness includes measures such as preventing the construction of homes on floodplains, increasing tree coverage in urban forests to reduce the effects of heatwaves, and using data to map and manage the risks of wildfires. The Insurance Bureau of Canada said that severe weather caused 2.1 billion Canadian dollars (1.68 billion US dollars) in insured damage in 2021.—AFP



A resident looks at an electric bicycle at the BC Bike Show in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on 5 March 2022. **PHOTO: LIANG SEN/XINHUA**

AI helps fight illegal fishing along Yangtze River



There have been 332 conservation areas created along the Yangtze River basin, as part of China's 10-year fishing ban on key areas along the river. On 1 January 2021, a 10-year fishing moratorium in all-natural waterways along the Yangtze River came into effect, with some 231,000 fishermen surrendering nearly 111,000 boats in a dozen provincial-level regions. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

AN artificial intelligence (AI) technology system has been applied along the Yangtze River as a supplementary method to combat illegal activities in water areas under a 10-year fishing ban.

Installed by the Jiujiang branch of China Tower Corporation Limited, the AI warning system was officially put into use in April. It can detect illegal fishing activities in milliseconds along a 152-km riverbank of the Yangtze River in Jiujiang city, east China's Jiangxi Province.

Videos are captured by 37 high-definition surveillance cam-

eras and analyzed with advanced technologies such as big data and edge computing to help improve the efficiency of fishery administration.

To further preserve the biodiversity of the Yangtze River, China began a 10-year fishing moratorium from the beginning of 2020 in 332 conservation areas in the Yangtze River basin. The ban was later expanded to all the natural waterways of the river and its major tributaries. However, the lack of adequate law enforcement officials and vehicles was once a major obstacle to

the supervision of illegal fishing.

"Earlier, we mainly relied on reports and patrolling to monitor illegal fishing, but that had led to two issues. On the one hand, it was difficult to investigate and collect proof, while on the other hand, we're always understaffed," said Zhou Jie, who is in charge of fishery administration in Jiujiang.

The AI system can detect motion anomalies in cameras and deliver warnings to an accompanying app in real time, alerting patrolling personnel so they can respond promptly, Zhou said.—Xinhua

Research suggests nano and micro plastics in atmosphere pollute oceans

THE atmosphere as a related cause of plastic pollution in the waters of our planet has recently been studied during a study.

The findings of the research were published in the journal 'Nature Reviews Earth & Environment' by an international team of researchers including experts from the Alfred Wegener Institute, the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies in Potsdam, and the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research.

According to estimates, by 2040, the level of plastic pollution could reach 80 million

metric tons per year. Plastic particles have now been detected in virtually all spheres of the environment, e.g. in water bodies, the soil and the air. Via ocean currents and rivers, the tiny plastic particles can even reach the Arctic, Antarctic or ocean depths.

A new overview study has now shown that wind, too, can transport these particles great distances — and much faster than water can: in the atmosphere, they can travel from their point of origin to the most remote corners of the planet in a matter of days.—ANI

Sudan sanctuary offers haven for exotic birds

TUCKED away east of Sudan's capital Khartoum, a sanctuary of lush green vegetation has been a haven for dozens of exotic birds from far and wide.

"I have a passion for birds," said Akram Yehia, owner of the Marshall Nature Reserve which covers 400 square metres (4,300 square feet).

"I wanted to create an ideal environment that simulates their natural habitat."

Yehia, 45, set up the huge caged aviary in his house's front yard four years ago, and has handcrafted dozens of birdhouses. He created a habitat of trees, adding a garden pond and mist nozzles for cooling off against Sudan's scorching heat.

Over 100 birds of 13 different species currently inhabit the reserve.

Ring-necked parakeet, rosella

birds, as well as Meyers and red-rumped parrots flit across branches and compete over birdhouses in the reserve.—AFP



Tucked away east of Sudan's capital, the Marshall Nature Reserve has been a haven for dozens of exotic birds from far and wide. **PHOTO: KHARTOUM MARSHALL NATURE RESERVE/AFP**

Shanghai says ‘zero-Covid’ achieved but millions still in lockdown

SHANGHAI on Tuesday declared it had achieved “zero-Covid” across all its districts, sparking derision on social media as millions in China’s biggest city remained under lockdown. Confronted with its worst outbreak since the beginning of the pandemic, China -- the last major economy still closed off to the world -- put the city of 25 million under heavy restrictions in early April.

The government’s insistence on squashing the Omicron-variant-driven outbreak prompted rare protests and angry scuffles with authorities as Shanghai residents reject the prolonged confinement and food shortages.

“All 16 districts of Shanghai have already achieved zero-Covid at the community level,” Shanghai health commission official Zhao Dandan told reporters on Tuesday.

That means none of the over 1,000 new infections recorded on Tuesday was detected outside of quarantined areas, city authorities said.

China’s strategy to achieve

zero Covid cases includes strict border closures, lengthy quarantines, mass testing and rapid, targeted lockdowns.

Vice-mayor Chen Tong said on Sunday that the city would gradually reopen businesses starting this week, without giving specifics.

But millions in Shanghai were still unable to leave their residential compounds on Tuesday.

More than 3.8 million people were officially still under the strictest forms of lockdown in the city, according to official figures.

Social media erupted in disbelief at the gap between official statements and the reality of life under an enduring lockdown.

“Since society has reached Covid-zero, why are people in Songjiang district still only allowed to go out once every two days?” a blogger on the Twitter-like Weibo asked.

“Is this a parallel universe Shanghai?” asked another.

In some areas of the city, restrictions have even been quietly tightened in recent days.



Residents walk on a street next to their neighbourhood during a Covid-19 coronavirus lockdown in the Jing'an district in Shanghai on 17 May 2022. PHOTO : AFP

Live video broadcast Tuesday by Chinese media showed crowds gathering at Shanghai’s Hongqiao Railway Station as train services leaving the city resumed.

Meanwhile, multiple airlines resumed domestic flights out of Shanghai this week after nearly all routes out of the city were suspended during the outbreak.

People are only allowed to leave Shanghai after receiving permission and taking multiple Covid tests.

Economic slowdown

China has shown no sign of giving up its protracted struggle to maintain zero Covid cases, despite the mounting economic costs of miserable retail, house and car sales and climbing unemployment.

The country kept cases low for much of the pandemic through its strict strategy, but the surge in Omicron cases in recent months has raised questions about zero-Covid’s sustainability.

Chinese health officials on Monday said they had detected the country’s first case of the highly transmissible Omicron subvariant BA.2.12.1 -- already widespread in countries including the US -- in a traveller arriving from Kenya.

Beijing is mass testing residents almost every day after a surge in cases -- counted in the dozens each day but still enough to prompt tight restrictions on movement and association. —AFP

WHO ‘concerned’ over COVID-19 outbreak in DPR Korea, reiterates full support

THE World Health Organization (WHO) on Monday expressed concern over the current COVID-19 outbreak in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), where no public vaccination programme has been put in place, reiterating its commitment to support the country response to the pandemic.

In a statement, WHO took note of the “deaths and large number of people with fever” as reported by the official news agency KCNA, for DPRK - commonly known as North Korea - but said they are still awaiting information from the International Health Regulations national focal point, concerning the extent and severity of the first officially recorded outbreak.

“We stand committed to assist our member country, as need-



Authorities in DPR Korea have announced a COVID-19 outbreak in the country. PHOTO: UNSPLASH/WHO

ed, by providing technical support to scale up testing, strengthen case management, implement situation-specific public health and social measures, and provide essential medical supplies and medicines,” said Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, South-East Asia WHO Director.

Vaccination yet to begin

WHO had supported the

country to develop a COVID-19 vaccine deployment plan as well as aided the country with its national strategic preparedness and response plans. The vaccination plan was reviewed and approved by a multi-partner body at the regional level, clearing the way for North Korea to receive COVID-19 immunizations through the international COVAX facility.

SOURCE: WHO

Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games postponed due to COVID-19 in China

THE Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games organizing committee (HAPGOC) and the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) on Tuesday announced the postponement of the 2022 Asian Para Games, originally scheduled to take place from 9-15 October.

The announcement follows the decision taken by the Olympic Council of Asia and the HAGOC, the games organizing committee, to postpone the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Games due to the size of the Games and the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A taskforce comprising of the APC, the Chinese Paralympic Committee and HAPGOC will now work on reschedul-

ing the Games to take place in 2023.

APC President Majid Rashed in a statement said: “The Games preparations have been going very well and HAPGOC was ready to deliver an outstanding games. This was not an easy decision to make but we have taken it now to give a level of certainty to the IFs, NPCs and athletes who were planning to attend the Games. We will now work with the organising committee on securing a new date that works for the para-sport calendar.”

A further announcement on this is expected in the near future. The emblem, slogan and year of the Games will remain unchanged. — ANI

ECONOMY

WORLD

Thailand's economy rebounds after Covid battering



Thailand's economy grew 2.2 per cent in the first quarter following an export and tourism boost after the relaxation of pandemic entry restrictions. **PHOTO: AFP**

THAILAND'S economy grew 2.2 per cent in the first quarter as exports and tourism rebounded after the relaxation of pandemic restrictions, the country's main economic agency said Tuesday.

During the pandemic, Southeast Asia's second-largest economy suffered its worst economic performance since the 1997 Asian financial crisis, with visitor numbers crashing from roughly 40 million annually.

But this month the tourism-dependent kingdom dropped almost all restrictions for fully

vaccinated visitors, including the need for Covid-19 tests to travel.

"The export sector is good... the tourism industry is getting better due to the relaxation of entry requirements for tourists," National Economic and Social Development Council secretary general Danucha Pichayanan said.

The agency said the economy grew by 2.2 per cent in January to March compared with the same period last year, and by 1.1 per cent compared with the previous quarter.

The figures are a stark turn-around from the depths of the pandemic, which saw the economy contract by 6.1 per cent in 2020.

The agency said global market volatility from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and a slowdown in China's economy thanks to virus lockdowns across various cities, were affecting the pace of the kingdom's economic recovery.

Ukraine is a key exporter of fertiliser and the war has reduced supply in Thailand.— AFP

Singapore's non-oil domestic exports grows by 6.4 pct in April

SINGAPORE'S non-oil domestic exports (NODX) grew by 6.4 per cent year on year in April, following a 7.7 per cent growth in March, Enterprise Singapore, a government agency, announced on Tuesday. It is the 17th consecutive month for Singapore's NODX to see year-on-year growth, and the fifth consecutive month for the growth to slow down.

In a breakdown, the electronic NODX increased by 12.8 per cent year on year in April, following the 11.5 per cent increase in

March. The non-electronic NODX grew by 4.6 per cent year on year in April, compared to the 6.8 per cent increase in the previous month. On a month-on-month seasonally adjusted basis, Singapore's NODX decreased by 3.3 per cent in April to 16.6 billion Singapore dollars (about 11.93 billion dollars), after the previous month's 2.3 per cent decline.

Singapore's non-oil re-exports (NORX) grew by 14.9 per cent year on year this April, following the 11.4 per cent growth

in the previous month. Both electronic and non-electronic NORX grew. Singapore's oil domestic exports expanded by 67.6 per cent year on year in April, extending the 39.2 per cent growth in March.

Enterprise Singapore said that Singapore's total trade grew by 21.8 per cent in April, following the 17.6 per cent expansion in the preceding month. In a breakdown, the total exports increased by 19.5 per cent, and the total imports grew by 24.4 per cent.— Xinhua

UK to unveil unilateral plans for post-Brexit trade in N.Ireland



Media reports say the UK government is planning legislation allowing London to unilaterally override some of the rules around Northern Irish trade. **PHOTO: AFP**

BRITAIN will detail Tuesday how it plans to overhaul post-Brexit trade rules in Northern Ireland which have sparked a political crisis in the province, amid fears it is risking a UK-EU trade war.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss will "set out the rationale for our approach" in a statement to MPs in parliament, according to Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman. The UK government

is yet to confirm what that entails, but media reports have said it is planning legislation allowing London to unilaterally override some of the rules around Northern Irish trade. London wants to rewrite the so-called Northern Ireland protocol, which it agreed as part of its 2019 divorce deal with the European Union, amid trading frictions since it came into force last year. The arrangements, which mandate checks on goods arriving into Northern Ireland from England, Scotland and Wales, have angered the province's unionists who claim they undermine its place within the UK. Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Brandon Lewis said Tuesday that the protocol "doesn't work for business, it doesn't work for anybody in Northern Ireland".—AFP

NEWS IN Brief

US, EU to boost coordination on semiconductor supply, Russia

THE United States and the European Union plan to announce on Monday a joint effort aimed at identifying semiconductor supply disruptions as well as countering Russian disinformation, officials said.

Top US officials are visiting the French scientific hub of Saclay for a meet up of the Trade and Technology Council, created last year as China increasingly exerts its technology clout.

US officials acknowledged that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has broadened the council's scope, but said the Western bloc still has its eye on competition from China.

The two sides will announce an "early warning system" for semiconductors supply disruptions, hoping to avoid excessive competition between Western powers for the vital tech component.

The industry has suffered from a shortage of components for chipmaking, blamed on a boom in global demand for electronic products and pandemic snarled supply chains.—AFP

China to improve services for graduate job seekers

CHINESE authorities has pledged improved career services for university graduates, amid efforts to bolster employment.

Vice-premiers Sun Chunlan and Hu Chunhua, who are both members of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks on Monday at a teleconference on employment of university graduates.

The meeting urged public career service providers to play an exemplary role in boosting employment, deciding that more vocational training and internships would be offered to university graduates.

While vowing support for flexible employment and entrepreneurship, the meeting called for efforts to maintain the orderly operation of the job market and safeguard job seekers' legitimate rights and interests.

The authorities will encourage companies to expand recruitment by providing social security subsidies, start-up loans and tax and fee cuts, and will implement favorable policies for graduates seeking grassroots jobs, according to the meeting.

It also called for targeted assistance to university graduates from low-income families or areas hit hard by the COVID-19 epidemic.— Xinhua

Japan Cabinet OKs draft extra budget to cushion rising prices



Energy and other commodity prices have been rising while the global coronavirus pandemic was improving, although rising inflation continues to threaten prices. PHOTO: KYODO

JAPAN’S Cabinet approved Tuesday a 2.7 trillion yen (\$21 billion) draft extra budget for fiscal 2022 to ease the pain of surging energy, food and

other prices stemming from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Once it clears parliament, the supplementary budget for the year that

started in April will be used to finance part of a 6.2 trillion yen relief package compiled in late April. About 1.5 trillion yen of the extra budget will be

spent to replenish reserve funds that the government is using to implement some of the measures in the relief package, such as subsidies for oil wholesalers to bring down retail gasoline prices and cash handouts of 50,000 yen per child for low-income households. The government said it needed to draw on the reserve funds, which can be spent without parliament approval, to respond to sharp price rises swiftly. A record 107.60 trillion yen budget for fiscal 2022 includes 5.5 trillion yen in reserve funds to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergency purposes.—Kyodo

McDonald’s to exit Russia, sell business in country

AMERICAN fast-food giant McDonald’s will exit the Russian market and sell its business in the increasingly isolated country, the company said Monday.

Many Western businesses have pulled out of Russia since its invasion of Ukraine in February. And earlier on Monday, French automaker Renault announced it had handed over its Russian assets to the government in Moscow, marking the first major nationalization of the economic disentanglement. McDonald’s in



People walk in front of a closed McDonald’s restaurant, the first to be opened in the Soviet Union in 1990, in Moscow on 21 August, 2014. PHOTO: AFP / ALEXANDER NEMENOV / FILE

March closed all of its 850 restaurants in the country, where it says it employs 62,000 people. But on Monday it

went a step further, saying in a statement: “After more than 30 years of operations in the country, McDonald’s Corporation

announced it will exit the Russian market and has initiated a process to sell its Russian business. “The humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Ukraine, and the precipitating unpredictable operating environment, have led McDonald’s to conclude that continued ownership of the business in Russia is no longer tenable, nor is it consistent with McDonald’s values.” It said it was looking to sell “its entire portfolio of McDonald’s restaurants in Russia to a local buyer”.—AFP

Philippine province lifts open-pit mining ban, paves way for Tampakan project: official

A Philippine provincial government has lifted a ban on open-pit mining, removing the final regulatory obstacle for a long-delayed copper and gold project in the country’s restive south, a senior official said Monday. The Tampakan project on Mindanao island has been described by its developer Sagittarius Mines as “one of the largest undeveloped copper-gold deposits in the world.” It was previously estimated to cost \$5.9 billion and was due to start operation in 2016.

But the project has faced numerous problems, including the local government’s 2010 ban on open-pit mining and opposition from church, community and environmental groups. On Monday, the South Cotabato provincial government agreed to amend its environment law to allow

open-cut mining, paving the way for the controversial project to start. “The baranggay (village) wanted the project, the municipality wanted the project, only the provincial level of the council had the problem,” said Wilfredo Moncano, director of industry regulator Mines and Geosciences Bureau. “With this lifting of the ban, there’s no more problem.” The move was immediately condemned by a local Catholic church group, which described it as a “tragedy” and called on the provincial governor to veto the changes to the law. “The amendment allows all forms of mining, including open-pit, in the province. And the future of the province was decided in less than 15 minutes,” said Father Jerome Millan of the Diocese of Marbel. —AFP

CHANGING DISTRIBUTOR OF REGISTERED PESTICIDE

This is a notification of the change of distributor of below herbicide, registered by Bayer AG, under the Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, from Y Agro Solution Co., Ltd. to Charoen Pokphand Produce Myanmar Co., Ltd. Any objection to this change can notify to Joint Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein, within 14 days.

Trade Name	A.I	Reg. Type	Reg. No.
Ricestar 69 EC	Fenoxaprop-p-ethyl 69g/l EC	Full	F2019-1977
Bayer Thai Co., Ltd. (Myanmar Branch)- PH : 01-8382710 (Ext. 40600)			

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (194W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PANJA BHUM VOY.NO. (194W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-5-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185 Shipping Agency Department Myanmar Port Authority Agent For: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

UK unemployment dips but wages hit by inflation

BRITAIN’S unemployment rate has fallen further to a near five-decade low, official data showed Tuesday, but the value of wages continues to erode as inflation soars. The unemployment rate eased to 3.7 per cent in the

three months to the end of March, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement, sending the pound rising against the dollar on expectations of another interest rate hike. That was the lowest level in more than 47 years and

compared with a rate of 3.8 per cent in the quarter to the end of February. Bank of England (BoE) governor Andrew Bailey on Monday warned that fallout from surging prices driven by the Ukraine war would cause unem-

ployment to increase. He described as “apocalyptic” the situation surrounding soaring food costs – which he said were fuelled by major wheat and cooking oil producer Ukraine finding itself unable to export its goods.—AFP

Indonesians celebrate Vesak at world’s largest Buddhist temple



Buddhist monks and devotees take part in a parade to celebrate Vesak day at Borobudur temple in Magelang, central Java on 16 May 2022. **PHOTO: JUNI KRISWANTO / AFP**

HUNDREDS of lanterns were released into the sky by Indonesian Buddhists celebrating Vesak day at the temple of Borobudur for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic hit the country.

More than a thousand Buddhists from across the archipelago gathered at the largest Buddhist temple in the world, situated in Magelang, Central Java, to commemorate the birth, enlightenment and death of Buddha Siddharta Gautama.

Celebrations on Monday night included prayers and meditation, collecting holy water and the release of flying lanterns symbolizing the letting go of negativity.

“This is the first time we were able to hold the celebration since the pandemic started, since we are still in the middle of the pandemic, we limited the number of participants to only 1,200 people,” Eric Fernando, the spokesman for the event, told AFP on Monday.

Only those who received an invitation and a double dose of a Covid-19 vaccine were allowed to enter the sprawling complex of Borobudur to join the ceremonies.

Before the pandemic, the event was usually attended by more than 20,000 people from across the Muslim-majority country and other places. — AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Putin says Russia would respond to expansion of NATO military infrastructure into Finland, Sweden



On a windy military island off Helsinki, people from all walks of life are spending their weekend doing military training, as volunteer numbers soar and Finland readies to join NATO to protect itself from Russia. Over 20,000 young conscripts do their military training annually. **PHOTO: AFP**

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said on Monday that Moscow would respond if NATO would deploy military infrastructure on the territories of Finland or Sweden.

“The expansion of military infrastructure into these territories would certainly trigger our response, which would depend on the kind of threats this would pose for us,” the Kremlin cited the president as saying at a summit of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in Moscow.

Putin added that the issue of NATO enlargement is largely artificial, and is being used by the United States as a foreign policy tool.—Xinhua

Ukrainian soldiers evacuated from Mariupol steelworks

HUNDREDS of Ukrainian soldiers have been evacuated from the besieged Azovstal steelworks — the last holdout of troops defending the southern port city of Mariupol -- Kyiv said on Monday.

The plant had become a symbol of resistance, with around 600 soldiers holed up in underground tunnels and bunkers fighting a rear-guard battle to prevent Russian troops taking full control of the strategically located city.—AFP



Soldiers of the Kraken Ukrainian special forces unit talk to a man at a destroyed bridge near the village of Ruska Lozova, north of Kharkiv. **PHOTO: AFP**

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

The following are the latest developments in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine:

Ukraine ‘unhappy’ as Hungary stalls EU Russian oil ban

UKRAINE’S foreign minister urged the EU Monday to overcome Hungary’s resistance to an embargo on Russian oil and then look to “kill” all of Moscow’s exports to starve its war machine of funds.

Budapest has been holding up a push by Brussels, backed by other European Union states, to ban Moscow’s vital oil exports, the cornerstone of a planned sixth package of sanctions, arguing that it would hammer its own economy. “We are unhappy with the fact that the oil embargo is not there,” Ukraine’s top diplomat Dmytro Kuleba said after meeting EU foreign ministers in Brussels.

Double standard in Europe’s treatment of Ukrainian, African migrants: IFRC

The president of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies on Monday rebuked what he said was Europe’s starkly different treatment of African migrants compared to those from Ukraine.

“Yes, there is a double standard” when it comes to people seeking protections in Europe, IFRC President Francesco Rocca said during a press conference at the UN. Rocca, who was attending a forum to assess the progress made since the adoption of a Global Compact on Migration in 2018, said there was no difference between “anyone fleeing Donbas (in Eastern Ukraine) or someone fleeing violence of the radical group Boko Haram in Nigeria.”

“Those who are fleeing violence, those who are seeking protection should be treated equally,” he said, but added that “ethnicity and nationality should not be deciding factors in saving lives.”

Turkey ‘will not say yes’ to NATO membership for Sweden, Finland: Erdogan

PRESIDENT Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday confirmed Turkey’s opposition to NATO membership for Finland and Sweden, again accusing them of failing to take a clear stance against terrorism.

“We will not say ‘yes’ to those (countries) who apply sanctions to Turkey to join security organisation NATO,” Erdogan said.

SOURCE: AFP



SEA Games Women’s Football: Myanmar to face Viet Nam today in semifinal



MYANMAR women’s national football team will play against host Viet Nam in the semifinal of the SEA Games women’s football event today. Similarly, Thailand will

ond in the group, they will face Viet Nam in the semifinals and will have to work harder to reach the final. With Viet Nam as the host and defending champions, Myanmar will need to show good form as a whole and take advantage of the attacking opportunities. The main striker Win Theingi Tun has scored in all three group matches, which is satisfying for the Myanmar team and she needs to score more important goals in this match, a football expert said. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Semifinal match of Myanmar Women’s Football Team will be broadcast live

MYANMAR proceeded to the semifinals of the women’s football team at the 31st South-East Asian Games, hosted by Viet Nam. The semifinals will play on 18 May and Myanmar women’s football team to match with Viet Nam women’s football team. The Thai women’s football team will take on the Philippines women’s football team the same day. So, the match between

the Myanmar women’s football team and the hosting Viet Nam women’s football team will be broadcast live on MRTV-HD Channel and Radio Myanmar at 6:30 pm on 18 May. — MNA

SEA Games Billiards: Pauk Sa wins gold medal with victory over Singaporean World Billiard Star

MYANMAR Billiards player Pauk Sa won the SEA Games Individual Billiards Championships in Viet Nam on the morning of 17 May. At the English Billiards Individual Finals event. Myanmar Billiard player Pauk Sa won the gold medal after beating Peter Gilchrist, a Singaporean who won six gold medals in the Southeast Asian Games, and another six gold medals in the World Billiard Championship by 3-1 yesterday at the Ha Dong Stadium in Hanoi. Pauk Sa made no mistake in the final and won the first match by 102-11. In the second match, Peter Gilchrist won with a score of 100-12, but in the third bout, Pauk Sa scored back with a solid point of 101-0.



Therefore, the fourth match was decisive and Pauk Sa won with 100-95 points and won the gold medal. Peter Gilchrist won gold medals in six consecutive individual billiards events in SEA Games from 2009 to 2019, but

Pauk Sa ended his successful reign. Myanmar billiards have won gold medals in doubles and team-wise events throughout the SEA Games, but this is first Myanmar wins gold in individual events. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Medals by team

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Viet Nam	105	65	64	234
Thailand	43	47	65	155
Philippines	34	40	52	126
Singapore	30	32	36	98
Indonesia	27	41	39	107
Malaysia	23	26	55	104
Myanmar	5	6	11	22
Cambodia	2	5	11	18
Brunei	1	1	1	3
Laos	0	2	14	16
Timor-Leste	0	2	0	2

Myanmar Rowing team win bronze in SEA Games

THE Myanmar team won a bronze medal in the Rowing and Canoeing event at the 31st SEA Games event in Viet Nam yesterday. The Myanmar rowing team competed in five events and won a bronze medal, while the other four events were included in the qualifiers. Myanmar Rower Thet Phyto Naing wins a bronze in the Women’s Canoeing 1,000-metre event, while Viet Nam won the gold medal and Thailand bagged the silver medal. Aung Myo Thu from the 1,000-metre Men’s Individual Rowing Event, Tun Min Thant, Htet Wai Lwin, Saw Moe Aung and Myint Ko Ko from 1,000-metre Group Event, and Win Htike, Sai Min Wai, Min Naing and Thant Zin Oo from 1,000-metre Men’s Canoeing Event reached the final yesterday. The final will be held today. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

SEA Games Women’s Futsal: Myanmar faces 0-4 loss to Thailand

MYANMAR and Thailand competed in the 31st SEA Games Women’s Futsal Tournament at Nam Gymnasium in Viet Nam yesterday, and the Myanmar team lost 0-4 to team Thailand. Myanmar team came out with main players including goalkeeper Khaing Hnin Thant, Khin Mar Lin, Khin Pyae Lin, Hnin Sanda Hlaing, and Nan May Thazin. In the first half, the Thai team had the advantage and Aye Aye Htwe scored the Myanmar team goal in the 7th minute. Huajaipetch scored in the 9th



A Myanmar team player (white) prepares to kick the ball at the SEA Games women’s futsal group match against Thailand at Nam Gymnasium in Viet Nam on 17 May. PHOTO: MFF



Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

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



Myanmar wins gold in Billiard, silver in Shooting, bronzes in Canoeing & Petanque



The Myanmar National Flag is being raised for the gold medallist-Pauk Sa.

THE 31st South-East Asian Games, hosted by Viet Nam, is being held at stadiums in various cities.

At the English Billiards Individual Finals event at the Ha Dong Stadium in Hanoi, Myanmar Billiard player Pauk Sa won a gold medal after beating Peter Gilchrist, a Singaporean who won six gold medals in the South-East Asian Games, and another six gold medals in the World Billiard Championship by 3-1 yesterday.

The Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs awarded another US\$3,000 to him for awarding the fifth Gold Medal for Myanmar.

In the quarterfinals, Myanmar defeated host Viet Nam by a three-set margin and then went on to play Thailand in the semifinals, beating Thailand by 3-1.

Maung Ye Tun Naung, a Myanmar sniper, won a silver medal in the 50-metre Free Pistol event held at Hanoi National Sports Training Centre yesterday.



Pauk Sa is seen competing in the English Billiards Individual Finals event.

Next, the Myanmar team won a bronze medal in the Mixed Triple Event of Petanque.



1,000-metre individual Canoeing event. Myanmar athlete Ma Thet Phyo Naing won the bronze medal in the tournament.

Aung Myo Thu from the 1,000-metre Men's Individual Canoeing Event, Tun Min Thant, Htet Wai Lwin, Saw Moe Aung and Myint Ko Ko from the 1,000-metre four-ore Event, and Win Htike, Sai Min Wai, Min Naing and Thant Zin Oo from 1,000-metre Men's Canoeing Event reached Final yesterday.

Myanmar has won 22 medals in total including five gold medals, six silver medals and 11 bronze medals and is ranked 7th at the 31st South-East Asian Games. — MNA

In Hai Phong, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand competed in the women's