

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.

Many opportunities will come out for the nation in shaping Nay Pyi Taw as a green city, clean city and smart city: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting on the development of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 May 2022.

As Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is a location for agricultural and veterinarian universities as well as offices of ministries, it is necessary to do production based on agriculture and livestock farms as models, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting

on the development of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. In his speech, the Senior General noted that Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is located on 2,724 square miles of land, more than 320,000 acres of which are cultivable lands. The area is facilitated by 32 dams and lakes in addition to

Paunglaung (Sittoung River), Ngalaik Creek and Hsinthe Creek with fertile soil. Hence, agriculture and livestock farms can be done successfully. So, the University of Agriculture, University of Veterinarian Science and the University of Forestry were moved to Nay Pyi Taw.

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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

Myanmar delegation attends 19th SOMRI meeting online

A Myanmar delegation led by Director-General of the Myanmar Radio and Television of the Ministry of Information U Ye Naing participated in the 19th ASEAN Senior Officials Responsible for Information and its related meetings-19th SOMRI hosted by the current Chair Thailand yesterday morning.

The SOMRI meetings are held annually with the aim of strengthening mutual understanding and trust between the member countries through the ASEAN Regional Information Service. Senior Information Officials from the ASEAN countries, department officials from Thailand and officials from the ASEAN Secretariat attended it.

At the meeting, representatives from the countries currently chairing the three working groups of the ASEAN Senior Of-



The Myanmar delegation virtually participates in the 19th SOMRI meeting yesterday.



icials' Meeting on Information: SOMRI Working Group on Information, Media and Training, WG-IMT; SOMRI Working Group on Content and Production, WG-CP; and SOMRI Working Group on ASEAN Digital Broadcasting, WG-ADB, presented the meeting reports. The meeting also discussed the latest developments in the ASEAN Strategic Plan for Information and Media 2016-2025 and the state of cooperation in the field of information and communication in the ASEAN information sector, including the implementation of ASEAN Communications Strategic Plan No. 2 (ASEAN Communication Master Plan II).

At the meeting, reviewing the decisions and current processes of the relevant ASEAN meetings, planning joint projects for the future, reports being approved at the ASEAN Information Ministers' Meeting, reviewing the process and adding suggestions were done. It is reported that Viet Nam will host the 20th ASEAN Senior Officials Responsible for Information and its related meetings in 2023. — MNA

Five million syringes donated by China arrive in Yangon



FIVE million sets of syringes donated by the People's Republic of China arrived in Yangon yesterday and were received by officials from the Yangon Region.

Of 10 million doses of Sino-pharm COVID-19 vaccines and 13.056 million sets of syringes donated again by China, five million doses and two million sets of syringes arrived in Yangon on 18 May. The second batch of 5 million sets of syringes arrived yesterday.

The remaining doses and the syringes will continue to arrive in Yangon on 28 and 29 May.

The newly arrived syringes were transported to the Central Vaccine Storage of the Department of Public Health located on Mindhamma Street in Mayangon Township by vehicle. — GNLM

Crates of five million syringes arrive at Yangon International Airport.

4 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 19 May, total figure rises to 613,186

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,186** after **4** new cases were reported on 19 May 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,159** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **19,434** without more casualties.—MNA

Tatmadaw will implement harmoniously with the people for national politics

WE, soldiers, always have to safeguard our three main national causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the National Solidarity, Perpetuation of National Sovereignty as a national duty for the Union in which lives over 100 ethnic people. National affairs mean safeguarding national interests, and religion, religion, traditional culture and customs. Let the nation be led by any political system or any government, as our national policy, Tatmadaw has to maintain the Three Main National Causes concerning all nationalities. I would like to urge that Tatmadaw will implement harmoniously with the people for national politics.

(Excerpt from the speech made by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander in Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing at the passing out parade of the 8th intake of Graduate Female Cadet Course on 22 December 2021)

Many opportunities will come out for the nation in shaping Nay Pyi Taw as a green city, clean city and smart city: Senior General

FROM PAGE-1

He said that as Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is the location for agricultural and veterinarian universities as well as offices of ministries, it is necessary to do production based on agriculture and livestock farms as models. River water pumping stations can contribute to a sufficient supply of water to farmlands in summer. Hence, cultivable lands must be systematically improved to carry out agricultural tasks, he added.

The Senior General pointed out that the national vision of the nation is to ensure the prosperity of the country and the sufficiency of food. If livestock tasks can be carried out systematically, livestock products can be produced to meet the local demand as well as sell it to other regions and states. The Senior General stressed that waste from the livestock

farms can produce bio-fertilizers in order to contribute to agricultural tasks.

Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Maung Maung Naing, Union Ministers U Tin Htut Oo and U Hla Moe, Lt-Gen Than Tun Oo and Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Zaw Hein reported on land utilization in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, undertaking and production of agriculture and livestock farms, the inflow of water to dams and supply of agricultural water, formation of agricultural farmers' cooperative societies for systematically undertaking agriculture tasks and manufacturing tasks, operation of small-scale industries, and implementation of river water pumping stations for irrigating crops in mixed cropping and double cropping patterns.

In his response, the Senior General said that if paddy

Many opportunities will come out for the nation in shaping Nay Pyi Taw as a green city, clean city and smart city. Hence, efforts must be made to the improvement of agriculture and livestock farming through better management and various ways ...

among the main crops such as maize, beans and edible oil is grown in the Nay Pyi Taw area, efforts must be made for increasing its per-acre yield. Local farmers need to grow crops to meet the target per-acre yield set by the State. Officials need to fulfil the needs of quality strains of crops, fertilizers and natural fertilizers for the farmers in respective sectors. As feedstuff can be

obtained from the agricultural produce, it will ensure the sufficiency of feedstuffs for the livestock farms.

He continued to say that officials need to supervise the systematic undertakings of agriculture and livestock farms under discipline on the allotted lands. If emphasis can be placed on benefiting the farmers and increasing production, the country will have many job

opportunities to efficiently utilize the labour, adding efforts must be made to systematically conserve watershed forests for ensuring better climatic conditions and sharing of water with users under the good management. If so, agriculture and livestock farms in Nay Pyi Taw can successfully produce their products, he said.

The Senior General stressed the need for cottage industries to make domestic crops as dried food to be manufactured as value-added products for export purposes. The government will help SME industries develop. Many opportunities will come out for the nation in shaping Nay Pyi Taw as a green city, clean city and smart city. Hence, efforts must be made to the improvement of agriculture and livestock farming through better management and various ways, the Senior General said. —MNA

MoI Deputy Minister inspects Kawthoung IPRD

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint inspected the MRTV retransmission station in Kawthoung Township on Wednesday and gave instructions regarding the security and successive broadcasting while meeting with the staff.

He also visited the District Public Library of Kawthoung IPRD yesterday and instructed officials and staff to conduct measures in order to raise the number of readers and develop the awareness of public rela-

tions.

Then, he met the assistant director of the District Office and staff, departmental heads, and those in charge of retransmission stations of Bokpyin, Khamaukgyi, Pyigyimandaing and Karathuri towns. The deputy minister stressed the need to conduct educating programmes for the young people, cooperate with departments concerned with school enrolments, and provide timely news to the public and other matters. —MNA



The MoI deputy minister meets Kawthoung IPRD officials and staff.

SAC Information Team holds 14th press conference

THE 14th press conference of the State Administration Council's Information Team was held yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Information under the COVID-19 rules and regulations.

Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, leader of the Information Team, U Khin Maung Oo, member of the Union Election Commission, members of the Information Team, representatives from various ministries, officials from the Tatmadaw Information Team, invitees and reporters from local and foreign media attended the conference.

First, the Team Leader of the Information Team explained the State Administration Council's practical steps, during its government, to strengthen the multi-party democracy that is the will of the people and for the benefit of the people, to bring about practical and effective implementation of peace, the invitation of the Chairman of the State Administration Council himself to all ethnic armed organizations-EAOs to meet for an honest discussion so that all ethnic people can enjoy peace and development.

He explained that the head of state himself would meet directly with each of the EAOs at a rare and opportune time in the Myanmar peace process, paving the way for a frank meeting of



The fourteenth press conference in action.

key decision-makers; the goodwill of the seven EAOs that have signed the NCA and three EAOs that have not signed the NCA yet, which will attend the peace talk for the people and the interests of the region is recognized and respected by the people who want peace; the leaders of the 10 ethnic armed organizations who will attend the peace talks are the only ones who can make decisions on their behalf, and the talks will start on 20 May.

He also highlighted the murder cases of PDF terrorists targeting monks, the aims of terrorist organizations and unscrupulous persons for cutting off the source of Sasana and

hidden matters, proper preventive measures as they directly insult the religion of the majority groups and effective actions if people inform their threats and violent attacks on the monks.

He also explained the activities of the government for the education sector to complete KG+9 education (middle) for every citizen as one-third of the total population complete the middle school education according to the 2014 Census and 2019 Census, school enrollment period from 26 May to 1 June for 2022-2023 Academic Year, reopening of basic education schools on 2 June, distribution of school textbooks, manual guides

for teachers, books and stationeries for KG, Grade-1 to Grade 11 including school uniforms for primary school students, re-invitation for education staff who are absent from duty via the state-owned media starting 16 May 2022 as the experienced teachers are needed to improve the education of new generations, the new appointment of basic education teachers, reopening of universities/degree colleges/colleges on 12 May 2022, students' attendance and education promotion activities in Chin State.

He then extensively clarified the efforts of the Central Bank of Myanmar to ensure financial stability, financial and exchange

rate stability, implementation of financial policy for local price stability, measures to ensure adequate finance and easy financial support in the banking sector, and action plans not to hit highest prices in the local gold market and not to trade at higher prices than normal, rumours of business persons, government's activities to lead to the right ways as it found a violation of rules in political, economic and administrative sectors and some conduct beyond the procedures through the PowerPoint presentations.

Then, UEC member U Khin Maung Oo clarified the preparations for the multiparty democracy general election, compiling of voter lists, inspections of political parties and further work plans.

Afterwards, the officials answered the questions raised by the media outlets.

The attendees to the event observed the documentary photos of the activities of the government in peace, education, political and financial sectors including the activities of UEC.

The press conference of the SAC Information Team will be held twice every month starting May and the full interview and the holding of the press conference will further be published, it is reported. — MNA

Peace delegation led by RCSS/SSA Chairman arrives in Nay Pyi Taw upon SAC Chairman's invitation

STATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 22 April invited the ethnic armed groups to peace talks to end armed conflicts across the nation. According to the invitation, a peace delegation led by RCSS/SSA Chairman U Ywad Serk arrived at Nay Pyi Taw Military Airport yesterday. National Solidarity and Peace-Making Negotiate Committee members, officials and ethnic people of the Cultural Department welcomed them.

When the delegation arrived at the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge

(2) in Tachilek Township of eastern Shan State, officials of Tachilek Station, departmental officials, political organizations and the residents who want State stability and development supported them by holding the signboards bearing "We agree with the peace talks. Durable peace is the true desire of the entire people. We agree with the peace talks of the State Administration Council" along the Pyidaungsu Road to the airport.

The peace delegation led by Chairman U Ywad Serk of RCSS/SSA arrived in Nay Pyi Taw via Kengtung Airport. — MNA



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SAC Information Team Leader reiterates there is enough State reserve oil to prevent fuel shortage

THERE is enough State reserve oil to prevent fuel shortage, said Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, Information Team Leader of the State Administration Council and Deputy Minister for Information, at the 14th press conference.

“State has reserved oil for energy security. There is a certain amount of fuel that can meet regular fuel needs. As for oil, the price will remain high to some extent due to rising global oil prices. I would like to say we have sufficient State reserve oil,” he reaffirmed. The price of Octane has risen between K30 and K100 per litre, according to the comparison of the prices between 18 and 19 May.

“As 90 per cent of domestic consumption of oil is imported, changes in global oil prices have a huge impact on the domestic price; The prices of global oil



SAC Information Team Leader Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun clarifies fuel oil issue at the 14th press conference.

and fuel prices have changed a lot, and it has risen by more than \$20 per barrel between 1 to 19 May; the reasonable whole-

sale/retail prices are being announced in the daily newspapers so that business people do not manipulate the prices, including

contact numbers to report any inconvenience in buying fuel,” said officials from the Ministry of Energy.

The Denko Petrol Station has submitted their difficulties to the Director-General of the Department of Petroleum Products Supervision and Inspection Department on 17 May, saying that Octane 92 Ron and 95 Ron are in short in supply and that they will suspend their sales temporarily if 95 Ron is out of sale in their 38 petrol stations in Yangon and Mandalay regions.

Yesterday morning, the Myanmar Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association announced that MT Beluga Pacific tanker which carries 16,400 tonnes of fuel oil, MT Yu Hai tanker which carries 17,200 tonnes of fuel oil, MT Yu Dang tanker which carries 18,200 tonnes of fuel oil, and Aberlour tanker which carries 20,000 tonnes of fuel oil, were being unloaded at the ports. — TWA/GNLM

151 Myanmar MoU migrant workers in third batch sent to work in Thailand



The third batch of MoU migrant Workers are welcomed at the Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge (2).

THE third batch of 151 Myanmar workers was sent to Thailand under the MoU system to work for three Thai companies on 19 May, according to the Office of the Labour Attaché.

The workers were allowed to enter Thailand via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge

Ltd, respectively. When accepting the MoU workers, the Thai Customs will restrict the goods and services. The announcement of conditions for tax collection has been announced at the respective border camps for Myanmar migrant workers. The restricted goods and the conditions for tax collection when accepting MoU workers of the Thai Customs Department have been announced at the respective border camps for Myanmar migrant workers, and officials at the border camp are working together to make sure that the Myanmar migrant workers are not harmed. The first batch of 287 workers was accepted from Thailand on 10 May and the second batch of 301 workers was sent to Thailand on 11 May. — TWA/GNLM

Electricity bill overcharges can be checked at relevant township EPDs: SAC Information Team

AN official from the Ministry of Electric Power and the Ministry of Energy said that the people can go to relevant township electricity offices to inspect if there are any overcharges in the bill by taking the receipt, at the 14th press conference of the State Administration Council’s Information Team.

“If there are overcharges, you can go to the township electricity office. As some meters are read by machine and some are read by the staff themselves, so there are many or fewer errors,” the official said.

Despite the daily power outages, most consumers are experiencing fixed bill charges every month. “There are months that the bill charges are the same; it seems like they are charging with estimation; If the bill is K35,000 this month, it is the same for next month; Sometimes we don’t see that the meter is read, and when the bill arrives, it seems higher than it should be; There are not many townships where meters are read with a computer sys-

tem,” said U Maung Nge, a resident in Kyauktada Township.

The AMI system reduces non-technical losses, provides meter readings from the control server in a short period, easy issuance of billing and charges with barcode, online bill payment, and it is a system that the consumer can check by mobile phone. As it is better than the reading-by-staff method, most townships in Yangon are implementing this system. — TWA/GNLM



More than 600 tonnes of shrimp exported in April

ACCORDING to the Department of Fisheries, more than 600 tonnes of shrimp were exported in April, the first month of the 2022-2023 Financial Year (FY).

A total of 610.49 tonnes worth US\$ 2.735 million were exported, 541.841 tonnes through the

regular trade and 68.649 tonnes through land borders. During the previous mini-budget period within six months, 7,572.992 tonnes of shrimp worth \$33.492 million were exported.

Most shrimps come from Rakhine State and Taninthayi

Region. Shrimps are farmed in 8,377.78 acres, transported to Yangon and thereby they are exported abroad. Myanmar is providing fish, shrimp and other seafood to over 40 countries, including China and Thailand. — 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 neighboring countries, e-Visa (Tourist) applications will be allowed and accepted from 15 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

CRIME NEWS

illegal timbers, animal feeds, cement, business equipment, home appliances and unregistered vehicles seized

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, efforts are being made to take effective action against illegal trades across the country.

On 17 May, the on-duty inspection team under the management of the Kayin State Anti-Illegal Trade Eradication Special Task Force conducted inspections at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Checkpoint in Kayin State. They seized 1,670 bags of illegal cement that showed no official documents at an estimated value of K16,700,000 and four six-wheel trucks, which carried those illegal items, at an estimated value of K111 million. The action was taken under the Customs Law.

Similarly, on 18 May, the inspection team of the Thanlwin Bridge checkpoint confiscated K1,570,000 worth of the second-hand mobiles from a vehicle heading to Mandalay from Myawady and action was taken under the Customs Law.

In addition, the Hteedan Port container terminal checkpoint captured K9,439,000 worth of business equipment that was not declared in the Import Declaration on 17 May. At the Myanmar Industrial Port container terminal checkpoint

captured K12,201,400 worth of home appliances that were not declared in the Import Declaration on 18 May. The action was taken under the Customs Law.

Afterwards, on 18 May, the team led by the Bago Township Customs Department carried out inspections between Nyaungkhashay and Waw townships. They captured foodstuffs and animal feedstuff at the estimated value of K1,500,000 from a vehicle (approximately K10 million). The action was taken under the Customs Law.

On 19 May, the team led by Bago Region Forest Department seized 22.3251 tonnes of K2,166,803 worth of illegal timbers in Yedashe Township and action was taken under the Forest Law.

On the same day, Police confiscated three unregistered vehicles in Monywa Township at an estimated value of K5,500,000 and opened a case file under the Export/ Import Law.

Therefore, 20 arrests at an estimated value of K170,077,203 were made on 17, 18 and 19 May, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering committee. — MNA

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

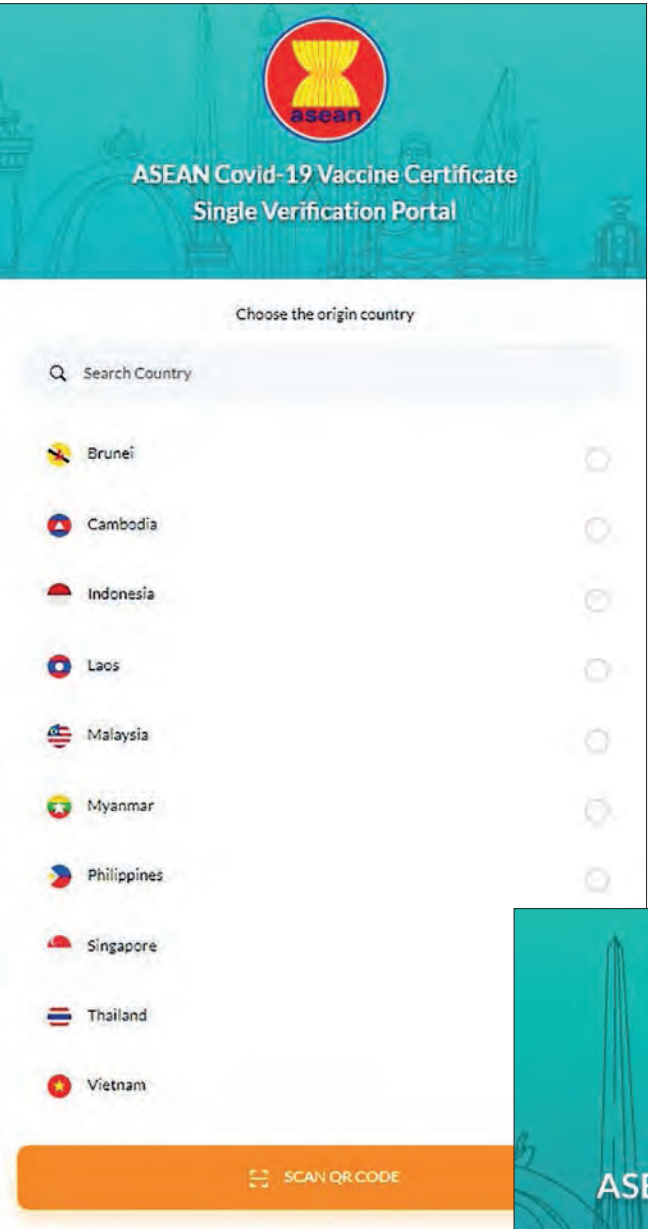
THE Ministry of Commerce oversees the importation of necessary medical supplies and anti-COVID-19 devices critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities through trading posts, international airports and seaports.

A total of 95,000 sets of PPEs were imported by a company via the Myanmar International Port 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

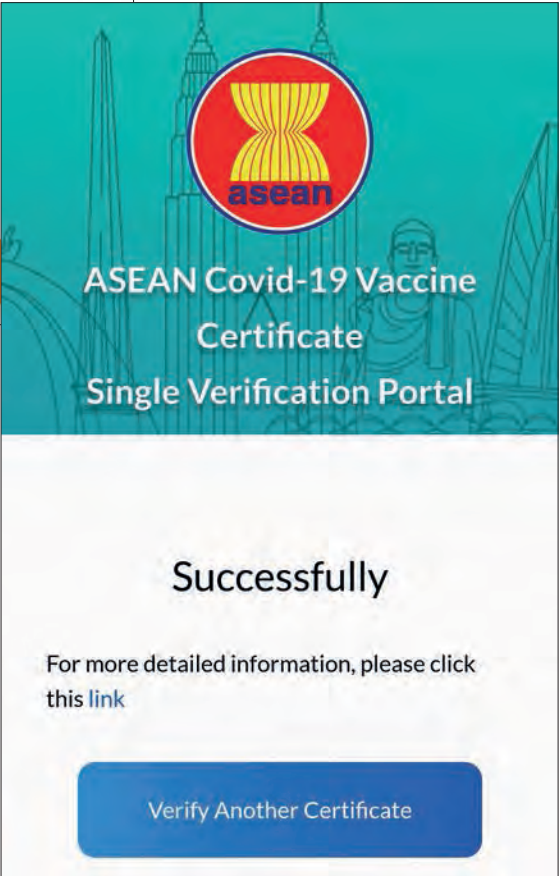
Myanmar COVID-19 Vaccination Electronic Certificate officially recognized at ASEAN Single QR Code Verification Portal



issued by Myanmar can be scanned and retrieved from any mobile phone or tablet, so the certificate holders can easily verify the completion of the vaccination and confirm the date and type of vaccines.

Moreover, Myanmar makes efforts to receive recognition from ASEAN member countries on the vaccination records and the COVID-19 Vaccination Electronic Certificate issued via <https://c19vc.moh.gov.mm> was recognized officially at ASEAN Single QR Code Verification Portal during the 15th ASEAN HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING held in Indonesia on 14 and 15 May 2022.

Therefore, the travellers to foreign countries from Myanmar verify the COVID-19 Vaccination Electronic Certificate can be verified at <https://asean.healthverify.org> ASEAN Covid-19 Vaccine Certificate Single Verification Portal starting 15-5-2022. —MNA



THE Ministry of Health collects the data on COVID-19 vaccination processes, supervises the vaccine coverage and distribution and grants vaccination records and also developed the Vaccination Management Information System-VMIS across the nation with the participation of ministries concerned in July 2021.

The COVID-19 Vaccination Electronic Certificate was also issued online for those travelling abroad at the ministry's website <https://c19vc.moh.gov.mm> starting 7-4-2022.

The QR Code contained in the COVID-19 Vaccination Electronic Certificate

LOCAL BUSINESS

Mon State's frozen fish export to China suspends

AS China's coronavirus cases re-surge in the recent months, Mon State's frozen fish export which solely relied on the China market is sluggish, according to the Mawlamyine Commodity Centre.

"Fish produced in Mon State is highly consumed in China. Small size Hilsa and mackerel fish can be exported to Malaysia. However, the export volume to Malaysia is pretty low as they purchase only one container load of fish once in three months. Normally, Myanmar ships about 3-4 containers of fish to China every month. China's market constitutes over 90 per cent of Mon State's fish export," an exporter elaborated.

China is stepping up virus rules and regulations on freight and it disrupted the supply chain.

China has banned cross-border trade through some border posts between Myanmar and China since October 2020. The frozen fish is shipped under a cold chain via a sea trade. The traders from both Myanmar and China



Fishery workers are seen at the production line.

do not dare to take a risk during the lockdown period and strict virus policy.

The traders are facing barriers such as an increase in transportation costs and trade impediments due to the heightened coronavirus measures.

"Some traders shipped frozen fish in the pre-Thingyan period. Yet, I don't think they have been placed in the market. They still cannot be withdrawn from the containers or they might be in cold storages at the moment," said an exporter.

Mon State's fish export sector has collapsed since the coronavirus outbreak in 2020. The export market is hard to raise its head again.

At present, mainland China is battling the lockdown. It is about two months since the

markets were suspended and the trade will slow down more than expected, according to the National Enlightenment Institute.

Approximately 180 metric tons of fish are sent to foreign markets every year. China accounts for 90 per cent of Mon State's fish exports.

The exports of frozen fish from Mon State have been dropping for two consecutive years, resulting in the stockpile of frozen fish in cold storage in Mon State.

"We have sufficient inventory of fish in cold storage as export is slow-moving and China's demand falls," said a cold storage operator. There are 14 fishing blocks in Mon State. Over 1,500 inshore and offshore fishing vessels are engaged in the fishing industry.

Inshore and offshore fishing businesses are thriving in Mon State as it has coastal areas. The fishing business plays a role that drives the economic growth in Mon State, the Mawlamyine Commodity Centre stated. — GNLM

CMP raw materials import soars to \$306 mln in April

IMPORTS of raw materials by CMP (cut-make-pack) businesses have jumped to US\$306.33 million between 1 April and 6 May in the current financial year 2022-2023, which reflects a significant increase of \$217 million compared with the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures rose from \$89 million registered during the year-ago period, the Commerce Ministry's data indicated.

The industry is returning to normal after the COVID-19 vaccination programme for the workers, as per the HIS Markit's September report.

Exports of garments manufactured under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system were valued at US\$3.6 billion in the last FY2020-2021, according to data from the Myanmar Customs Department.

The garment sector is among the prioritized sectors

driving up exports. Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garments and textiles produced on the Cutting, Making, and Packing basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

Myanmar mainly exports CMP garments to markets in Japan and Europe, along with the Republic of Korea, China, and the US.

The export value of CMP garments was only \$850 million in the 2015-2016FY, but it has tripled over the past two FYs. In the 2016-2017FY, about \$2 billion was earned from exports of CMP garments. The figure increased to an estimated \$2.5 billion in the 2017-2018FY and \$2.2 billion in the 2018 mini-budget period (from April to September). It tremendously grew to \$4.6 billion in the 2018-2019FY and \$4.8 billion in the 2019-2020FY, according to the Commerce Ministry. — KK/GNLM

Rice export prices to China flat

THE export price of rice to China is neither rising nor declining at present, said U Min Thein, vice-chair of Muse Rice Wholesale Depot.

The profit condition is depending on the short-haul trucking cost as the price remains unchanged, he added.

"The price is stable in China. Thuka rice variety fetches 140 Yuan in Ruili (Shweli), while the price of broken rice is around 120 Yuan. If the short-haul trucking service costs are higher, the profit will decrease. If the trucking cost is going cheap, the profit will be higher," he elaborated.

Before 16 May 2022, China banned Myanmar trucks to enter their side because of the coronavirus protocol. Myanmar goods can be exported to China through the Kyinsankyawt border with the use of a Chinese short-haul trucking service.

As a result of this, the cost of Chinese short-haul trucking tremendously rose to K10 million per truck, whereas the trucking was worth only K700,000-800,000 when Myanmar truckers were allowed to enter China, U Min Thein continued.

Myanmar sees a big slump in

exports. The number of trucks to China through the Kyinsankyawt border post drastically dropped from 400 to 30 for now.

This being so, the volume of rice and broken rice export plunges from 60,000 to 4,000 bags per day, he stressed.

The permit of the driver-substitution system slashes transport costs. However, it will take time to return to trade normality on the Muse border, U Min Thein continued.

"We need to carefully consider the market condition. When China eases the COVID rules this year, the number of trucks engaged in cross-border trade will increase," U Min Thein shared

his opinion.

China shut down all the checkpoints linking to the Muse border amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the checkpoints, Kyinsankyawt has resumed trading activity from 26 November on a trial run. Myanmar daily delivers rubber, green gram, chilli pepper, onion, mango and other food commodities to China through the Kyinsankyawt post.

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 indicated. — NN/GNLM



Bags are filled up with export rice at one rice mill.

Try hard in learning with relentless efforts

THIS time to resume the new academic year for students of basic education and higher education. The resumption of teaching will be reactive in the school environs.

The learning society in Myanmar is constituted of students, teachers, parents and teaching infrastructures. It is necessary to fulfil the needs of learning societies in advance for the convenience of students and teachers in daily work. Indeed, it is responsible for local authorities to manage the improvement of the learning societies in Myanmar.

Regularly, the result of the examination was announced for the basic education students in the fourth week of April. Then, the basic education schools open in early June. Significantly, various universities, degree colleges, colleges and institutes in the higher education sector resume their operations in May 2022.

Teachers are playing a key role in academic matters. Hence, the government arranges the appointment of more teachers to be deployed at the schools which need the number of teachers to reach the full organizational setup. If so, they will dutifully teach their pupils for sharing educational knowledge.

On one hand, efforts are being made to turn out qualified tutors and demonstrators for the higher education sector in order to appoint them to respective higher education institutions. Only when the faculty members are qualified will they thoroughly share their wider knowledge with learners. Consequently, these institutions will produce qualified university students in the future.

Truly, students from both the basic and higher education sectors should complete their respective learning. Otherwise, not only students and parents but the State would face losses. It would be a loss of workable forces for the State as well as individual citizens.

Hence, the government is responsible for the creation of a happy learning society for students. Such a society will create initiatives, critical thinking, innovation, creativity, new ideas and wonderful skills for the students. If so, a new generation of students will be ready to polish the image of the State and the citizens through their advanced work capacity. If so, they will be excellent intellectuals and intelligentsia for the nation in the future.

The ring of the bell has been beaten for all students. They are responsible for shouldering the duties of the State in the future. To be able to do so, all students in the two strata need to try hard to become the outstanding ones on whom the State and the people can rely.



Kason: the month of the festival of pouring water on the Bodhi tree

By Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
(Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu)

KASON (May) is the second month in the Myanmar calendar. It is the hottest month of Myanmar's summer. As the sun reaches the Tropic of Cancer, its rays fall directly on Myanmar, drying up water in lakes, ponds, streams and rivers, and reducing Myanmar soil to an almost parched land. Evaporation generates more heat causing perspiration and loss of Saline water in the human body. Hence there are two Myanmar rhymes to describe this weather. တန်ခူးလေလှိုင်း တဆင့်လေခင်း: "In Tagu water is diminished, but in Kason water is dried" တဆင့်နီနယုန်လေ့လေ့. "In Kason and Nayon, the heat is unbearable". But rain is not totally absent this month. Occasionally rainclouds would gather to let down some showers, or sometimes unexpected storms should arise, bringing pre-Monsoon downpours relieving all beings of intense heat. The natural environment has turned fully green, and among the flowers that bloom in this month Saga (Champak Michelia), a fragrant yellow flower is traditionally marked as the flower of the month. It is the flower of a kind of timber tree that grows wild in the Mt Popa area, which is its habitat. In the astrological cycle of seasons, Kason id Vrishabha (Taurus) with the figure of Bull as its zodiacal sign. At night in the firmament, appear astride the moon Witha Kha, the asterism of 14 stars in Libra resembling a drum circle.

The word 'Kason', according to philologists, is a combination of two words, 'Ka' and 'Son', 'Ka' means water and 'Son' means to pour, and so Kason means 'to pour water'. But Pali scholars say that this word is derived from the Pali word 'Kachina', meaning 'water shortage'. It is the month of water shortage due to extremely hot weather. Both interpretations are plausible as the former implies the supply of water and the latter the demand for it.

Kason is an auspicious month for the Buddhists because of its full-moon day, which is religiously important. Four major events in the life of Lard Gautama Buddha took place on the full-moon day of Kason when Lord Dipankaya Buddha gave divine prophesy to the hermit Thumeda that the hermit would become Lord Gautama Buddha. Secondly, it was on the full-moon day of Kason in the Maha Sakarit year of 68 that babe Prince Siddhartha was born to Queen Maha Maya. Thirdly, it was on the full-moon day of Kason in the Maha Sakarit year of 103 that Prince Siddhartha (Bodhisatta), after six arduous years of practising austerity as a recluse became enlightened and thus became Lord Gautama Buddha. Fourthly, it was on the full-moon day of Kason in the Maha Sakarit year of 148 that Lord Gautama Buddha entered Parinibbana (Demise). Because of these four great landmarks in the Buddha's life, the full-moon day of Kason is regarded by all Buddhists as the most auspicious and fourfold blessed. In Myanmar, the full-moon day of Kason is a public holiday as it is marked as Buddha Day. Religious functions are held on this day, such as recitation of Parittas, administering of moral precepts by monks and visiting pagodas and shrines by devotees to pay homage and do charity work. In other Buddhist countries, this day is called Vesak Day, which is celebrated by Buddhists by doing religious work such as the monks chanting Suttas (discourses) and devotees visiting shrines to pray.

In Myanmar, the traditional festival of pouring water on the Bodhi tree is held in Kason. Tree worship was one of the prehistoric beliefs, and it was quite prevalent in Stone Ages. Later, it was passed down to early civilizations. Myanmar indigenous races have the custom of worshipping a tree god (The guardian spirit of tree) called 'Yokka-soe', who is believed to be benevolent to humans. When



Hindu Brahmanism arrived here, it brought many Hindu deities, including tree god. Hindu Brahmans revere the Bodhi tree because they believe that it is one of the abodes of Vishnu, the Maha Deva. Yokka-soe appears quite often in Myanmar fables and folk tales. Even in the Jatakas, we find that the tree god plays no small role. In the last life of the Lord Buddha, there was one incident that proved the dominance of tree worship at that time. While the Bodhisatta (the Buddha-to-be) was seated in meditation under a banyan tree, Sujata, the daughter of a rich man of Senani village, came to offer to the Bodhisatta some rice boiled in concentrated milk she had specially prepared. She brought it there to offer to the Guardian god of that tree as a special thanks-giving as her request to have a son which she had made at the foot of that tree, had been fulfilled. Even today in Myanmar, we see little shrines at

some big shady trees in which little idols of Yokka-soe are housed and worshipped, and believers are scared of chopping trees with such shrines.

In spite of the tradition of tree worship, the rite of pouring water on the Bodhi tree is entirely Buddhist in origin and not connected with animism.

There are references in Buddhist literature pertaining to the worship of the Bodhi tree in the lifetime of the Lord Buddha. In the Kalinga Jataka of the 13th Nipata, which forms a portion of Tipidaka, there is mention of the planting of a Bodhi tree by Shin Ananda, the disciple of the Buddha. How Shin Ananda induced King K-ala and his people to pay homage to the Bodhi tree was described in it. There was the story of Bhikkhuni Sangha Sumitta, daughter of King Asoka being sent out to Sri Lanka as a missionary with a southern branch of the Maha Bodhi Tree at Buddhagaya. The sacred

branch was ceremonially planted at Anuradha City by the Lankan king himself. The Bodhi tree that grew out of it came to be known as Dakkhina Sakha (Southern Branch) Bodhi Tree. As all Buddhas attained enlightenment under big shady trees and major events in the last life of Gautama Buddha took place in the forests, devotees regard such trees and forests as sacred, and they respect them. Weithabu Buddha became enlightened under the Sal tree (Pentacme Siamensis). Kakusanda Buddha became enlightened under the Kokko tree (Albizia lebbek), Konagamana Buddha under the Yethahpan tree (Ficus glomerata), Kassapa Buddha under the Banyan tree (Ficus indica) and Gautama Buddha under the Bodhi tree (Ficus religiosa). Indeed, the trees under which Buddhas attained 'Omniscience' are called Maha Bodhi Tree. Bodhi is a Pali word meaning 'Knowing' or 'perceiving'. Maha Bodhi tree is classified as a kind of Paribawga Ceti in which Paribawga or priestly utensils used by the Buddhas were enshrined. So this tree is regarded as sacred. The act of pouring water on the Maha Bodhi Tree is the expression of piety and respect shown to the Buddhas.

Maha Bodhi trees found in the precincts of pagodas and monasteries all over Myanmar are those grown out of seeds or saplings brought from Buddhagaya in India or Sri Lanka by Myanmar envoys, monks, or personages in different periods of Myanmar history. Seeds or saplings of the Maha Bodhi Tree were religious objects sent with Buddha's relics to Myanmar kings by rajas of Sri Lanka. Some Myanmar kings despatched religious missions to Buddhagaya and Kandy to do religious work there, and they brought back seeds and saplings. The earliest historical evidence of planting Bodhi trees in Myanmar was found in the reign of King Narapati Sithu (A.D 1173-1210) of the Bagan dynasty. It was in his time that one Myanmar monk named Ashin Kassapa Maha Thera went to Sri Lanka, and on his return,

he brought back seeds of Maha Bodhi Tree, drawings of Maha Zedi, Lawha Pathada Pyatthat, and many sacred relics which he gave to the king. Other planters of the Maha Bodhi tree were King Uzana of the Pinya dynasty, who planted it in A.D 1340; King Narapati and King Maha Thiha Thura of the Inwa dynasty, both of whom sent their envoys to Sri Lanka in A.D 1442 and A.D 1468, respectively and the envoys brought home saplings of Bodhi Tree; King Dhamma Zedi of Mon dynasty who planted in A.D 1471 the seed of Maha Bodhi Tree from Sri Lanka on a hillock now called Bodhi hill in the northwest of Shwedagon Pagoda, Yangon; King Bodawpaya of Konbaung dynasty who sent to India a party of scholars in A.D 1800 to study Maha Bodhi Tree at Buddhagaya. On their return, they brought back descriptions and drawings of the Sacred Tree, and two saplings of it presented by its caretaker. The saplings were ceremonially planted by the King himself in the precinct of Mingun Pagoda; King Bagyidaw his successor planted in the south-west of his place the saplings which his envoys brought from Buddhagaya in A.D 1834: and King Mindon,

cinct of Kyauktaw Gyi Image, Mandalay. They were brought from Buddhagaya and planted there by King Mindon.

The planting of the Bodhi tree in Myanmar continues in modern times. There is a place near Monywa in Upper Myanmar where one thousand Bodhi saplings had been planted, and this place came to be known as "One thousand Bodhi trees" (Bodhi Ta Htaung). In the precinct of Shwedagon are the Bodhi trees the one at the northwest corner was planted on the day of the attainment of Myanmar independence, 4th January 1948. Next to it on the right is the Bodhi tree planted in 1905. Both were brought from Buddhagaya. There is another Bodhi tree at the southeast corner (Tuesday Direction) with a brick platform around it. It was planted by Head monk Meidet Sayadaw. It is at this tree that the ceremony of pouring water on Kason full-moon day takes place annually.

The rite of pouring water on the Bodhi tree began on the date of the arrival of its seeds and saplings in Myanmar. The earliest mention of this rite was found in the Bagan inscription of A.D 1201, known as "Thingyi Nyaung Ok" stone inscription.



second last Myanmar king who received two saplings sent by Sri Lankan monks in A.D 1860, and he planted them at Bodhi-kon, south of his palace, Mandalay.

There are also four Bodhi trees at four corners of the pre-

Later, Saw Hla Win Paya stone inscription of A.D 1291, and one Ka-chin song of the Pinya Period had mention of the pouring of water at the Banyan tree. Myanmar chronicles and literature have accounts of the royal per-

formance of this rite on the full moon day of Kason. Lawka Byu Har or Inyone Sardan a famous Treatise on Court Ceremonies and Festivals complied by Minister Thiri Uzana of Inwa Period, described how the King and his court participated in the rite of water-pouring at the Bodhi Tree and the festivities that followed it.

But the Kason festival is not confined to the Court. It is a public event in which peoples from all walks of life take part. In every Buddhist house, there is the family altar with a Buddha image, and on it are placed three pots called Nyaung Ye Oh (pots in which water and flowers are placed as a religious offering) dedicated to the Buddha, Dhamma (Teachings) and Sangha (Pure disciple). There is an old Myanmar greeting, "I pray for your health and happiness by offering Thabye (Eugenia) sprigs to the Buddha and pouring water on the Banyan tree!" Many Myanmar folk rhymes and songs describe the Kason festival. These are the pieces of evidence to prove that it is a public festival. One noted court poet and Minister of the Konbaung Period named Letwethondara composed a ratu verse while he

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

20-5-2022

Kyat/ 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	2,115	2,160	2,155	2,120	2,160	2,180	2,165	2,145	2,240	2,255	2,150	2,160	2,195	2,195	2,200	2,415	2,430
95 Ron	2,185	2,235	2,230	2,195	2,230	2,255	2,240	2,215	2,310	2,325	2,225	2,240	2,265	2,265	2,270	2,490	2,605
HSD (500 ppm)	2,080	2,125	2,120	2,085	2,125	2,145	2,140	2,110	2,225	2,220	2,115	2,125	2,160	2,160	2,165	2,380	2,690
HSD (50 ppm)	2,105	2,155	2,150	2,115	2,150	2,175	2,170	2,140	2,255	2,250	2,145	2,155	2,190	2,190	2,190	2,410	2,725
HSD (10 ppm)	2,105	2,155	2,150	2,115	2,150	2,175	2,170	2,140	2,255	2,250	2,145	2,155	2,190	2,190	2,190	2,410	2,725

Fuel (Wholesale Price)	Yangon	Mandalay
92 Ron	2,012	2,086
95 Ron	2,082	2,157
HSD (500 ppm)	1,978	2,047
HSD (50 ppm)	2,006	2,075
HSD (10 ppm)	2,006	2,075

- 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

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

Kason: the month of the festival of pouring water on the Bodhi tree

FROM PAGE-9

The first few lines run as follows.

ပွဲခါညောင်ရေ သွန်းမြဲပေတည်း၊
ရိုသေသွား၊ ထုံးစဉ်လာဖြင့်
မိခင်ရပ်သူ၊ တောင်းဆိုယူသည်။

At the Nyaung-Ye Festival Meza people are all devout Duly fall in prayer and pour Water to the banyan tree.

Today the best places to watch the ceremony of watering on Bo tree during the month of Kason and participate in it are Shwedagon Pagoda precinct, Yangon, Bawdikone Pagoda

and Shwe Kyet Yet Pagoda in and near Mandalay and other famous pagodas with Bodhi trees. The ceremony takes place early in the morning or in the evening. The ceremony held at the south-east corner of the Shwedagon pagoda precinct is traditional and grand. Brilliant pageantry proceeds the procession of colourfully dressed participants carrying pots of water and Eugene sprigs and flowers. Chanting of Paritta and administering of moral precepts by monks, a brief explanation of the rite, and recitation of Pali poems praising the

Lord Buddha follow one after another. Then begins the pouring of water at the foot of the Bodhi Tree. Organized groups composed mostly of damsels come in by turn and pour water, singing hymns. The highlights of the occasion that create a festive atmosphere are the feast and entertainment. Light refreshments are served gratis to all, and music, song and dance performed by amateurs and merry-makers keep up the festive mood.

In the countryside Kason festival is held at the village pagoda or monastery where there

is a Bodhi Tree. Mirthful processions of village maidens in their best are seen skillfully balancing on their heads water pots as they wend their way with measured steps to the sacred Bodhi tree to perform the water pouring rite. Behind them follow a party of joyful village youths playing wind and percussion instruments to produce sonorous music. It provides a social occasion for young people to meet each other.

On this occasion of the Kason festival, it is the customary practice of Myanmar Buddhists to remove the fishes and tur-

tles from nearby dry ponds and lakes to places where there is abundant water. This merit is regarded as a life-saving act of charity.

In ecological parlance Kason festival of watering trees and saving fishes may be taken as a sort of public activity in the preservation of the natural environment.

Demise: The ultimate passing away of Buddhas and Person of Supreme Saintliness (arahantā)

■

PANDEMIC
WORLD

Chinese oral COVID-19 drug effective against Omicron variant: study

SCIENTISTS have found in a study that China’s oral COVID-19 nucleoside drug VV116 can shorten the viral shedding time by two to three days in the treatment of patients infected with the Omicron variant of the virus.

The researchers from Fudan University conducted an open, prospective cohort study to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of VV116 in 136 patients hospitalized with the Omicron variant from 8

to 24 March.

Among the participants who received standard treatment, 60 patients received VV116 and 76 patients did not, according to the study published on Wednesday in the journal Emerging Microbes & Infections. The researchers found that those in the treatment group, who received VV116 within 5 days of their first positive test, had an average viral shedding time of 8.56 days, while those in

the control group had an average time of 11.13 days, according to the study. It also reported a total of nine mild adverse events in the VV116 group, seven of which were mild liver function abnormalities. All events were resolved without intervention. VV116 is a safe, effective oral antiviral drug, showing an improved performance during the early onset of Omicron infection, the researchers said.—Xinhua



Nurses prepare drugs for patients at the emergency centre of Ruijin Hospital in east China’s Shanghai, 1 April 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/YUAN QU

Pandemic school closures could inflict lasting economic toll: IMF



The UK, Ireland, Germany, Denmark and some northern Italian regions have shut schools for several weeks amid a rise in coronavirus cases. PHOTO: CHRISTOF STACHE/AFP

SCHOOL closures during the pandemic have set back children’s learning in many G20 countries and could have a long-lasting negative impact on GDP in advanced economies, the IMF said Tuesday.

Recent assessments of schoolchildren show that widespread virtual learning during the Covid-19 pandemic result-

ed in lower academic levels in India, Germany, the United Kingdom, Brazil and the United States, where many institutions were closed for more than a year.

“If these learning losses aren’t addressed, affected students could experience a lifetime of depressed earnings,” the Washington-based crisis

lender said in a report.

IMF economists observed that current students will make up nearly 40 per cent of the working-age population in G20 economies for decades to come.

“While much is still unknown, our simulations show that, once all such students are in the labor market, gross domestic product for advanced G20 economies could be as much as three percent lower in the long run,” the report warned.

Poorest households suffered the worst learning losses, and their prospects stand to be “particularly diminished, further widening income inequality”, the IMF said.

If learning loss from the pandemic goes unaddressed, it could result in lifetime income losses of 1.5 to 10 per cent for residents of G20 nations, the IMF estimates.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chinese port city near N. Korea beefs up Covid controls

A key Chinese port city near the border with North Korea has launched regular Covid-19 testing for all 7.5 million inhabitants as its isolated neighbour grapples with a spiralling outbreak.

China has stuck to a hardline, zero-Covid approach that has left the capital Beijing under a mosaic of restrictions and confined most of the 25 million residents of Shanghai to their homes for weeks.

Across the border, impoverished, nuclear-armed North Korea has announced more than 1.7 million infections since last week, putting Chinese authorities on edge. Officials in Dalian – a port around 300 kilometres (190 miles) from North Korea – implemented a regular testing policy on Tuesday for all residents after logging a handful of cases in recent days.—AFP

Courier companies in Beijing strengthen disinfection measures amid COVID-19 resurgence

COURIER companies in Beijing have strengthened disinfection measures to make sure the safety of their employees and customers amid a resurgence of COVID-19.

They conduct thorough disinfection of service venues, delivery equipment and parcels, so that Beijing residents can rest assured when fetching parcels.—Xinhua

UK’s healthcare ‘dangerously reliant’ on China for medical supplies

BRITAIN’S National Health Service (NHS) is “dangerously reliant” on China for medical supplies, said a report published by British think tank Civitas after studying Chinese-manufactured goods in NHS supply chains.

This revelation was made in a report titled “China’s presence in NHS supply chains: Why we need to protect our health service from future threat.”

This analysis by Robert Clark and Dr Richard Norrie finds 1 in 6 products contained on the Government’s “Disaster Relief List” are sourced from China.

In the last year the UK government has spent over £6.2 billion to keep the NHS going with Chinese manufactured medical supplies - a figure that has trebled in less than a year. The report calls for an emergency ‘NHS Se-

curity Act’ warning that “China could switch off medical supplies” in future foreign policy spats.

Robert Clark and Richard Norries uncovered the true extent of NHS reliance on China: “37 per cent of testing and diagnostic items used to detect dangerous viruses. A quarter (24 per cent) of all medical consumables such as oxygen, needles and syringes.—ANI



Graffiti depicting the logo of Britain’s National Health Service (NHS) and a rainbow, in an outpouring of love and thanks to NHS staff and key workers involved in treating COVID-19 patients, is pictured on the gates to a closed-down pub in Pontefract, northern England on 3 April 2020. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

ECONOMY WORLD

UN urges Ukraine grain release, World Bank pledges extra \$12 bn

THE UN warned Wednesday that a growing global food crisis could last years if it goes unchecked, as the World Bank announced an additional \$12 billion in funding to mitigate its “devastating effects.”

Food insecurity is soaring due to warming temperatures, the coronavirus pandemic and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, which has led to critical shortages of grains and fertilizer.

At a major United Nations meeting in New York on global food security, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the war

“threatens to tip tens of millions of people over the edge into food insecurity”.

He said what could follow would be “malnutrition, mass hunger and famine, in a crisis that could last for years”, as he and others urged Russia to release Ukrainian grain exports.

Russia and Ukraine alone produce 30 per cent of the global wheat supply.

Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine and international economic sanctions on Russia have disrupted supplies of fertilizer, wheat and other commodities

from both countries, pushing up prices for food and fuel, especially in developing nations.

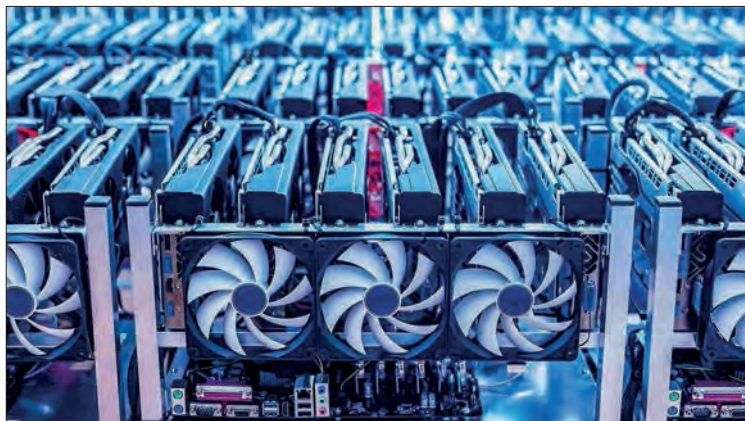
Before the invasion in February, Ukraine was seen as the world’s bread basket, exporting 4.5 million tonnes of agricultural produce per month through its ports — 12 per cent of the planet’s wheat, 15 per cent of its corn and half of its sunflower oil.

But with the ports of Odesa, Chornomorsk and others cut off from the world by Russian warships, the supply can only travel on congested land routes that are far less efficient.—AFP



The United Nations has called a meeting to deal with the worsening global food crisis, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine as well as India’s ban on wheat exports. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

China re-emerges as bitcoin mining hub: study



Bitcoin mining can involve hundreds of computers working together to try to guess the solution to cryptographic puzzles. **PHOTO: AFP**

BITCOIN miners, who create the world’s most popular cryptocurrency, are active again in China despite Beijing’s ban on the energy-intensive activity, an academic study found Tuesday.

The United States however remains the biggest country for bitcoin mining followed by

number two China, according to researchers from Cambridge University.

“In China, following a sudden uptick in covert mining operations ... the country has re-emerged as a major mining hub,” the research paper said.

Chinese activity had

slumped in mid-2021 after Beijing launched a crackdown on bitcoin mining projects.

“However, the trend quickly reversed as Chinese miners began to relocate operations,” the paper added.

China now accounts for more than 21 per cent of mining output, according to the Cambridge researchers who examined data from September 2021 to January 2022.

The US meanwhile represented almost 40 per cent of activity.

Bitcoins are “mined” by solving puzzles using powerful computers that consume enormous amounts of electricity.

The miners do so in the hope they will receive new bitcoins for validating transaction data.—AFP

World Economic Forum to tackle geo-economic challenges in Davos

THE World Economic Forum (WEF) announced on Wednesday that its 2022 Annual Meeting will focus on the unprecedented global challenges governments are currently facing, including post-pandemic recovery, the Ukraine crisis and climate change.

The meeting, called “History at a Turning Point: Government Policies and Business Strategies,” will be held in Davos, Switzerland, on 22-26 May.

After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by the Ukraine crisis and other geo-economic challenges, the meeting is taking place at a crucial point in time, the WEF said.

It will bring together near-

ly 2,500 leaders and experts from around the globe, in a bid to “reconnect, exchange insights, gain fresh perspectives and advance solutions.”

“The Annual Meeting is the first summit to bring global leaders together in this new situation characterized by an emerging multipolar world as a result of the pandemic and war,” said Klaus Schwab, the WEF’s founder and executive chairman.

“The fact that nearly 2,500 leaders from politics, business civil society and media are coming together in person demonstrates the need for a trusted, informal and action-oriented global platform to confront the issues in a crisis-driven world.”—AFP

Global economic growth dragged down by spillover from Ukraine crisis

THE global economy is predicted to expand by only 3.1 per cent this year, down from the 4.0 per cent projected in January, largely due to Russia’s special military operation in Ukraine, according to UN’s latest World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report, launched on Wednesday.

As the mid-year forecast shows, the conflict has disrupted the fragile economic recovery from the pandemic, resulting in

a humanitarian crisis in Europe, rising food and commodity prices, and exacerbating inflationary pressures. With sharp increases in food and energy prices, global inflation is projected to reach 6.7 per cent this year, more than double the average of 2.9 per cent during the period from 2010 to 2020.

“The war in Ukraine — in all its dimensions — is setting in motion a crisis that is also devastating global energy markets,

disrupting financial systems and exacerbating extreme vulnerabilities for the developing world,” said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. “We need quick and decisive action to ensure a steady flow of food and energy in open markets, by lifting export restrictions, allocating surpluses and reserves to those who need them, and addressing food price increases to calm market volatility,” he added.—Xinhua



The World Economic Forum’s Annual Meeting 2022 will take place in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland from 22-26 May 2022. A general view shows the town of Davos, eastern Switzerland, the venue of the annual World Economic Forum (WEF). **PHOTO: / MEDINA/AFP/FILE**

Qatar to invest an extra US\$5 bln in Spain

QATAR on Wednesday said it plans to invest an additional \$5 billion in Spain on the second day of a state visit by its emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani.

“The volume of investments agreed upon with the Spanish side amounts to \$5 billion in various sectors,” said Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani in a statement tweeted by his ministry.

Neither side gave a timetable for the investment, which amounts to some 4.75 billion euros, nor did they say which sectors would benefit.

“Qatar will invest close to five billion euros in our country in the coming years,” Prime Minister

Pedro Sanchez said during a business meeting with the Qatari delegation.

“It is a gesture of confidence in the Spanish economy and Spanish businesses which will strengthen bilateral ties,” he said ahead of afternoon talks with the emir.

Before the pandemic, Qatari investment in Spain stood at 2.67 billion euros (\$2.8 billion), the Spanish government said, making it the country’s 24th biggest investor.

To date, Qatari funding has been notably invested in several sectors: civil aviation, construction, energy and communications.

According to a Spanish government source, the two sides will on



To date, Qatari funding has been notably invested in several sectors: civil aviation, construction, energy and communications. A picture shows the Ras Laffan Industrial City, Qatar’s principal site for production of liquefied natural gas and gas-to-liquid, administrated by Qatar Petroleum, some 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of the capital Doha, on 6 February 2017. **PHOTO: KARIM JAAFAR / AFP/FILE**

Wednesday sign around a dozen commercial contracts, notably concerning energy as Madrid seeks to diversify its gas supplies following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Qatar, one of the world’s three biggest exporters of liquified natu-

ed for 4.4 per cent of Spain’s total gas imports in April and the Spanish government hopes to increase this share.

European states are increasingly looking to other sources of natural gas as they try to wean themselves off dependence on Russia, with LNG easily shipped by boat from countries such as Qatar and the United States.

After Madrid, the Qatari leader will continue his tour of Europe, visiting Germany, Britain, Slovenia and Switzerland, where he will attend the World Economic Forum in the mountain resort of Davos which runs from 22-26 May.

Qatar will host the World Cup later this year.— AFP

Indians feel pinch as inflation soars

INFLATION continues to climb in India as people feel the pinch, driving an increase in savings amid forecasts of further spikes in food prices and other essential items.

WPI THREE-DECADE HIGH

According to the latest data released by the federal government, the Wholesale Price Index

(WPI) rose 15.08 per cent in April, a three-decade high, up from 14.55 per cent in March.

In April, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 7.79 per cent, the highest in eight years, compared with 6.95 per cent the previous month and 4.23 per cent in April last year.

The cost of living is rising in India, with bank loan interest rates, fuel

(petrol, diesel, LPG and CNG) and food prices all surging.

The Indian government is taking measures to ensure food supplies and no hoarding of essential food items to check rising inflation. The federal government has curbed wheat exports as one such major measure. The value of the Indian Rupee has fallen to its

lowest level against the US dollar. On Tuesday, the Indian currency hit a new record-low at 77.69 after it depreciated by 14 paise against the US dollar, mainly due to persistent foreign fund outflows and elevated global crude oil prices. The currency had previously breached the 77-mark against the US dollar in March for the first time ever.—Xinhua

China’s satellite navigation industry output hits 469 billion yuan

THE total output value of China’s satellite navigation and location services industry reached 469 billion yuan (about 69.6 billion US dollars) in 2021, up 16.3 per cent from the previous year, according to an industry white paper released on Wednesday.

China remained the top source of international satellite navigation patent applications last year, with a total of 98,000 applications, said the white paper

issued by the Global Navigation Satellite System and Location Based Service Association of China.

Applications of the homegrown BeiDou Navigation Satellite System have been widely introduced into business fields and daily life, said Sun Zhongliang, deputy head of the association, adding that mass consumption has become one of the major sectors for BeiDou applications.



Visitors view a model of China’s Beidou Navigation Satellite System at the 20th China Beijing International High-tech Expo in Beijing, 31 July 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Sun highlighted BeiDou positioning chip bike-sharing services, saying the number of shared bicycles equipped with a

BeiDou positioning chip has reached 5 million in over 450 cities across the country.— Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (217W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (217W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-5-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE., LTD

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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S. Korea’s intelligence agency says N. Korea ready for nuclear test



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol’s administration has shown readiness to provide medical support to North Korea despite escalated tension on the Korean Peninsula after rounds of missile launches by Pyongyang. **PHOTO: AFP**

SOUTH Korea’s intelligence agency said Thursday that North Korea is ready to conduct another nuclear test, according to lawmakers on the National Assembly’s Intelligence Committee.

“Preparations for a nuclear test are now complete and (Pyongyang) is looking for the right timing,” one of the lawmakers said after the briefing by the National Intelligence Service.

Despite the rapid spread of the coronavirus in the North, signs of preparations for a missile launch were also detected, the

NIS said in the briefing with the lawmakers.

Amid the high probability of a North Korean nuclear test or missile launch during US President Joe Biden’s visit to Seoul later this week, South Korea’s presidential office said Wednesday the South Korean and US leaders have a “plan B” ready to command the combined forces of the two countries should any major provocation occur.

During Thursday’s briefing, the NIS also said that North Korea appears to have unofficially

refused to receive humanitarian aid from South Korea. South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol’s administration has shown readiness to provide medical support to North Korea despite escalated tension on the Korean Peninsula after rounds of missile launches by Pyongyang. North Korea on Thursday reported more than 262,270 cases of what it refers to as “fever” and one more death in the 24 hours through 6 pm Wednesday, as suspected coronavirus cases continue to spread rapidly.—Kyodo

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

Russia to close Moscow offices of Canadian broadcaster

RUSSIA said Wednesday it was closing the Moscow offices of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in retaliation for Ottawa’s banning of Russian state media outlet RT.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau slammed the decision, saying “responsible journalism, sharing what’s actually going on with citizens, is a deep threat to Vladimir Putin”.

Canada in March formally banned RT and RT France from its airwaves, saying their programming was “not consistent with Canadian broadcasting standards”.

RT and state-controlled outlet Sputnik have been blocked in most Western countries since Russia’s military offensive in Ukraine, accused of spreading propaganda. “A decision was made to take retaliatory measures in connection with Canada’s actions, in this case to close the Moscow offices of Canadian television and radio broadcasting company CBC,” Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

Zakharova said Canada’s ban on RT had been “Russophobic” and that the CBC had become “propaganda noise”. “Any alternative view is declared to be Kremlin disinformation,” she said.

EU floats idea of massive aid to rebuild Ukraine

TOP EU officials on Wednesday urged member states to be ambitious in helping Ukraine rebuild after the war, including through possible joint borrowing to cover the massive costs. With the war still raging, the extent of Ukraine’s reconstruction needs is not known, but the European Commission, the EU’s executive arm, believes the damage already done is already in the hundreds of billions of euros (dollars).

To help pay for this, officials are floating a repeat of the EU’s post-pandemic recovery fund, the 800 billion euros (\$840 billion) in fiscal stimulus that is being financed by common debt among the EU’s 27 member states. The fund, officially known as Next Generation EU, overcame deep reticence by so-called “frugal” member states such as the Netherlands and Denmark to come into being. “There is a time, sooner or later, when we will have to look at funding on a European scale as we did for Covid,” said Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans, at a news conference in Brussels.

SOURCE: AFP

1,730 Ukrainian soldiers surrendered at Azovstal since Monday: Russia

RUSSIA’S defence ministry said Thursday that 1,730 Ukrainian soldiers had surrendered this week at the besieged Azovstal steel plant in Ukraine’s port city of Mariupol.

“Over the past 24 hours, 771 militants of the Azov nationalist regiment surrendered,” the ministry said in its daily briefing on the conflict. “In total, since 16 May 1,730 militants have surrendered, including 80 wounded.”

Russia’s military said 265 fighters, 51 of whom were seriously wounded, “laid down their arms”.

Those in need of medical assistance were sent to a hospital in the town of Novoazovsk, which is controlled by pro-Russia separatists, it added.

Ukraine’s defence ministry said Monday the fighters had been evacuated through humanitarian corridors to areas under

Russian and Moscow-backed separatists’ control and that a further “exchange procedure” would take place later.—AFP



Russian servicemen patrol the destroyed part of the Ilyich Iron and Steel Works in Ukraine’s port city of Mariupol on 18 May 2022, amid the ongoing Russian military action in Ukraine. **PHOTO:AFP**

US reopens embassy in Kyiv after closure forced by war

THE United States reopened its embassy in Kyiv Wednesday after closing it for three months due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the State Department said.

“The Ukrainian people, with our security assistance, have defended their homeland in the face of Russia’s unconscionable invasion, and, as a result, the Stars and Stripes are flying over the embassy once again,” Secre-

tary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.

“We stand proudly with, and continue to support, the government and people of Ukraine as they defend their country from the Kremlin’s brutal war of aggression.”

Late Wednesday evening, the US Senate also confirmed Bridget Brink, a career foreign service officer, to be the country’s new ambassador to

Ukraine.

The United States has not had a permanent Senate-confirmed envoy to Ukraine since 2019, when former president Donald Trump removed Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch from her post.

She would later be a key witness in Trump’s first impeachment trial, which revolved around his withholding of military aid to Ukraine.—AFP



Myanmar team miss bronze medal in SEA Games Women's Futsal

THE final day matches of the SEA Games Women's Futsal were continued in Viet Nam on 19 May and Myanmar team missed out on the medal.

The team Myanmar competed against the Malaysian team in the last match and if they win, they can get third place, but they missed the medal due to the draw.

The Myanmar team, which has a goal difference from the Malaysian team, played hard because it needed to win.

At the beginning of the match, the Malaysia team took the lead, but Myanmar reacted with a counterattack and scored three goals in the first half.

The goals for the Myanmar team were scored by May Thet Paing in 9 minutes, Nan May Thazin in the 16th minute, and Yun Mi Mi Lwin in the 20th minute. However, in the second half, Malaysia scored two goals back and the match ended in a three-goal draw.

In the gold medal match, Thailand beat Viet Nam 2-0.

At the end of the group stage, the Thai team won the gold medal with nine points. Viet Nam won the silver medal with six points. The Malaysian team won the bronze medal by one point.

Although Myanmar got one point, it was at the bottom of the table with a goal difference from Malaysia. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



Myanmar team players (white) try to clear the ball against Malaysia team players during the third-place match of the SEA Games women's futsal event on 19 May 2022. **PHOTO: MFF**

Zin May Htet wins silver medal in women's 20km walking race in SEA Games 31



Myanmar's Track and Field Athlete Zin May Htet is seen with the silver medal. **PHOTO: MAF**

THE women's SEA Games track and field event continued on 19 May, with Zin May Htet winning a silver medal in the women's 20-kilometre walking race.

The Myanmar team competed in the men's and women's 20-kilometre events yesterday.

Myanmar female athlete Zin May Htet won the silver medal in the women's 20km walking race with a record of 1 hour, 52 minutes and 34 seconds.

The Vietnamese player won the gold medal with a record of 1 hour, 48 minutes, and 10 seconds while the Thai player won the bronze medal in 1 hour, 56 minutes and 07 seconds.

Than Than Soe, who competed in the women's walking event, was satisfied with fifth place.

The SEA Games track and field event was over, with the Myanmar team winning two silver medals and Khin Mar Sae winning silver in the women's 10,000-metre race. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Myanmar Volleyball Team to play for 5th place after missing semifinals

THE group stage of the SEA Games national volleyball tournament ended on 18 May, with the Myanmar team missing out on the semifinals and only playing for the fifth place. Myanmar missed out on the semifinals after losing 3-0 to host Viet Nam in the semifinals. The men's Volleyball tournament was divided into two groups with Indonesia winning first place and Viet Nam bagging second place in Group A, while the Thai team took first place and the Cambodian team won second place in Group B to reach the semifinals. Myanmar, the third-place team in Group A, qualified for the 5th/6th place, while the bottom of the group, Malaysia and the Philippines, played in the play-offs for the 5th/6th place. Myanmar and the Philippines will play in the 5th-place match today. —Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Myanmar team reach Final in SEA Games billiards doubles event

THE Myanmar team reached the final of the 31st SEA Games Billiards Doubles semifinals on 19 May. In the semifinals, Myanmar defeated Viet Nam by three matches whereas Singapore beat Thailand 3-2. Pauk Sa and Min Si Thu Tun were part of the Myanmar team and made it to the finals.

Myanmar beat Viet Nam by 100-24 in the first match, 100-96 points in the second match, and 100-66 points in the third match. Singaporean Billiard players Peter Gilchrist and Yi Wei Pan beat Thai Billiard stars in the semifinals to advance to the final. Singapore will take on the Myanmar team today in the final. The Myanmar Billiards Team has won a gold medal in the individual billiards competition. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Viet Nam meets Thailand in SEA Games Men's Football Final

THAILAND and Viet Nam teams advance to the Final of the SEA Games Men's Football tournament on 19 May. In the semifinals, Thailand beat Indonesia 1-0 whereas the host Viet Nam beat Malaysia 1-0. It was a close match between the two teams, so both teams played hard and the match was reciprocal. The Thai team won with a single goal in injury time near the end of the match.

Wiratti scored the only winning goal for the Thai team in the 90+4 minute.

Hosts Viet Nam and Malaysia, who were unbeaten in the group stages, also had a tough match, with a goalless draw until the full 90 minutes of regular time.

The winning goal for Viet Nam was scored by Nguyen Thi in the 110th minute of the extra time. Malaysia will play the third-place match against the Indonesia team while Thai will play against host Viet Nam for the gold medal on 22 May. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



A Viet Nam player (red) poises to control the ball against Malaysian players during their semifinal match of the SEA Games Men's Football Tournament held on 19 May 2022. **PHOTO: VFF**



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 Sepak Takraw team bags one gold and one bronze whereas Judo team win two silver medals in SEA Games 31

THE 31st South-East Asian Games, hosted by Viet Nam, is being held at stadiums in various cities. Myanmar won the seventh gold medals in the women's doubles (Regu) with a 2-1 win over host Viet Nam at the Hoang Mai Stadium in Hanoi, yesterday afternoon.

The men's team (Regu) won the bronze medal at the same time. Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam competed in the women's 20-kilometre walking race final, and Ma Zin May Htet won the silver medal for Myanmar.

In the women's Judo event at the Hoai Duc Stadium in Hanoi, Ma Chu Myat Noe Wai and Ma Nweni Pwint Hlaing won silver medals in the women's individual -57kg and -63kg Judo event.

Next, Myanmar won a bronze medal in the Men's Doubles 1000-metre Canoeing event.

Ma Daisy Juliet won the silver medal in Taekwondo (-49kg) event at Tay Ho Stadium while Maung Htet Zaw



Lin in the -80kg and Maung Kyaw Min Naing in the -87kg Taekwondo Men's attack event won the bronze medal each.

Likewise, Ma Zin Mar Khaing won the bronze medal in -65kg Vovinam event at Soc Son Stadium.

The Union minister and

party enjoyed and supported the Myanmar teams' participation in Track and Field, Weightlifting, Vovinam and Sepak Takraw events.

Myanmar is ranked 7th in the ASEAN with a total of 39 medals, winning seven golds, 12 silvers and 20 bronzes. —MNA

