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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks on peace issues with Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS (SSA) Chairman Sao Yawd Serk



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds peace talks with RCSS(SSA) Chairman Sao Yawd Serk and delegation in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 May 2022.

STATE Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held talks on peace issues with a peace delegation led by Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS (SSA) Chairman Sao Yawd Serk at the parlour of Bayintnaung

Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. Also present at the talks was Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council members General

Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae. The Chairman of Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS (SSA) was accompanied by Secretary-1 Sao Sai Ngin and Central Executive Sao Saung Han. At the talks, the Senior General explained the issues of exer-

cising the multiparty democratic system based on the same views of both sides and building the Union based on democracy and federalism. The Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS (SSA) discussed similar views and attitudes over these measures. They then

frankly exchanged views on a plan to systematically draw up the time frame for the process of peace talks after completion of meetings with all organizations, and both sides' views on the peace process.

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order No 40/2022
6th Waning of Kason 1384 ME
20 May 2022

The State Administration Council has allowed Deputy Minister U Min Htein of the Ministry of Construction for retirement from his duties under Section 419 of the State Constitution.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

17 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 20 May, total figure rises to 613,203

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,203** after **17** new cases were reported on 20 May 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,166** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **19,434** without more casualties.—MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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

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

Myeik Archipelago tourism halts during monsoon season

TANINTHAYI Region receives high rainfall and strong winds in the sea. Therefore, Myeik Archipelago tourism is suspended during the monsoon season, tour operators said.

The strong winds have prevailed as monsoon season started, forcing Myeik's tourism businesses to stop operations for the safety of the visitors starting from 15 May.

"Some companies hire speed boats and some create sporting activity. It would be better if the government allows the responsible business to run on some virgin islands for better conservation and management of islands. No permit can impede tourism development as well," said an official of the Myeik Tourism Entrepreneurs Association.

The famous spots for home-grown visitors and tourists are Smart Island, Bailey Island, Kyalleik Island, Donenyaungmine Island and Don waterfall. Hnaphethla Island and Padan Island have become good destinations for tourism.

Out of the beautiful islands

in the Kawthoung area, NyaungU Phee, Kayinkhwa, 115 and heart-shaped islands attract the majority of the visitors.

There were approximately 40 tour companies who have been offering services to Myeik Islands. Now, only ten have survived.

The number of visitors in the Kawthoung area during the Thingyan Festival has estimated at over 10,000 and only 1,000 visitors entered Myeik Archipelago, the tour operators said. — Myint Oo (Myeik)/GNLM



Travellers are seen on famous islands in Myeik Archipelago.



I would seriously urge the entire nation to join hands with the Tatmadaw for the successful realization of democracy

OUR Three Main National Causes – non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty – is the most important task of the democratization process. As the task of safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes is the main duty of the Tatmadaw, all the sectors of the State duty have already been transferred to the Tatmadaw. So, I would seriously urge the entire nation to join hands with the Tatmadaw for the successful realization of democracy, while adhering to Our Three Main National Causes.

(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)

SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks on peace issues with Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS (SSA) Chairman Sao Yawd Serk



The Senior General warmly greets the RCSS (SSA) Chairman (left photo) and takes a documentary group photo (right photo).

FROM PAGE-1

After the talks, the Senior General and the Chairman of

RCSS-SSA posed for documentary photos after exchanging commemorative gifts.

The delegation led by the Chairman of Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS (SSA) will con-

tinue peace talks with the Peace Talks Committee and the National Solidarity and Peace-making Ne-

gotiate Committee formed with members of the State Administration Council. — MNA

MoI Union Minister inspects printing houses of PPD, Kyemon Daily of NPE



The MoI Union Minister views the textbooks at the Aung San Printing Factory.

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the Aung San Printing Factory, GTC Printing Factory and Sarpay Beikman Printing Factory of Printing and Publishing Department in Insein Township and Kyemon of the News and Periodicals Enterprise at the corner of 52nd street and Maha Bandoola Road in Yangon yesterday.

During the visit to three printing factories, the Union Minister checked the printing of Myanmar, Morality and Civic, and PT subject textbooks for Grade 8. He then met with the officials at the meeting hall of GTC Printing Factory and stressed the need to distribute the school textbooks to the regions/states as quickly as possible as

the Prime Minister emphasizes the education, producing quality prints, ensuring the strength of machines and invite to achieve proper techniques for the country and people.

He then inspected the editorial section, proofreading section, computer pool and administration/finance offices of Kyemon daily in the evening.

He also met the staff at the News and Periodicals Enterprise (head office) on Theinbyu street and highlighted the role of media in building a modern nation, active and creative MRTV programmes and the need to cover the true news and modern layouts in state-run newspapers for the people.

He then cordially greeted the staff. — MNA

Union Minister for Religious Affairs urges cooperation for MraukU to be listed on World Heritage List

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko called on the government bodies and the local people to work together for MraukU to be listed on World Heritage List, at a ceremony held in Sittway yesterday morning.

There are two World Heritage sites in Myanmar (ancient Pyu cities and Bagan), and efforts are being made to make MraukU become a World Heritage Site, he said.

“MraukU cultural area is valued by the whole Rakhine people; It is a sacred place for Buddhists, as well as a cultural heritage area that reflects the socio-economic life, culture, religion, politics, artistic strength and patriotism passed down from generation to generation,” he added.

Under the guidance of



The third photo exhibition for distinctive MraukU in progress.

the Union Minister, Rakhine State Chief Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min said MraukU Cultural Heritage Area is the heart of the whole Rakhine State, and necessary cooperation is being carried out by the state government. He added that a practical and effective man-

agement system is required for regional development and cultural heritages in preserving the heritage of the MraukU Heritage Area.

The third photo exhibition featuring the distinctive MraukU, Anaggha Yandana Myay photo exhibition, was held for the public at U Ottama hall in Sittway, aiming to promote a spirit of keennes to maintain the heritages of MraukU.

The opening ceremony of the third photo exhibition was attended by Rakhine State government ministers, State-level departmental officials, the Director-General and officials of the Departmental of Archeology and National Museum, members of the Rakhine State Cultural Heritage Preservation Committee, photographers and charities. — Htun Htun/GNLM

World Bee Day ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw

A ceremony for World Bee Day was held at the Pyinmana Township Office of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Agri-

culture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi and the permanent secretary, directors-general and officials of the Myanmar Beekeepers Association, private beekeepers and officials attended the ceremony.

First, Deputy Minister Dr

Aung Gyi explained the origins of World Bee Day and the training of beekeepers for the Myanmar beekeeping sector, including modern beekeeping activities in Myanmar and encouraged to protect the bee species that have environmental and ecological benefits.

Afterwards, Director-General Dr Ye Tun Win briefed all on the competition of taking out queen bee larvae to be held and Deputy Directors U Myo Tint and U Maung Tint explained the scoring rules and regulation of the competition, the process and technique for competition.

The deputy minister and officials then awarded skilful workers and beekeepers of the queen bee larvae drawing award at the Central-level, Regional-level and State-level as the first award, the second award and the third award, respectively. — MNA



The World Bee Day event is held in Nay Pyi Taw.

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was re-constituted 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 re-constituted 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

The government does not forbid businessmen leaving the country: SAC’s Information Team Leader

THE government is not doing anything to forbid businessmen leaving the country, says Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, Information Team Leader of the State Administration Council at the 14th press conference.

He added that these are just rumours and the government just summoned business owners, including from the banking sector, to work systematically and not to be beyond regulations.

“We faced many challenges in the banking sector in 2021. The government has helped some banks to stay afloat, and some banks were almost about to collapse. This is mainly due to those who did not work systematically. Therefore, we are working to make the banks systematic; As most businesses are connected to banking, we hold meetings and discussions with them,” he clarified.

Businessmen also travel abroad in fact, and the government have to get the activities in the political, economic, and administrative sectors back on the right track for the future of the State and the people, he elaborated. — TWA/GNLM

Bean farmers face hardships in unstable condition of Gangaw, Kalay townships



The Kalay and Gangaw townships’ residents mainly run bean plantations and now they face hardships as they cannot transport their cultivated beans to the market due to transport difficulties.

THE bean farmers in Gangaw and Kalay townships face hardships in selling their already-harvested pulses and beans due to the instability of the regions and the government conducted state-level purchases, said Deputy Minister for Information Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun at the 14th Press Conference of SAC’s Information Team.

“There are reports to the Prime Minister that the farmers keep their harvested beans at their houses as they face transport difficulties. The government decides to purchase and the lower-level arranges to buy the beans,” he said.

He talked about the difficulties in transportation that the

bean farmers face to sell their beans cultivated two months ago due to the conflicts in their regions.

“The merchants do not dare come here for such transportation. There were fights since last October. We harvested the beans for two months. The fire broke out in some regions. We want to make money by selling the beans to the merchants. The Gangaw-Haka-Kalay road is shut down,” said a woman from Shataw Village.

The Kalay and Gangaw townships’ residents mainly run bean plantations and now they face hardships as they cannot transport their cultivated beans to the market due to transport difficulties. — TWA/GNLM

Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee formed to supervise currency use



One of the exchange counters.

THE State Administration Council issued Order No (28/2022) that it organized the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee to conduct functions for stable exchange rate and effective usage.

It said the committee will scrutinize the currency expenditures of Myanmar citizens who go abroad for medical treatment, education and religious matters.

Moreover, it will supervise the use of currency in the services including local/foreign investment, manufacturing industries, exports/imports, education and health. It will also examine the general utensil import, repayment of loans and interest to foreign countries, service fees and transfer of profits from investments.

It will also monitor the imports of needed types of machinery for investments and manufacturing sectors in local and things and raw materials for production industries.

Moreover, it will supervise the spending of foreign currency on importing fuel, medicine, oil, fertilizer, insecticide and construction materials that cannot be bought locally. — TWA/GNLM

Depression hits parts of Mon State

MAWLAMYINE Township in Mon State and its vicinity areas faced serious damages after the strong winds swept those areas yesterday.

The Land Depression has passed near Mawlamyine Township and been recognized brown colour stage, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced at 4:30 pm yesterday.

The strong winds occurred in Mawlamyine Township starting at 10 am yesterday, and it fell trees and damaged the houses while the roofs of some houses were blown away. The wind might reach 30 mph and cause heavy rains, the department said.

“The wind is weak in Zigon, Khayite Hneehu, Nat Hmaw and western Chaungzon around 2 pm. The roofs of some houses were blown away and the wind also feels the trees, phone towers and lampposts,” said U Aung Soe from Zigon village. The rescue teams evacuated the residents.

Mawlamyine Township lies near the sea and the local social welfare organizations make preparations to provide rescue works if there is a flood.

“The strong wind and rain swept across Mudon Township, Wekali village of Kamawak town since 8:30 am. The roofs of 13 houses were blown away. The

house with thatched roofs collapsed. We make repairs when the wind is calm. Some cannot do anything as the roofs of their houses were gone,” said U Myint Soe from Mudon Township. The strong winds came in Thanbyu-zayat, Paung, Thaton, and Mot-tama townships at about 9:20 am and around 2 or 3 pm, and the regional Fire Brigade removed the fallen trees on the Yangon-Mawlamyine Road while EPC staff conducted maintenance as the lamp posts were destroyed. No casualties were reported from the strong winds, according to the Myanmar Fire Brigade and residents. — TWA/GNLM



A fallen tree is seen in the aftermath of the Land Depression. PHOTO: MFSD / WE LOVE MON STATE

Over 1.4 million seedlings nurtured at Forest Department for public distribution in rainy season



THE Department of Forest in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region, is nurturing seedlings for public distribution in the rainy season annually. This year, the department is planning to plant a total of 1,415,800 seedlings.

With the purpose of making the region green and beautiful, to help prevent environmental degradation, make local people aware of the benefits of forest trees, to increase access to firewood and forest products and improve the quality of natural forest, the saplings will be distributed to departments, the tree planting festivals, to the public, and the village firewood fields.

The region government is also planning to hold tree-planting festivals, it is reported. — Myint Han/GNLM

The Department of Forest in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region, is nurturing seedlings for public distribution in the rainy season annually.

CRIME NEWS

Man sentenced to 10 years in prison for human trafficking

A man named Naing Lin (a) Chin Htwe was sentenced to 10 years in prison for human trafficking on 19 May in Yangon.

He was found guilty of luring a 23-year-old woman whom he befriended while working at a garment factory to work in China by saying that his girlfriend Ma Wai Wai opened a Hotpot restaurant in China and that she would be sent free of charge and that she will get paid K1 million per month as a salary, and then he sold her to a Chinese man in China.

He was charged under Section 24 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law at Insein Myoma police station and the North District Court sentenced him to prison on 19 May. — MNA

Narcotic drugs seized in some townships

COMBINED teams consisting of members of the Anti-Illegal Drug Force confiscated narcotic drugs during inspections in Tamu, Myeik, Lashio, and Amarapura townships on 18 and 19 May.

During the inspections, 1,970 stimulant tablets in Tamu township, 8,900 stimulant tablets in Myeik township, 13 kilograms of raw opium in Lashio township, and 1,800 stimulant tablets in Amarapura township, respectively.

The suspects arrested along with the illegal drugs are being prosecuted under the Narcotic



An arrestee is seen along with seized drugs and motorbike.

ic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to the Myanmar Police Force. — GNLM

Illegal timbers, food items and unregistered vehicles seized

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

On 18 May, the inspection team on-duty at the 16th-mile Kyaukchaw Checkpoint arrested a 12-wheel truck carrying 3.9708 tonnes of illegal teak (estimated worth K43,970,800) during an inspection, and action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 19 May, an express bus was arrested for carrying M-150 soft drink illegally (es-



Seized timbers in Bago Region.



Confiscated vehicle in Magway Region.

timated worth K1,950,000) at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint, and action was taken under the Customs Law.

In addition, an unregistered Hijet vehicle worth K2 million was seized during an inspection on the Pakokku-Pauk Road, and action is being taken under the Export/Import Law. On 20 May, 12,079 tonnes of illegal timbers were confiscated from the forest reserves in Toungoo District under the Forest Law, and an unregistered vehicle was seized on the DaikU-Sittoung Road (totally estimated value of K4,039,320).

Therefore, ten arrests (estimated value of K51,960,120) were made from 18 to 20 May, according to the Anti-illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA



Seized items at Mayanchaung.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Fuel oil prices dip by K95-K120 per litre within one day

THE prices of fuel oil were reportedly down by K95-120 per litre in the domestic market.

The prices soared to over K2,210 for Octane 92, K2,280 for Octane 95, K2,200 for diesel and K2,225 for premium diesel on 19 May 2022. On 20 May, the prices declined to K2,115 for Octane 92, K2,185 for Octane 95, K2,080 for diesel and K2,105 for premium diesel. There is a gap of K95-120 per litre within one day, according to the local fuel oil market.

The oil price was on the uptick in the previous days owing to the rumour of the shortage of oil supply at oil stations.

The news of DENKO company's request submitted to the Department of Petroleum Products Supervision and Inspection on 17 May was spreading on social media, stating that DENKO Company was facing low inventory of RON 92 and RON 95. They distributed the oil by purchasing or filling it with the partner companies. They prioritized the petrol stations in Yangon, Man-



On 20 May, the prices declined to K2,115 for Octane 92, K2,185 for Octane 95, K2,080 for diesel and K2,105 for premium diesel. There is a gap of K95-120 per litre within one day.

dalay and Nay Pyi Taw cities. The report included that they are to temporarily suspend sales for RON 95 at 38 petrol stations when it is out of shortage.

On 19 May, Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association responded to a piece of false news

spreading in the public saying that the fuel oil is going to fall short of supply soon. Actually, the cargo ships are entering the port terminals continuously. On 19 May, MT Beluga Pacific ship carried 16,400 tonnes of fuel oil, MT Yu Hai ship loaded 17,200

tonnes, MT Yu Dong ship carried 18,200 tonnes and Aberlour ship loaded 20,000 tonnes arrived at the terminals and the fuel oil is unloading. Four more cargo ships are arriving at the mouth of the sea. The people are notified of that news.

At present, the department is issuing the daily reference rate depending on the MOPS' price assessment.

The oil price is highly correlated with the global fuel oil price. The domestic oil price will fall tracking the global prices.

Similarly, the oil price is positively related to Myanmar's current value against the US dollar. If Kyat appreciates against the US dollar, the price of oil will also fall.

At present, the exchange rate is pegged at around K2,000 at the unofficial exchanges.

When a dollar was valued at only K1,330 in early February 2021, the fuel oil was estimated at K590 per litre for Octane 92, K610 for Octane 95, K590 for diesel and K605 for premium diesel at that time in the domestic retail market.

Normally, Myanmar yearly imports 6 million tonnes of fuel oil from external markets, the Ministry of Commerce stated. —NN/GNLM

Seasonal ice apple fetches good price in Mandalay market



The price of ice apples was K1,000 per 10 fruits last year. This year, six ice apples are worth K1,000. Ice apples from TadaU, Patheingyi, Meiktila and Myingyan areas are sent to the Mandalay market.

THE price of ice apple (which is also called sugar palm or toddy palm seed or Asian palmyra palm) this year is rocketing higher than the previous years amid the number of palm plants declining and high input costs.

The ice apple is the seasonal fruit in Kason and Nayon (May and June period). Shante village in Meiktila Township supplies the ice apple to the

Mandalay market. However, they have to bear the high transportation cost.

"They come and sell the ice apple in Mandalay market every year. This year, the number of palm trees is dropping. The yield of ice apple is therefore falling. The price increased by 50 per cent this year," said Ko Min Naing, a seller from Shante village.

The price of ice apples was K1,000 per 10 fruits last year. This year, six ice apples are worth K1,000. Ice apples from TadaU, Patheingyi, Meiktila and Myingyan areas are sent to the Mandalay market.

People like seasonal ice apples for their taste and it has medical benefits as well. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Sheep raising businesses on pasture thriving in Pwintbyu Tsp

THE villages in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region are commercially engaged in sheep raising businesses on pasture, allowing the family income to increase, the breeders said.

The majority of villages in Pwintbyu Township are primarily executing agriculture. Those involved in the livestock sector previously breed goats on a manageable scale. Now, they turn to more profitable sheep raising businesses on pasture lands.

"Sheep is more resistant to some diseases than goats. They are easy to keep. They

can be herded on pasture land for grazing. The lamp can be purchased at K50,000 per head. They can be resold at K120,000 after four months. If they are weighed more, profit will be higher. As the price of lamps is pretty high, the business is expanded from a small scale to a commercial scale. The reproduction process is fast as well," said U Nyan Win from Kanpyae village in Pwintbyu Township.

At present, China halted the livestock trade. Yet they are domestically demanded. The breeders have plans to expand the business, the breeders said. — Htet Arkar/GNLM



Those involved in the livestock sector previously breed goats on a manageable scale. Now, they turn to more profitable sheep raising businesses on pasture lands.

Let people enjoy the fruits of perpetual peace in future State

ALL entire people have been sustaining their hopes to see the restoration of perpetual peace across the nation for a long time, wishing to end the internal armed conflicts. Since the time of the post-independence era, all ethnic national people of Myanmar have been missing chances to enjoy the fruits of peace. They are backpacking the burden of internal armed conflicts till today. As they miss the chance of restoring peace, they keenly value the fruits of peace for all.

Only when we solve it will the people firmly enjoy the essence of democracy and independence. Hence, I have told that the year 2022 is set as the year of peace, and we will strive for ending the armed conflicts across the nation, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was quoted as saying in the speech delivered on 22 April.

All the people wish for the peace process better. The people dream of a nation decorated with the fruits of perpetual peace. The successful result of peace talks will let the people continue their joyful dream before implementation.

SSA group on 20 May 2022. Moreover, the National Solidarity and Peace-making Negotiate Committee decided to hold peace talks with the RCSS/SSA.

Both sides should notice that all the entire people expect the good news from their peace talks which would transform nightmares into a glorious future forever for themselves as well as the whole nation. The good result to be earliest come out of the peace talks will pave the best way for further talks in which more and more EAOs will participate.

Hence, both sides need to set aside different measures in negotiating the peace process while combining the same ideas and measures. All the people wish for the peace process better. The people dream of a nation decorated with the fruits of perpetual peace. The successful result of peace talks will let the people continue their joyful dream before implementation.



Degrees of resemblance

By Yin Nwe Ko

IT WAS in 1976. I was a third-year student at the age of 21. Fourteen students including me were chosen and sent to the construction site of Pyithu Hluttaw, on Pyay Road, Yangon in order to contribute to volunteer work. There were about 300 University students gathering at the Hlaing University campus. We were made into ten groups in which 20 female students and 10 male students are included in each group. We had to work at our respective sites six days a week. We were off on Sundays. Contrib-

uting volunteer work lasted for a month.

One Sunday, we were taken on an excursion called the excursion of Yangon River. All volunteer students were put on a double-decked ship and it was driven along the river up and down. On the upper deck of the ship, it was prepared to entertain the volunteers with a band. I did not remember the name of the band. The three guitarists, a drummer and a player of an electronic keyboard. There were also two or three female singers.

They all seemed at the same age as me. It was the first time I had ever seen an electronic keyboard closely. I gazed and gazed at their singing and playing musical instruments, especially the electronic keyboard. At that moment, I could play the guitar very well but I could not play the electronic keyboard.

I was very interested in playing the keyboard and its player. He could play it beautifully. I realized that the electronic keyboard was very interesting. I wanted to own the one like it. As I was just a student and could not earn my living, I could not afford to do so. I anchored my mind to buy an

electronic keyboard of my own one day.

In 1981, I was appointed to the Cooperative Department as a lower division clerk. After I had worked there for one year. I was sent to a Cooperative Training School in Yangon to attend a two-month course. I met Ko Hla Khin Maung who had been a star in Physics Department at Bassein

Arts and Science College on a bus unexpectedly. At that moment he was one of the staff of the Auto-exchange unit, Insein, Yangon. He took me to his office and showed me a small electronic keyboard from Casio Company, Japan. It was like a toy for children. Howev-

er, its sound was sweet and pleasant. The keys were just like the nails of a man. His electronic keyboard about the size of a toy made my desire stronger and stronger. I was a government serviceman and could earn my living but I did not have extra money to buy it.

After it, I saved some money and bought an electronic keyboard that I had seen at Ko Hla Khin Maung's office. It was just a toy and could not produce the sound of my heart's content. I sold it and bought a larger Casio Keyboard which could produce three sounds at the same time. It was rather convenient to play. I practised playing it for about a

year. But I had no teacher. Then, I sold it again as it was not a professional keyboard.

In 1998, I happened to get to Yuzana Plaza and saw an electronic keyboard from Yamaha Company. It was a large one costing 37,000 Kyats. I made the salesperson show it to me. I tested its sound. Its keys are full-sized and produced a very pleasant sound. I liked it and bought it. The keyboard I bought was like the one that I had closely seen on the ship in 1976 and could be used for professional work. The difference between the year I had first seen a keyboard and the year I could afford to buy the one like

it was 22 years.

After I bought it, I thought I would play it daily and practice it a lot. However, those 22 years already made my mind change, I did not notice it. The degrees of resemblance on an electronic keyboard had already lowered. I did not happen to play it daily. I could hardly play twice a week. It might be because of my business. I did not have teachers to guide me and my ability in playing the keyboard did not improve satisfactorily. I began to realize that the degrees of resemblance to something could vary with time.

After two years of playing it, I sold it again in order to buy a new model. You would be surprised, I dared to say. It was nothing but the keyboard I bought for 37,000 Kyats could be sold for 85,000 Kyats. But unluckily, I could not buy a new one because I had to

use the money for my mom's health. I had not had another keyboard for a long time. It was in 2017, I could buy the Yamaha PSR E 343 keyboard again. Although it could not be used in professional playing, its standard was somewhat high. After a year of playing it, a friend of mine forced me to sell it to him. I agreed on it. Then I added some money and bought Yamaha PSR E 463 which is more professional than E 343.

Now, I am 68 and my mind and desire for an electronic keyboard are not strong as before. I realize very well that one's degree of resemblance can change according to their age. Some can blame me as a man who is not a real musician. I will have to accept this opinion. But I will go on playing the keyboard till my death.



Americas: Rising COVID-19 caseload should be a 'wake-up call'

COVID-19 rates are on the rise in the Americas, where new infections and fatalities have been steadily increasing over the past four weeks, the regional office of the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday.

MORE than 918,000 cases were recorded last week, a 27.2 per cent increase over the previous week, and over 3,500 deaths, latest information from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has revealed.

Eighteen nations saw spikes in hospitalizations, while admissions to intensive care rose in 13 countries and territories.

"The rise in cases should serve as a wake-up call. When people get sick, hospitals get overwhelmed, health systems are challenged, and the number of deaths rise," said Dr Carissa Etienne, the PAHO Director, speaking during her weekly media briefing.

Regional round-up

North America accounted for more than half of all infections in the region. Cases there have been climbing for the past seven weeks, driven by new infections in the United States, which recorded more than 605,000 new cases, a 33 per cent increase.

The largest rise in cases occurred in Central America, where infections soared by 80 per cent, while in South America, Brazil

recorded more than 120,000 cases – a nine per cent increase.

Meanwhile, Argentina saw almost 34,000 cases, which is a staggering 92 per cent rise over the previous week. Other countries in the subregion also experienced surges, while Venezuela, Paraguay and Brazil recorded an increase in deaths.

Cases in the Caribbean have been increasing for five consecutive weeks. Infections rose 9.3 per cent, and deaths 49 per cent, when compared with the previous week. Fourteen countries and territories also reported increases in hospitalizations.

Dr Etienne urged governments to take stock and act on these numbers. "The truth is this virus is not going away anytime soon," she said.

Following a period of lower coronavirus transmission, many national and local authorities are abandoning mask mandates and physical distancing requirements, and have reopened borders. However, many people in the Americas are still at risk.

Only 14 of the 51 PAHO countries and territories have reached the WHO target of vaccinating 70 per cent of their populations.



Argentina saw almost 34,000 cases, which is a staggering 92 per cent rise over the previous week. A doctor takes samples for a PCR test to a woman with COVID-19 symptoms at the mobile health unit in Villa Fiorito, Buenos Aires outskirts, Argentina, on August 3, 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic. PHOTO: JUAN MABROMATA / AFP/FILE

Discrepancies still exist in coverage for at-risk and vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, people with pre-existing conditions, and indigenous and afro-descendant communities

Dr Etienne underlined that wearing masks and practicing physical distancing are still valid measures to lower virus trans-

mission.

"Governments should continue to monitor the COVID-19 trends closely, adapt their guidance to protect the most vulnerable, and always be ready to scale up these social measures whenever there is an increase in cases or deaths," she said.

The public can also play a

part by embracing vaccines, masks and other protective measures, she added.

Learning from the pandemic

Dr Etienne has recommended that countries should not forget lessons learned over the past two years of living with the new disease.

They must keep focus on the virus, amid a steady decline in testing. Even in places where self-tests are available, results are not always reported to health authorities.

"Testing and surveillance are our eyes and ears for this pandemic and can help governments make informed decisions," the PAHO chief said, underscoring the importance of maintaining and strengthening related infrastructure.

At the same time, governments must also keep investing in their health systems to react quickly to any new developments, and to address health needs beyond COVID-19.

Dr Etienne recalled that when COVID-19 vaccines were first rolled out over a year ago, the concern was over equity and ensuring enough doses to cover the most vulnerable people.

"Supply was the most significant barrier throughout 2021. That is no longer the case," she said. "We have sufficient doses to cover those most at risk, and we have an obligation to do so."

SOURCE: UN

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 20 May 2022)

Land Depression Warning, No.3, 2022
20 May, 2022 19:00 MST Today

Land Depression

According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the Land Depression crossed near Mawlamyine, Mon State (Myanmar). It moved to North-Northeast and has crossing near Hpa-an, Kayin State (Myanmar), the present stage of the land depression is coded brown stage.

During next (12) hrs forecast

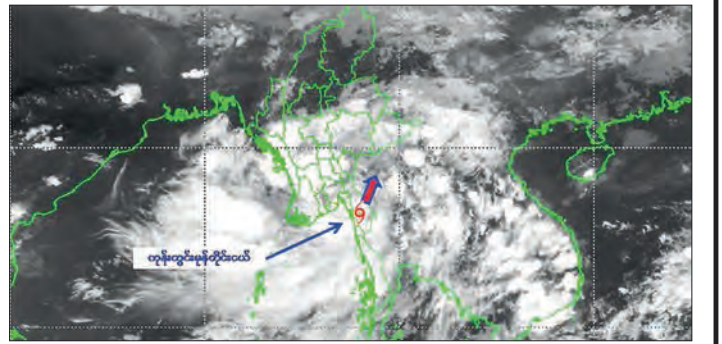
The land depression is likely continuous to move North-Northeast wards and reach near Hlaingbwe during next (2) hours. It is forecast to weak into a Well Marked Low Pressure Area during next (12) hours.

General caution

Due to the land depression, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls and isolated heavy falls from tonight to (21.5.2022). Occasionally squall with rough to very rough seas will be experienced in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (45) mph. Wave height will be about (9-14) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast.

Advisory

Due to the land depression, people should be aware strong wind with regionally heavyfalls and isolated heavyfalls and domestic flight, trawlers, vessels and ships in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.



ARTICLE

Appropriate use of social media to bring positive impacts on society

By Kaung Aung

UNION Minister U Maung Maung Ohn for Information gave a remark during the meeting with the publishers in the second week of May that it is such an unpleasant and miserable thing to see some people spreading hate speech and bringing negative impacts on those using social media platforms.

According to a February 2022 report of NapoleonCat.com which is a tool to analyze social media performance, and make valuable observations based on data and reports, there are 20,790,000 Facebook users countrywide, accounting for 37.2 per cent of the population. Facebook’s male users in Myanmar constitute 55.1 per cent of the total population, while female users amounted for 44.9 per cent. The majority of them are people aged between 25 and 34 (7,800,000 people).

Myanmar people started to

widely use social media in 2015, with an estimated 7 million Facebook users. The number of users rocketed up to nearly 21 million in the seven years. Facebook is the most popular and favoured social network in Myanmar.

Facebook is the mainstream media covering users across the country. However, the misuse of Facebook leads to a piece of widespread fake news on the platform, Facebook officials analyzed.

The issues that Facebook users are interested in can change in a minute. What the users should care about are fact checks and ethics. They should explore the information on journalism ethics and appropriate uses of social media on newspapers, journals, radio, television and other digital platforms.

Facebook users had better analyze the content and pictures before posting them on social media pages as some content and



photos can defame the reputation of the individuals and institutions. Those who fail to abide by the laws over emotional feelings are found facing legal actions under the existing laws; Section 52 (A) of Counter-Terrorism Law, Section 124 (A) and Section 505 (A) of Penal Code, Section 33 (A) of the Telecommunications Law and other existing laws, the State-run media declared.

According to a Myanmar proverb “အစားမတော် တစ်လုပ် အသွားမတော်တစ်လှမ်း” (people can get into trouble with one wrong step and one wrong move), the users must be cautious not to disseminate the defamatory publication. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression which is enshrined in Paragraph 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The rights include the freedom to hold opinions and receive and impart information and ideas without interference. “Nevertheless, there are limits to freedom of speech. The restrictions on freedom of speech are balancing other rights and some categories. Unethical media practices and disturbing acts affected the freedom of expression. Therefore, media professionals are required to follow the media codes of ethics.

“Democratized media is responsible for accuracy, coherence, impartiality and respect for human dignity. They must guarantee the rights to know for the people,” Myanmar Press Council guided. Thus, social media users must be cautious with the code of ethics and the citizen duties under the existing laws. This article is written to encourage the users of social media to avoid taking attention from the spreading of hate speech and misinformation targeting an individual or institutions and engage in appropriate ways by respecting moral and ethical principles to make a positive impact on society.

Translated

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

21-5-2022																	Kyat/ Litre
Fuel (Retail Price)	Yangon	Mandalay	Nay Pyi Taw	Bago	Magway	Dawei	Monywa	Patheingyi	Myittha	Sittoung	Hpa-an	Mawlaikine	Lashio	Taungtha	Loile	Haka	Kengtung
92 Ron	2,210	2,260	2,255	2,220	2,255	2,280	2,265	2,245	2,340	2,355	2,250	2,260	2,295	2,295	2,295	2,515	2,540
95 Ron	2,325	2,370	2,370	2,335	2,370	2,395	2,380	2,355	2,450	2,465	2,365	2,380	2,405	2,405	2,410	2,630	2,605
HSD (500 ppm)	2,150	2,195	2,190	2,160	2,195	2,215	2,215	2,180	2,295	2,290	2,190	2,195	2,230	2,230	2,235	2,455	2,690
HSD (50 ppm)	2,180	2,225	2,220	2,185	2,225	2,245	2,240	2,210	2,325	2,320	2,215	2,225	2,260	2,260	2,265	2,480	2,725
HSD (10 ppm)	2,180	2,225	2,220	2,185	2,225	2,245	2,240	2,210	2,325	2,320	2,215	2,225	2,260	2,260	2,265	2,480	2,725

Fuel (Wholesale Price)	Yangon	Mandalay
92 Ron	2,108	2,183
95 Ron	2,217	2,295
HSD (500 ppm)	2,047	2,118
HSD (50 ppm)	2,075	2,146
HSD (10 ppm)	2,075	2,146

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

PANDEMIC
WORLD

Booster jab markedly improves COVID-19 vaccine potency: study

A study by Chinese researchers has found that the COVID-19 booster vaccination can markedly reduce the immune escape of the Omicron variant, underscoring the necessity for the eligible population to get a third booster jab to combat the pandemic.

The researchers from Fudan University and Pigentech Lab revealed that sera from individuals vaccinated with two doses of an inactivated whole-virion vaccine show weak to no neutralization efficacy.

However, the boosters, either homologous or heterologous

ones, can markedly improve neutralization titers against all Omicron sub-lineages, according to the study published recently in the journal Cell Host and Microbe.

The Omicron variant has evolved into four sub-lineages -- BA.1, BA.1.1, BA.2 and BA.3 -- and BA.2 is the dominant one worldwide. The neutralization titers for Omicron sub-lineages were significantly reduced, by more than 100-fold, in comparison to those for the virus wild type, according to the study.

The researchers collect-

ed and tested 20 samples from healthy adults who had received a third booster shot of the same inactivated vaccine and found that the sera had a five to six folds potency reduction against Omicron sub-lineages compared to that against the wild type, according to the study.

They also tested sera from 18 individuals that received two doses of inactivated vaccines plus one protein subunit vaccine four to eight months later. This cohort also showed higher neutralizing titers than the two-dose recipients.—Xinhua



People queue in front of a mobile Covid-19 vaccination centre to receive their vaccination in a shopping mall in Ludwigsburg, southwestern Germany, on 11 November 2021, amid a surge of infections during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: THOMAS KIENZLE / AFP

EasyJet narrows first-half loss on Covid recovery



Passengers board an Easyjet domestic flight at an airport in the United Kingdom on 15 June 2020 as the low cost carrier resumes flights for the first time since the March coronavirus lockdown. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

BRITISH budget airline EasyJet revealed Thursday that first-half net losses improved after Covid travel curbs were lifted across Europe.

The carrier, which is based in Luton north of London, follows Irish no-frills rival Ryanair in cutting losses as the aviation sector recovers from pandemic

lockdowns.

Losses after taxation narrowed to £431 million (509 million euros, \$535 million) in the six months to the end of March compared with a loss of £549 million a year earlier, EasyJet said in a statement.

Revenues soared more than six-fold to hit £1.5 billion, aided by

increasing capacity.

The performance “was mainly driven by the reduction in Covid-19 related travel restrictions across Europe which has increased customer confidence to travel again”, EasyJet said.

The company added that it hopes to carry almost as many passengers in the final quarter than it did in 2019 prior to the coronavirus outbreak.

Pre-tax losses contracted to £545 million in the reporting period from £701 million last time around, towards the better end of company guidance. “EasyJet has reduced its losses year on year,” said chief executive Johan Lundgren. “The pent-up demand and removal of travel restrictions provided for a strong and sustained recovery in trading.” The news comes days after rival Ryanair announced a large reduction in annual net losses.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

China calls for urgent boost to virus-hit economy

CHINA'S premier called for greater “urgency” in rolling out measures to support the virus-battered economy, state media reported Wednesday, days after data highlighted the stark impact of Covid-19 restrictions.

China -- the last major global economy sticking to a rigid zero-Covid policy -- is battling an economic slump due to prolonged virus lockdowns that have constricted supply chains, quelled demand and stalled manufacturing. “All localities and departments should step up their sense of urgency, and new measures that can be used should be used,” Li Keqiang said at a symposium on Wednesday, according to state broadcaster CCTV.—AFP

UK police end ‘Partygate’ probe with 126 fines issued

LONDON police said on Thursday they had completed their probe into the “Partygate” scandal rocking Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government and issued a total 126 fines in all.

The Metropolitan Police said in a statement that of the fines issued for breaching Covid restrictions, 73 were to women and 53 to men but that some people received more than one fixed penalty notice. Police were called in to investigate gatherings at Downing Street and across government departments on eight dates between May 2020 and April 2021.—AFP

Shanghai Port sees steady recovery of container throughput as COVID-19 under control

AS Shanghai steps up resumption of businesses after containing the recent COVID-19 resurgence, Shanghai Port, a major transportation hub, has seen its container throughput recover to over 80 per cent of normal capacity.

According to the Shanghai International Port Group Co., Ltd. (SIPG), the container

throughput of the port reached 110,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) per day on Tuesday, while its normal handling volume was around 130,000 TEUs per day.

To tackle logistics bottlenecks caused by COVID-19, especially road congestion, the Shanghai Port has diversified transportation methods in coop-

eration with shipping companies and the railway department to stabilize supply and industrial chains in the Yangtze River Delta region. In April, water transfer accounted for 65 per cent of the port's total throughput, while the proportion of rail-sea intermodal transit also reached a record high, according to the SIPG.—Xinhua



A view of Shanghai Port on 20 April 2022. PHOTO/VCG/XINHUA

ECONOMY
WORLD

Japan to allow 20,000 daily int'l arrivals from June: source

JAPAN is set to double the cap on arrivals from overseas to 20,000 people per day starting next month as it continues to ease border controls triggered by the coronavirus pandemic, a government source said Friday.

The government will also ease COVID-19 testing and quarantine rules, dividing countries and regions into three groups according to the infection situation.

Travellers from the group with the lowest infection rate will be exempt from testing upon arrival in Japan and quarantining at home, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told a press conference.

The government is also set to announce that wearing masks when outdoors is not always necessary, provided people are not conversing, an official said.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has said his government will further relax border controls



Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has said his government will further relax border controls to bring them in line with other Group of Seven nations in June. PHOTO: KYODO

to bring them in line with other Group of Seven nations in June.

Japan effectively closed its doors to nonresident foreign nationals to prevent a surge in infections driven by the highly transmissible Omicron variant

of the coronavirus late last year.

In recent months, the government has gradually increased the number of people allowed to enter Japan in stages, with the current daily cap at 10,000.—Kyodo

New Zealand budget offers cash to tackle rising costs



People walk on a street in Wellington on 14 May 2020. PHOTO: MARTY MELVILLE / AFP/FILE

NEW ZEALAND on Thursday unveiled a big-spending budget including cash handouts to combat the rising cost of living.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said she aimed to make the country “ready and secure” to handle the impact of global fi-

nancial challenges. “The budget eases the impact of global inflation on families. While we know the current storm will pass, it’s important we do what we can to take the hard edges off it now,” Ardern told parliament in a video link from her home where she is

recuperating from Covid-19.

“We’re investing now to make sure we’re ready and secure for what lies ahead. Be it the impact of climate change or growing pressure on health services, now is not the time to take our eye off the ball.” —AFP

NEWS IN Brief

China lifts ban on Canada canola imports: Ottawa

CHINA has lifted a ban on Canadian canola imports, a Canadian official said Thursday, calling it “very good news” for producers that Ottawa argued had been caught up in a diplomatic row.

“We got the news yesterday from the Chinese authorities that our Canadian canola can go to China,” Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau said. “We had two big companies who were suspended for a while, so it’s very good news for our producers,” she told reporters in Ottawa. Beijing had imposed the ban on Viterro Inc. and Richardson International in March 2019 as tensions flared between Ottawa and Beijing, saying harmful organisms had been detected in their canola shipments.—AFP

Tibet issues coupons to boost local tourism

SOUTHWEST China’s Tibet Autonomous Region began issuing coupons worth a total of 30 million yuan (about 4.4 million US dollars) on Thursday to spur tourism consumption, according to the regional tourism development department.

The coupons can be used to reduce the prices of tickets for tourist attractions in Tibet, sightseeing buses inside the attractions, transportation and starred hotels, said Huang Yongqing, deputy head of the department. The coupon issuance is among a host of measures the department has implemented to boost local tourism.—Xinhua

Italy PM says independence from Russian gas to take longer

ITALIAN Prime Minister Mario Draghi said Thursday his country could be independent of Russian gas by the second half of 2024, longer than earlier estimates.

The eurozone’s third largest economy is heavily dependent on Russian gas, but has been seeking new sources since Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine, including with a deal to boost supply from Algeria.

Addressing the Senate, Draghi said his government

was also seeking to boost its production of renewable energy, including by “destroying bureaucratic barriers” to investment, saying it was the “only way” to free Italy from having to import fossil fuels.

“Government estimates indicate that we can make ourselves independent from Russian gas in the second half of 2024,” he told lawmakers, while adding that the “first effects” of this plan would be felt by the end of this year.—AFP



In 2021, 40 per cent of the natural gas that Italy imported came from Russia. The Transmed pipeline brings gas from Algeria to Italy via this section in Tunisia. PHOTO: AFP

China condemns Canada’s Huawei 5G ban over ‘groundless’ security risks

BEIJING hit out at Canada for banning telecoms giants Huawei and ZTE from Canadian 5G networks on Friday, calling Ottawa’s concerns for security risks “groundless” and warning of retaliation.

Canada’s long-awaited measure on Thursday follows the United States and other key allies, and comes on the heels of a diplomatic row between Ottawa and Beijing over the detention of a senior Huawei executive on a US warrant, which has now been resolved.

The United States has warned of the security implications of giving Chinese tech companies access to telecommunications infrastructure that could be used for state espionage.

Both Huawei and Beijing have rejected the allegations.

“China is firmly opposed to this and will conduct a comprehensive and serious assessment,” foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told reporters in response to the 5G block.—AFP

Indonesia to lift ban on palm oil exports from Monday



This picture shows palm oil seeds loaded in boats in Kendawangan, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. PHOTO: AFP/ADEK BERRY/FILE

INDONESIA will lift its ban on palm oil exports next week, President Joko

Widodo said Thursday, relieving pressure on the global vegetable oil mar-

ket after prices spiked because of the suspension and the war in Ukraine.

The archipelago nation issued the ban last month to secure supplies of the commodity, used in a range of goods from chocolate spreads to cosmetics, in the face of a domestic shortage.

“Based on the supply... of cooking oil and considering there are 17 million people in the palm oil industry — farmers and other supporting workers — I decided that cooking oil exports will reopen on Monday, 23 May,” Widodo told an online briefing.

“The government will still be monitoring everything strictly to ensure the demand will be met with affordable prices,” he said.—AFP

Ukraine war sets off Latin American fertilizer race

THE first rainy season downpour in Venezuela’s western region of Portuguesa has fallen and now it’s time to plant corn, a staple in this South American country known for its traditional arepas.

But just like much of Latin America, the race is on to find enough fertilizer for the crops.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine 10,000 kilometres away has limited the supply of the key agricultural supplement throughout the region.

Some 80 per cent of the 180,000 metric tons of fertilizers used annually in Venezuela are imported, mostly from Russia but also from Ukraine and Belarus, according to the Fedegro union of agricultural producers.

Western sanctions against Russia and Belarus, as well as Ukraine’s difficulties in exporting while under siege, has left the whole of Latin America scrambling to find replacements.—AFP



Venezuela is only producing 30 per cent of its agricultural capacity due to years of economic collapse. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (056N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (056N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-5-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (234N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (234N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-5-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK NASSJO VOY.NO. (216W/219E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAERSK NASSJO VOY.NO. (216W/219E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-5-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KH DY0318N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA HIDAYAH VOY.NO. (KH DY0318N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-5-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LINES

E. Timor celebrates 20th anniversary of independence with new leader



East Timor's national flag is about to be raised in Dili on 20 May 2022, during a ceremony marking its 20th anniversary of independence.
PHOTO: KYODO

EAST Timor celebrated the 20th anniversary of its independence Friday, with newly inaugurated President Jose Ramos-Horta stressing that improving relations with neighbouring countries will be at the top of his agenda.

Ramos-Horta, who served as the country's president from 2007 to 2012, returned to power in a swearing-in ceremony just minutes before midnight on Thursday, succeeding Francisco "Lu Olo" Guterres. "We must explore effective ways of greater economic and comprehensive integration, of greater cooperation

in the areas of defence and security, namely maritime security," Ramos-Horta said, specifically mentioning Australia, New Zealand and Indonesia as well as other Southeast Asian countries.

At the ceremony in Tasitolu, an area outside the capital Dili where East Timor declared independence from Indonesia 20 years ago, the new president told invited guests that accession to the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations will be a major priority. Joining the Asian forum is "a national strategic objective that I have

personally advocated for since 1974 during a historic meeting in Jakarta with then Indonesian Foreign Minister Adam Malik," he said, referring to a June 1974 meeting in which he said Malik assured him that East Timor had a right to independence. Eighteen months later, Indonesia was to break the promise and annex the former Portuguese colony. In 2011, during Ramos-Horta's first stint as president, his government submitted an application to join ASEAN when Indonesia held the rotating chairmanship of the group.—Kyodo

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

UN urges Russia, Ukraine to resume peace talks

THE United Nations on Thursday urged Russia and Ukraine to "build on" contacts and coordination that enabled the evacuation operations from Mariupol in order to resume stalled peace talks. The successful operations to evacuate civilians and later fighters from the sprawling Azovstal steelworks in the devastated Ukrainian port points the way back towards broader negotiations to end the brutal conflict, UN aid chief Martin Griffiths said.

"Those operations could not have happened had it not been for cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Ukraine authorities," he told reporters in



Ukrainians tanks in the east of the country. PHOTO: AFP

Geneva. "I would like to think that the fact that this cooperation has worked relatively well, certainly better than in previous weeks of this war, suggests there is something to build on."—AFP

'No shortcuts' to Ukraine EU membership: Scholz

UKRAINE'S bid to join the EU cannot be sped up despite the country's invasion by Russia, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Thursday, adding that the bloc must find a "fast and pragmatic" way to help Kyiv.

"There are no shortcuts on the way to the EU," Scholz said, adding that an exception for Ukraine would be unfair to the Western Balkan countries also seeking membership. "The

accession process is not a matter of a few months or years," he said.

Scholz had in April called for Western Balkan countries' efforts to join the EU to be accelerated amid a "new era" in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Last October, EU leaders at a summit in Slovenia only reiterated their "commitment to the enlargement process" in a statement that disappointed the six candidates for EU member-

ship — Albania, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Kosovo — who had hoped for a concrete timetable. "For years, they have been undertaking intensive reforms and preparing for accession," Scholz said on Thursday. "It is not only a question of our credibility that we keep our promises to them. Today more than ever, their integration is also in our strategic interest," he said.—AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

Turkey 'determined' to block NATO bids

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says he is "determined" to block Sweden and Finland's bids to join NATO, calling Stockholm in particular a "complete terror haven".

Sweden and Finland applied for NATO membership on Wednesday, renouncing decades of military non-alignment, over fears they could be future targets of Russian aggression.

US President Joe Biden met Finnish counterpart Sauli Niinisto and Sweden's Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson in Washington to tell them their countries "meet every NATO requirement". Addressing Turkey, Niinisto said Finland was "open to discussing all the concerns that you may have concerning our membership in an open and constructive manner".

12 killed in Severodonetsk

THE governor of the eastern Lugansk region says at least 12 people have been killed and 40 injured in Russian shelling of the city of Severodonetsk. Severodonetsk has been the target of sustained bombardment in recent days as Russian forces attempt to capture the easternmost city still in Ukrainian hands.

SOURCE: AFP

Google's Russian subsidiary to file for bankruptcy

THE Russian subsidiary of US tech giant Google said Thursday it will file for bankruptcy after authorities seized its bank account following a series of spats with Moscow.

Google has been under increasing pressure in Russia for several months and even more so after the start of President Vladimir Putin's military campaign in Ukraine at the end of February. "Google Russia has

published a notice of its intention to file for bankruptcy," a spokesperson for the company told AFP.

"The Russian authorities' seizure of Google Russia's bank account has made it untenable for our Russia office to function, including employing and paying Russia-based employees, paying suppliers and vendors, and meeting other financial obligations," the company said.—AFP



Myanmar grabs silver medal in SEA Games Billiards Doubles competition

THE final match of the 31st SEA Games Billiards Tournament was held on 20 May and the Myanmar team lost to Singapore and was satisfied with the silver medal. The Myanmar team, which includes Pauk Sa and Min Si Thu Tun, met the Singapore team led by famous billiards player Peter and lost by 3-1. The Myanmar team was more popular to win, but the Singapore team showcased brilliant skills. Singapore beat famous team Thailand to win the semifinals of SEA Games billiards doubles previously. In this match, Singapore scored 101-65 points in the first match. In the second match, they won two matches in a row with 102-63 points. However, in the third match, the Myanmar team won again with 100-36 points and the fourth match continued. In that match, the Singapore team won the gold medal by 102-8 points. The Myanmar Billiards Team has won medals in both types of billiards competitions at the 31st SEA Games. —Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

3rd batch of Myanmar sports team welcomed back

THE 3rd batch of the Myanmar sports team that participated in the 31st South-East Asian Games from 12 May to 23 May in Hanoi and other related cities of Viet Nam returned to the country on 20 May.

The team was welcomed back by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe, other officials of the Yangon Region Government and officials of the Yangon Region Department of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs at Yangon International Airport at 10:00 am.



Welcome back at Yangon International Airport.



ment of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs at Yangon International Airport at 10:00 am.

The team consisted of the team leader Director-General

of the Department of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs U Tun Myint Oo with silver medal winners Khin Mar Hse (10,000-metre race) in Athletics, Zin May Htet in walk-

ing race, Nwe Ni Pwint Hlaing (-63kg) in Judo and Daisy Oo Juliet (-49kg) in Taekwondo.

Not only bronze medals winners Htwe Ko Ko, Tin Tin Wai and Kant Kaw Thant Zin in Petanque (Mixed Triple Competition), Zaw Lin Htet (-63kg), Htet Zaw Lin (-80kg) and Kyaw Min Naing (-87kg) in Taekwondo, Zin Mar Khaing (-65kg) and Hnin Thet Wai (-55kg) in Vovinam but also Aung Myo Naing (Double Men)

in Sepak Takraw, Pyae Sone Hnin, Thidar Nwe and Yamin Thu (Recurve Women Team) in Archery were included in the team. Members of the management team, members of Kurash, Rowing, Petanque, Track & Field, Taekwondo, Archery, Shooting, Vovinam, Weightlifting, Judo, Sepak Takraw, Boxing, Billiards & Snooker sports and international referees returned to Myanmar.—MNA

Women's Football: Myanmar to play Philippines today for bronze medal

THE final and third-place match of the SEA Games Women's Football Championship will be held today and the Myanmar team will play for the third-place match against the Philippines. Team Myanmar will take on the Philippines at 3:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time and the host

Viet Nam will play against Thailand for the gold medal at 6:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time. Myanmar and the Philippines also met in the third round of the 2019 SEA Games, with the Myanmar team winning by two goals to one. The Myanmar team lost to the host Vietnam 1-0 in the sem-

ifinals and will play only for the bronze medal.

The Myanmar women's team will have to maintain its tradition of winning medals every time it competes in the SEA Games, and due to the development of the Philippine team, the Myanmar team

should have to work harder than in 2019. Myanmar has won the last five consecutive bronze medals at the SEA Games. The final will see Southeast Asian powers Thailand and Viet Nam and both teams meet for the last five consecutive finals. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Myanmar Volleyball team face loss in 5th place match

THE semifinals and fifth-place match of the 31st SEA Games National Volleyball Championship were held on 20 May.

The Myanmar team lost to the Philippines 3-2 in the 5th place match. The Myanmar team missed out on the semifinals after finishing third in the group stage and only played for the fifth place. Myanmar and the Philippines have struggled for fifth place and have played five full matches.

In the first match, the Philippines team won

with 26-24 points, but in the second match, the Myanmar team won with 25-22 points.

In the third match, the Philippines team won by 25-22 points, but the Myanmar team won again in the fourth match with 29-27 points.

The fifth match was decisive, with the Philippines winning 16-14 and finishing fifth, while Myanmar finished sixth. In the semifinals, Indonesia beat Cambodia 3-1 and host Viet Nam beat Thailand 3-2 to reach the finals. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM





Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

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

3. Social affairs

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



Myanmar bags one gold, two silvers, one bronze in Vovinam while Billiard team win one silver

THE 31st Southeast Asian Games, hosted by Vietnam, is being held at stadiums in various cities. Maung Manar Kwee, Maung Aik Soe Lin; Maung Zin Lin Tun and Maung Zaw Zaw won the 8th Gold Medal for Myanmar in the Male Multiple Weapon practice of Vovinam competition held at Soc Son Stadium in Hanoi, yesterday evening.

Next, Ma Khaing Wah Phoo won the silver medal for Myanmar in the Female Single Hand practice: Dragon Tiger form of the Vovinam competition.

Likewise, Ma Honey Nway Aung won another silver medal for Myanmar in the Vovinam Singles Weapon practice: Ying Yang Sword Form.

Ma Wai Thu Lwin also won a bronze medal in the 65-kg attack event of Vovinam. In the English Billiard Double event, U PaukSa and Maung Min Sithu Tun won a silver medal, and in the 500-metre Canoeing event, Maung Win Htike, Maung Min Naing, Maung Myo Hlaing Win and Maung Thant Zin Oo grabbed a silver medal. Maung Lin Htut Paing in the 52-Kilo of boxing and Maung Aye Nyein Htoo in the 48-Kilo of boxing won the bronze medal each.

Next, Ma Aye Marlar bagged another bronze medal in the 52-kg of Judo competition and Naw Taboyar won the bronze medal in the 59-kg of the weightlifting competition.

Union Minister U Min Thein Zan and Deputy Minister U Myo Hlaing greet judo players staying at Grand Vista Hanoi Hotel and boxers staying at

Grand Phoenix Hotel at the 31st South-East Asian Games.

On behalf of the State, the Union minister awarded US\$3,000 for gold medallists, US\$2,000 for silver medallists and US\$1,000

for bronze medallists respectively.

In the afternoon, the Union minister and

party enjoyed the performance of Myanmar athletes in the Vovinam Games held at Soc Son Gymnasium in Hanoi.

The deputy minister and party also visited the Myanmar billiards and snooker tournament at Ha Dong Gymnasium in Hanoi.

Currently, Myanmar is ranked seventh in the 31st SEA Games with a total of 49 medals: eight gold medals, 15 silver medals and 26 bronze medals being earned.—MNA

