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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.

Peace Talks Team, NMSP continue 2nd-day meeting

THE second-day meeting of the government Peace Talks Team and the delegation led by Vice-Chairman Nai Aung Min of New Mon State Party (NMSP) was organized in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by State Administration Council Member National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Chairman Union Minister at the Government Office (1) Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, in his capacity as leader of the Peace Talks Team, Council Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung, NMSP Vice-Chairman Nai Aung Min, Joint General Secretary Nai Win Hla and Central Executive Committee Member Nai Banyar Lei.

During the meeting, NSPNC member Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein reported on the findings of the analysis team of NSPNC in the agreements of Part 1/2/3 of Union Accord and table-2 in Part 3 to be discussed, and the NMSP coordinated the discussion.

They also discussed the peace and development affairs and signed in the agreements received in three-day sessions.

Then, Vice-Chairman of NMSP Nai Aung Min and Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae made conclusion remarks and gave the record books marking Diamond Jubilee Union Day and Myanmar Encyclopaedia volume 1 published by the Ministry of Information and gifts. — MNA



NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and NMSP Vice-Chair Nai Aung Min exchange the documents after the second-day peace talks.

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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

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The meeting between the NMSP delegation and the government's Peace Talks Team in progress.

18 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 May, total figure rises to 613,256

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,256** after **18** new cases were reported on 25 May 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,229** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 24-5-2022, a total of **31,345,527** people have been vaccinated. Of them, **26,110,318** people have been fully vaccinated and **5,235,209** people have yet to get the second shots and **1,997,310** people have received booster doses.—MNA

Kayin State Chief Minister urges all school-age ethnic youth to attend schools

WITH the reopening of universities and degree colleges and the reopening of basic education schools, Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo urged all ethnic youths of school-age to attend schools and parents of students to send their children to schools.

He was speaking at the concluding ceremony of the Kayin Literature and Culture Summer Course at the Auk Yaytakhun Monastery in Hlainggaba Village-tract, Hpa-an Township, at 8 am on 25 May.

The first Kayin Literature and Culture Instructor Refresher Course was held in 1968-1969 and the Golden Jubilee Course was not opened due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the Kayin State

chief minister said.

“As the literature will be a beauty of a nation, our literature, culture, and traditions need to be maintained and promoted.

“Kayin youth must strive for the development of Kayin literature and culture,” he said.

He added that youths also need to learn skills in class.

During the award ceremony, the Kayin State Chief Minister presented the first, second, and third prizes to the outstanding attendees in the Kayin Literature and Culture Summer Course at the Hpa-an Township level.

Next, Chief Justice of the State High Court Daw Khin Swe Tun and Commander of the Kayin State Border Guard Force No 1016 Major Saw Soe presented



The Kayin Literature and Culture Summer Course concludes in Hpa-an Township on 25 May.

ed awards to the first, second, and third prize winners and dance performance troupes.

The chairman of the training committee, Commander of the Kayin State Border Guard Force No. 1016 Major Saw Soe, handed over the certificate of appreciation to the Kayin State

government for its support and was received by the Kayin State Minister for Ethnic Affairs U San Ko.

Attendees then sang the song of Kayin ethnics (Awhu Aw Hong), which means unity, and concluded the award-giving ceremony.

The award-presenting ceremony of the Kayin Literature and Culture Summer Course was organized by the Kayin people with an aim of preserving Kayin culture, language, arts and traditions and promoting sustainable development. — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)/GNLM

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)

Experience sharing seminar on overseas study held in Nay Pyi Taw

TO make the civil servants qualified and proficient in various subjects, various civil servants from respective Union ministries are being selected and sent to make postgraduate studies at foreign universities.

The third week of the overseas study experience seminar was organized by the civil servants who have studied abroad to share experiences yesterday morning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The seminar was attended by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing, the deputy minister for Foreign Affairs, the permanent secretary, directors-general, deputy directors-general, and civil servants from respective departments.

At the seminar, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin said scholars were sent to become



MoFA Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin remarks at the event to share experiences on overseas study.

missionaries who would serve the interests of the country and to become diplomats who could stand with the international community as subject matter experts in carrying out the interests of the country following the foreign policy set by the State. He called for compliance with the civil service rules and regulations and ethics when serving the country at Myanmar embassies abroad. The ministry is working to increase the human resources

of the staff as well as the staff for the benefit of the country, he added. He congratulated the staff for successfully completing their international master's degrees.

Officers with a master's degree from the University of Sheffield and the University of Ritsumeikan, Japan, shared their study-abroad experiences, challenges and papers. Afterwards, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing and attendees asked questions.

Holding seminars on the experiences of the scholars increases the motivation for the young staff to want to learn higher education for the future, developing human resources and benefiting not only the staff but also the ministry and the state as they develop a desire to learn more about their subjects of interest. — MNA

Delegation led by Chairman of KNU/KNLA-PC Saw Htaw Lay arrives in Nay Pyi Taw



AS Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 22 April called for peace talks with ethnic armed organizations-EAOs to achieve perpetual peace in the country and an end to the armed conflicts, a peace delegation led by Chairman Saw Htaw Lay of the KNU/KNLA-PC arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The KNU/KNLA-PC delegation arrives in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

On arrival at the Horizon Lake View Resort in Nay Pyi Taw by car, the delegation was welcomed by members of the National Solidarity and Peace making Negotiation Committee and ethnic people from the Department of Culture holding the miniature State flags and placards bearing "Perpetual Peace is the real aspiration of the people", "Achieving peace is the true desire of all citizens", "Let's hold talks for peace in the Union", "Only the ethnic nationalities are in unity, stability, peace and tranquillity will be achieved". — MNA

Myanmar gets 58% of GDP growth from services trade



The MoC Union Minister addresses the Launching ceremony of the Beta Version of Services Trade and Investment Portal-STIP in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MYANMAR receives 58 per cent of GDP growth from services trade and ranks four in ASEAN countries after Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines, said Union Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint San based on the statement of ASEAN released in 2019 during the ceremony of launching Beta Version of Services Trade and Investment Portal-STIP held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union minister said the services trade is a promising sector and it should emphasize the investment in services to develop this sector. Myanmar is also cooperating with departments concerned to conduct services trade measures.

The STIP Web Portal is a website that offers the laws, rules and regulations of services trade just in one place and the laws, rules and regulations are also enacted as per the commitments of FTAs. It also brings benefits in implementing the ACE 2025 and supports the services trade of the country.

Further awareness campaigns for the Beta Version of STIP will be conducted for private entrepreneurs across the nation.

The services trade plays a crucial role in Myanmar and the country fully imports the proper services to encourage that sector. —Htun Htun / GNLM

YRIC endorses one foreign CMP project, creating 800 jobs

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) endorsed one foreign enterprise in the manufacturing sector, with an estimated capital of US\$3.235 million at a meeting held on 25 May at the YRIC office in Yankin Township.

That project will execute the manufacturing of various hats on a Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) basis.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, in his capacity as the YRIC Chair, and the committee members attended the meeting.

First and foremost, the chief minister remarked that 3,370 jobs were created for residents in April. Investments in labour-intensive manufactur-

ing businesses, agriculture and livestock-based production businesses, solar power projects, manufacturing of raw materials for the construction sector and green business which is environmentally sustainable are cordially invited. Concerted efforts are required to effectuate the development in other sectors as well. He also instructed the officials concerned to screen the projects and give the green light under the Myanmar Investment Law, rules and regulations.

Later, director U Myo Khaing Oo of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, in his capacity as the YRIC secretary, elaborated on regional investment matters.



The Yangon Region Investment Committee holds the meeting in Yankin Township on 25 May 2022.

Then, 12 companies also submitted general reports and YRIC's chairman and the committee members coordinated the matters. — San Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/GNLM

Public Notification

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

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

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

Public Notification

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

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

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

Chongqing-Lincang-Myanmar first freight train leaves Chongqing for Myanmar

THE train on the Sino-Myanmar route (Chongqing-Lincang-Myanmar) International Railway departed from the Chongqing port of Yueqing station in Chongqing on 23 May to Myanmar carrying 60 standard containers including heavy machinery, equipment, electronic accessories, and car and motorcycle spare parts, according to the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar.

The products carried by train will arrive in Mandalay by truck in the second week of June.

The freight will arrive in Mandalay 15 days later through the Lincang border checkpoint in Yunnan Province like a joint road and rail transport.

The shipping time between Chongqing and Myanmar will be 20 days shorter than the traditional method, which will reduce the capital flow of goods by 20

per cent.

The international freight train is the very first combined railway-road route between Myanmar and Chongqing in China. The solar-related materials and other things will be transported from Chongqing to Lincang by train and from Chinshwehaw to Mandalay by truck.

The route will be a new economic corridor for promoting bilateral trade between Myanmar and China.

After implementing the railway express, it can apply to the Customs Department and the Customs statement, inspection, inventory of transports and permit can be done in one place. It does not need to do gate entrance procedures again and can pass directly and that can save 24 hours of gate passing time. The travel time will be lower than



The Chongqing-Lincang-Myanmar first freight train.

one to two days and save more than 200 yuan per container. The express leads to Laos, Thailand, Malaysia and Myanmar and

expands to Central Eurasia regions.

The express operated from China to Laos 54 times between

January and April transporting 1,422 containers and 250-million-yuan worth of products. — TWA/GNLM

Reopening of Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge No 1 needs national-level presentation



The meeting between Myanmar and Thai authorities to reopen the Friendship Bridge No 1.

ACCORDING to the meeting held on 24 May between the authorities of Myanmar and Thailand, the date of the reopening of the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge No 1 will be announced only after the nation-

al-level presentation.

Thailand has decided to reopen the bridge and it is only up to the Myanmar side to decide, according to the Thai media. At the meeting, the two sides agreed on compliance with the COVID-19

rules and regulations while passing the border, and the travellers must provide that they have been vaccinated twice by showing the vaccination certificate recognized by the Ministry of Health.

Myanmar people will only be allowed to stay for two nights and three days in Mae Sai in Thailand, and Thai citizens will be allowed to make a day trip to Tachilek. The meeting also approved that Myanmar people will not be able to go to Chiang Rai like before, and Thai people will not be able to pass the Mai Yan gate.

At the meeting, it was agreed that the opening date would be announced only after the Myanmar side submitted a national report. — TWA/GNLM

One-month suspension of quota to be imposed unless petrol stations withdraw quota fuel: MPTA

THE Myanmar Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association-MFOIDS is selling fuel to SME petrol stations, and the Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association-MPTA has announced that eligible buyers must withdraw within one month.

The Small and Medium Petrol Station Business Committee decided on 20 May to distribute 6,000 litres of 92 to the first priority regions: Yangon Region, Mandalay Region, Nay Pyi Taw; and 4,000 litres of 92 to the rest of the regions.

The purchase must be made at the set wholesale reference rate set by the PPRD on 21 May and eligible petrol stations must contact relevant oil importers and deposit the money and withdraw the petrol accordingly by 26 May.

In addition, if the eligible petrol stations do not withdraw the quota fuel, they will be suspended for one month from asking for a quota, according to the statement of the MPTA.

There are 324 petrol stations which have permission to purchase gasoline by quota in Myanmar. — TWA/GNLM



1,516 dengue fever cases found with 2 casualties in 5 months

THE total number of people infected with dengue fever is 1,516 and the number of deaths is two, said Union Minister for Health Prof Dr Thet Khaing Win during a coordination meeting on prevention of the outbreak of dengue fever.

He said the dengue fever

is a viral disease transmitted through the bite of an Aedes mosquito and so it should conduct cleaning processes in environment, educating programmes not to be bitten by mosquitoes, vaccination at schools during school opening seasons and other preventive measures for den-

gue fever. There are about 390 million dengue fever infections in the world per year and mostly common in Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar. According to data, Myanmar reported 5,446 cases of dengue fever and 36 deaths from the disease in 2021. —TWA/GNLM

MoC arranges importation 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 14.81 tonnes of masks were imported by a company through the Chinshwehaw Border Trade Camp yesterday.

Officials from relevant departments cooperate each other 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

Imported anti-Covid items.



CRIME NEWS

Illegal teak and vehicles seized



Confiscated vehicles at the Myanmar Thilawa International Port.

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

The on-duty inspection team made the inspections at the Hteedan container checkpoint on 23 May. They confiscated a Light Truck (RHD), that was over the ID period and was left by the owner (approximately K9,014,688). Police opened a case file under the Customs Law.

Moreover, on 25 May, the Bago Region Forest Department inspection team captured K383,460 worth of 0.5810 tonne of illegal teak, and action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, from 23 to 25 May, 30 arrests were made at an estimated value of K432,508,531, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Drugs seized in Myeik, Nawngkhio, and Muse townships

A combined inspection team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined a motorbike driven by Aung Min Htike in Myeik Township on 24 May at 7:30 am. They captured 30,000 stimulant tablets.

At 5:00 pm on the same day, Police Force examined a motorbike driven by Yan Naing Phyo (aka) Pho Kaung accompanied by Aung Min Soe on the Nawngkhio-Yaksawk Road in Nawngkhio Township and seized 4,385 stimulant tablets.

In addition, at 5:30 pm on the same day, the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a Nissan X-Trail car on the Muse-Namkham road in Muse Township and confiscated 2,170 stimulant tablets.

They are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Myanmar Police Force stated. — MNA



Aung Min Htike is pictured along with seized stimulant pills and a motorbike.

K660 million worth of heroin seized in Nawngkhio Township

THE Anti-Drug Police Force seized K660 million worth of 44 kilogrammes of heroin in Nawngkhio Township on 17 May.

At 3:00 pm, the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a Hyundai car, according to information, driven by Wunna Htun with Kyaw Kyaw Min aboard heading from Yaksawk to Nawngkhio on the Dokhtawady Bridge of Nawngkhio Township and captured K660 million worth of 44 kilogrammes of heroin that were covered with corn seed bags.

According to the examination, at 6:00 pm on 22 May, police seized Thant Zin Aung (aka) Thant Zin, who is the responsible man for carrying heroin, at Tollgate near the 16th-mile checkpoint in Patheingyi Township with a Mark II car.

They are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Myanmar Police Force stated. — MNA



Three arrestees (top and above) are seen with seized heroin and vehicles.

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Summer paddy price hits K800,000 per 100-baskets

THE price of summer paddy touched a high of over K800,000 per 100-baskets, said U Than Oo, secretary of the Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre.

“That summer paddy has been dried. Those paddies without moisture content fetched K800,000-850,000 per 100 baskets. The transportation adds additional costs as well. Normally, the price stands over K800,000 per 100-baskets,” said U Than Oo.

At present, the inventory of summer paddy is low and the farmers are receiving handsome income, he continued.

“The volume of summer paddy has become smaller in the domestic market. Newly harvested paddy is also flowing into the market. The prevailing price of K800,000 per 100-baskets makes the farmers thrive. We have not seen a price spike before. Although the agricultural-input cost is high, the high



The current market price is K300,000 higher than the floor price set by the committee.

price of paddy covered that,” U Than Oo elaborated.

Tracking the price surge of paddy, exporters have to purchase rice at a high price as well.

The government’s leading committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Interests of Farmers set the floor price for paddy at K540,000 per 100 baskets for 2021 monsoon

paddy and 2022 summer paddy.

The current market price is K300,000 higher than the floor price set by the committee.

The committee for the Protection and Promotion of the

Rights and Interests of Farmers, under the provisions of the Law of Protection of the Farmer Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits, set the floor price of the paddy which meets the prescribed criteria: 14-per-cent moisture content and a fixed percentage of impurities such as sand, weed, and small stones is set at K540,000 per 100 baskets (one basket is equivalent to 46 pounds).

The traders are notified of purchasing the paddy at K540,000 if the market price falls below the floor price.

Those who face difficulties to sell them at the floor price minimum can contact the Myanmar Rice Federation at 01-2301128, 01-2301129, or 01-218266).

There are nearly 18 million acres of monsoon and summer paddy in Myanmar every year, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. — NN/GNLM

Sunflower acreage grows to meet self-sufficiency



During the current 2022-2023FY, the sunflower acreage will increase up to 390,000 acres of edible oil crops in the Sagaing Region.

SAGAING Region will extend sunflower cultivation projects in the 2022-2023 Financial Year to secure local consumption of edible oil and reduce the imports of the oil.

Sunflower cultivation is cost-effective. Growers can adopt the intercropping system as well, so they can add more acres.

There was a total of 2.1 million acres of paddy with 1.8 million acres of monsoon paddy and 300,000 acres of summer paddy in the Sagaing Region in

the 2021-2022 Financial Year. Additionally, the edible oil crops including peanut, sesame and sunflower covered 1.46 million acres in Sagaing Region.

During the current 2022-2023FY, the sunflower acreage will increase up to 390,000 acres of edible oil crops in the Sagaing Region.

That project will cover 11 districts including Naga Self-Administered Zone, mostly Yinmabin District with 100,000 acres, Sagaing District with 79,000

acres and Shwebo District with 74,000 acres.

Yezin hybrid-1 and Sin Shewkyar-2 sunflower varieties will be cultivated due to their high yield. The seed production fields will be implemented on 2,000 acres in Sagaing, Myinmu and Myaung townships under the Union government plan. Another 2,000 acres will be placed under sunflower plants in Monywa, Shwebo and Yinmabin districts under the regional government plan. The seeds produced from those fields will be directly distributed to the growers.

The Sagaing Region Agriculture Department is endeavouring to provide necessary agricultural inputs, have adequate irrigation water, carry out ploughing operations in time, and meet a target of 390,000 acres of sunflower in the region in cooperation with the related departments. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa)/GNLM

Over 81,000 acres of long-staple cotton to cover in Sagaing Region

THE Sagaing Region Department of Agriculture reported a long-staple cotton cultivation project on 81,000 acres in Sagaing Region, Dr Tin Mar Mar Oo, assistant director of the department said.

“The crop is a primary resource for industrial raw materials and local clothing industry. It is suitable for the tropical Sagaing Region. It’s a climate-resilient crop as well. Moreover, an intercropping system with green grams and corn can also be used. It can generate more income for growers. The cotton-seed nurtured by the department

can yield up to over 1,000 vissees per acre. This is why it is a lucrative crop for growers,” she elaborated.

The number of cotton acres will increase in the region for pre-monsoon, monsoon and late-monsoon seasons.

There is a total of 81,800 acres of cotton in the Sagaing Region, with 60,900 acres of long-staple cotton, 5,800 acres of extra-long-staple cotton and 15,100 acres of Mahlaing cotton varieties.

The yield rate is 436 vissees per acre on average. — Lu Lay/GNLM



There is a total of 81,800 acres of cotton in the Sagaing Region, with 60,900 acres of long-staple cotton, 5,800 acres of extra-long-staple cotton and 15,100 acres of Mahlaing cotton varieties.

OPINION

Beware of dengue haemorrhagic fever in monsoon

DENGUE haemorrhagic fever is a mosquito-borne illness that occurs in tropical and subtropical areas of the world. The severe form of dengue fever, also called dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF), can cause serious bleeding, a sudden drop in blood pressure (shock) and death.

DHF is most common in Southeast Asia including Myanmar, the western Pacific islands, Latin America and Africa. The best ways to prevent infection are to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes and to take steps to reduce the mosquito population.

Infection with dengue viruses is transmitted through the bite of infective female *Aedes* spp. *Aedes aegypti*, the principal vector, is a small black-and-white, highly domesticated mosquito that prefers to lay its eggs in artificial water containers commonly found in urban areas of the tropics.

Hence, it is necessary to clean water storage in containers found in and around the public houses, buildings and offices, such as flower vases, old automobile tyres, buckets and other junk items collecting rainwater. It is because *Aedes* very prefer to lay eggs in clean water. After a period of incubation lasting three to 14 days, the person may experience an acute onset of fever accompanied by a variety of non-specific signs and symptoms. Parents and families of the children suffering from DHF will embrace unhappiness and frets, with high costs for treatment as well as nutritious foods. Families need to arrange necessary medical treatment for the DHF patient children in time. If they are late to give medical treatment, the patient children will face severe suffering. Accidentally, the disease may bring contamination among the family members. Hence, it is necessary to cut the chain of infection in time.

If one child suffers from DHF, the patient needs to take care of medical treatment for the child. Family members need to inform relevant health officials about the sufferings of DHF in time. It is necessary to spray the home and environs for disinfection of the disease as much as possible. In classrooms, teachers need to send back the patient students to home for taking a rest and treatment.

Health is wealth not only for children but for adults. At present, healthcare facilities of the Ministry of Health are ready to provide medical treatment to patients. Hence, all the people should make utmost efforts to the prevention of DHF for their children and families so as to build a healthy society in Myanmar.

■

Health Consequences of Post-COVID Condition

By Yin Nwe Ko

IT HAS been for over two years since COVID-19 stepped on our planet. Since it was a pandemic, it devoured over 6 million human lives in a short while. Because of its cunning and cruelty, many countries that were attacked lost their economy, education, health, and many other sectors. It can be said that it is under somewhat control because the vaccine to prevent it has been discovered and manufactured in some countries. To have complete control, there might be many measures to be implemented.

Some experts and physicians said it will never vanish from the world and human beings will have to seek ways of living together with the pandemic. However, there will be so many things to be done in the frail and weak situations due to its serious effect that the *post-COVID-19* Period may take longer than expected. There have been some interesting reports published by respec-

tive organizations and research teams. Among them, this is also an interesting one that people should more or less take notice of and contemplate.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) and WHO sponsored conferences have drawn attention to an increasing number of people experiencing health consequences following the acute phase of SARS-CoV-2 infection and are calling for research into the risk factors, clinical features, diagnosis, management, and outcomes. Increasing funding opportunities have subsequently followed. It is important to note that most data regarding the *post-COVID-19 conditions* have been generated prior to the condition definition announcement.

Thus, earlier studies may not fit the proposed definition criteria. *Post-COVID-19 condition* extends beyond the cardio-respiratory system to affect most other bodily systems both

anatomically and physiologically. Although the causes of the *post-COVID-19 condition* are unclear, persistent immune activation may be involved. Risk factors for different syndromes of post-acute SARS-CoV-2 sequelae have not been characterized, but it has been hypothesized that several *post-COVID-19 condition* phenotypes may exist, although pathophysiology, management, and outcomes are currently unknown.

Long-term health consequences of COVID-19 remain unknown, but reports suggest that prolonged symptom duration and limitations in functioning are common among hospitalized as well as non-hospitalized adults and children. The spectrum of long-lasting symptoms is wide and varies from mild discomfort to severe adverse effects on physical, cognitive, and psychosocial health, with important wider implications on functioning, including employment and school attendance.

Multiple studies from different countries found that many individuals experienced persistent symptoms 6 months after COVID-19, with fatigue or muscle weakness, sleep difficulties, and anxiety or depression among the most common sequelae. A recent study suggests that although most COVID-19 survivors recover both physically and functionally a year after acute infection, some still experience problems with mobility, pain or discomfort, and anxiety or depression compared with non-COVID-19 controls.

The data emerging from the controlled studies are in agreement with the earlier reports. A recent analysis of the data from over 250,000 electronic health records demonstrated that more than one in three individuals had one or more features of *post-COVID-19 condition* recorded between 3 and 6 months after a diagnosis of COVID-19, which was significantly higher when compared with individuals with influenza. Disease severity, female sex, and

younger age were associated with a higher risk of *post-COVID-19 condition* development.

Yet, it is unknown whether persistent symptoms and associated abnormalities will fully resolve or whether some may leave life-long dysfunction. It is also worth noting that investigations into the *post-COVID-19 condition* can be difficult, with high loss of follow-up, frequent use of unvalidated measurement instruments, lack of inclusion of controls during the pandemic, and censoring of data (e.g., for death) not always fully considered in published studies. Differential diagnosis can be challenging with specific symptoms attributed to the *post-COVID-19 condition* being a sign of an ongoing problem (e.g., dysautonomia in people reporting heart rate variability).

Investigation of potential *post-COVID-19 condition* treatment options is still in its early days. Approaches mainly focus on rehabilitation and symptomatic management. Some experts sug-

gest that antibodies and T cells able to recognize SARS-CoV-2 induced by vaccine “may help the immune system to stop the virus during its first few replications before it can establish hidden reservoirs in the body”; however, the evidence regarding the effectiveness of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines in *post-COVID-19 condition* treatment is somehow conflicting. One of the major obstacles in the development of intervention strategies for the *post-COVID-19 condition* is the lack of agreed outcomes to be assessed in clinical trials.

The pandemic and subsequent mitigation strategies have also had a substantial impact on the psychosocial well-being of the general population worldwide, with many people experiencing anxiety and depression, due to isolation, economic instability, job insecurity, sickness/death of infected family members, COVID-19-related stigma, lack of trust in government agencies, and constant media attention focused on

the pandemic threats. Disruption of care for those with pre-existing conditions has also had a large impact. For example, according to the WHO *Pulse survey on continuity of essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic*, 45% of countries still reported disruptions to services for mental, neurological, and substance use disorders in the first quarter of 2021. On a similar scale, rehabilitation services disruptions continue to be reported by 53% (of 89 countries).

In addition, indirect impacts of COVID-19 on mental health, psychosocial, and neurological sequelae have been reported in adults following COVID-19, and many patients are facing a variety of consequences including fatigue, shortness of breath, and cognitive dysfunction as well as reduced quality of life with an impact on everyday functioning, even months following acute infection.

With millions of people affected by COVID-19, even a

small percentage developing the *post-COVID-19 condition* will result in a detrimental effect on society and public health, with many people in need of long-term follow-up, management, and support. A recent study has reported that previously hospitalized patients with COVID-19 had increased rates of multiorgan dysfunction compared with the general population.

To sum up the article, we have seen so many measures to be done by the respectively responsible personals and followed by the respective citizens of the countries by individually or in groups. These will be complex issues for the countries. Nevertheless, humans never give up on the difficulties they have been facing with. Whether they will overcome that dark age or not depends upon the unity of their societies and their endeavour of them, I think.

■

Pfizer offers to sell medicines at cost to poorest countries

US PHARMACEUTICAL giant Pfizer on Wednesday said it would sell its patented drugs on a not-for-profit basis to the world's poorest countries, as part of a new initiative announced at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

“The time is now to begin closing this gap” between people with access to the latest treatments and those going without, chief executive Albert Bourla told attendees at the exclusive Swiss mountain resort gathering.

“An Accord for a Healthier World” focuses on five areas: infectious diseases, cancer, inflammation, rare diseases and women's health – where Pfizer currently holds 23 patents, including the likes of Comirnaty and Paxlovid, its Covid vaccine and oral treatment.

“This transformational commitment will increase access to Pfizer-patented medicines and vaccines available in the United States and the European Union



A picture shows a lorry at the US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer plant in Puurs, northeast Belgium, on 23 December 2020. PHOTO: JONAS ROOSENS / BELGA / AFP/FILE

to nearly 1.2 billion people,” Angela Hwang, group president of the Pfizer Biopharmaceuticals

Group, told AFP. Five countries: Rwanda, Ghana, Malawi, Senegal and Uganda have committed to

joining, with a further 40 countries — 27 low-income and 18 lower-middle-income — eligible to sign bi-

lateral agreements to participate.

“Pfizer's commitment sets a new standard, which we hope to see emulated by others,” Rwanda's President Paul Kagame said.

But he added that “additional investments and strengthening of Africa's health systems and pharmaceutical regulators” would also be needed.

Seven years behind

Developing countries experience 70 per cent of the world's disease burden but receive only 15 per cent of global health spending, leading to devastating outcomes.

Across sub-Saharan Africa, one child in 13 dies before their fifth birthday, compared to one in 199 in high-income countries.

Cancer-related mortality rates are also far higher in low and middle-income countries — causing more fatalities in Africa every year than malaria.

All this is set to a backdrop of limited access to the latest drugs.

Essential medicines and vaccines typically take four to seven years longer to reach the poorest countries, and supply chain issues and poorly resourced health systems make it difficult for patients to receive them once approved.

“The Covid-19 pandemic further highlighted the complexities of access to quality healthcare and the resulting inequities,” said Hwang. “We know there are a number of hurdles that countries have to overcome to gain access to our medicines. That is why we have initially selected five pilot countries to identify and come up with operational solutions and then share those learnings with the remaining countries.”

‘Very good model’

Specifically, the focus will be on overcoming regulatory and procurement challenges in the countries, while ensuring adequate levels of supply from Pfizer's side.

SOURCE: AFP



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 25 May 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 26 May 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Magway Region and (northern and eastern) Shan, Kayah States and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squall with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (35-40) mph. Wave height will be about (9-11) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of southwest monsoon advancement into the Central Myanmar Areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 May 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 May 2022: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Boeing’s Starliner faces one more challenge as it returns to Earth



White Sands Missile Range personnel supporting NASA and Boeing’s Orbital Flight Test-2 (OFT-2) landing and recovery of the Starliner spacecraft participated in a Mission Dress Rehearsal on 18May 2022 at White Sands Space Harbour. **PHOTO: ANNE MARIE CHADIMA, WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE PUBLIC AFFAIRS/AFP**

BOEING’S Starliner capsule is readying to return to Earth on Wednesday in the final step of a key test flight to prove itself worthy of providing rides for NASA astronauts to the International Space Station.

The spaceship is scheduled

to autonomously undock at 2:36 pm Eastern Time (1836 GMT) and touch down in New Mexico just over four hours later, at 2249 GMT, wrapping up a six-day mission crucial to restoring Boeing’s reputation after past failures.

Orbital Flight Test-2 (OFT-2)

is the last hurdle for Starliner to clear before it carries humans in another test flight that could take place by the end of this year.

Starliner rendezvoused with the ISS on Friday, a day after blasting off from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

Over the weekend, astronauts living aboard the research platform opened the hatch and “greeted” the capsule’s sole passenger: Rosie the Rocketeer, a mannequin equipped with sensors to understand what human crew would have experienced in the journey.

The mission hasn’t been without its hiccups. These include propulsion problems early on Starliner’s journey that saw two thrusters responsible for placing it in a stable orbit failing, though officials insisted there was plenty of redundancy built into the system.— AFP

Climate change made S. Asia heatwave 30 times more likely

THE punishing heatwave that scorched India and Pakistan in March and April was made 30 times more likely by climate change, experts in quantifying

senior author Friederike Otto, a scientist at Imperial College London’s Grantham Institute, told AFP.

Global warming to date of

to heat up, the interval between such killer heatwaves will shrink even further.

If Earth’s average surface temperature rises another four-fifths of a degree to 2C above preindustrial levels, “a heat-wave like this one would be expected as often as once every five years”, they concluded.

A 2C world is an unsettlingly plausible scenario: current national commitments to curb carbon pollution under the Paris Agreement would see global warming of 2.8C.

“Whether today’s most impactful heatwaves could have occurred in a pre-industrial climate is fast becoming an obsolete question,” said Otto.

“The next frontier for attribution science is to inform adaptation decision-making in the face of unprecedented future heat,” she said by email.

“This means the most important aspect of our study is what it says about a 2C world.”

The March-April period was the hottest on record for that time of year in Pakistan and India.—AFP



An Indian worker uses a ricksahw to transport ice from an ice factory in Amritsar in a blistering heatwave sweeping India. **PHOTO: AFP PHOTO/NARINDER NANU/FILE**

the impact of global warming on extreme weather events said in a rapid-response report Monday.

Before the onset of human-caused climate change, the chances of such an event occurring would have been roughly once every 3,000 years,

1.2 degrees Celsius has shortened the so-called return period for extreme heat of similar duration and intensity in South Asia to once-a-century, she and colleagues in the World Weather Attribution (WWA) consortium found.

But as the planet continues

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

UN says rich countries putting children around the world at risk

RICH countries are creating unsafe living conditions for children both at home and around the world, a UNICEF report released Tuesday said, calling on states to reduce waste and cut pollution.

UNICEF’s Innocenti Research Centre studied 39 countries from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the European Union (EU) according to different criteria, including pesticide use, home humidity, lead exposure, access to light and waste generation.

While Spain, Ireland and Portugal performed relatively well, none of the countries studied were found to provide healthy environments for children, according to the report.

“Not only are the majority of rich countries failing to provide healthy environments for children within their borders, they are also contributing to the destruction of children’s environments in other parts of the world,” said the centre’s director Gunilla Olsson in a statement.—AFP

Iconic Iran river threatened by droughts, diversions

THE famed river bridges of the Iranian city of Isfahan are a beloved tourist draw — but much of the time their stone arches span just sand and rocks, not water.

Drought and upstream water diversions have seen the Zayandeh Rood, “fertile river” in Persian, run dry since 2000, with only rare exceptions. Sitting on a quay with two friends, 60-year-old Jalal Mirahmadi gazed with melancholy at the riverbed, which became the site of a farmers’ protest late last year.

“When I was a child, the water flowed under the arches of the bridge and sometimes overflowed to spill into the surrounding streets,” he sighed.—AFP

Zimbabwe rallies allies to push for legal ivory trade

ZIMBABWE will this week press a drive to legalize the ivory trade, inviting officials from 15 nations to meet in a national park that’s a beacon of success in protecting elephants.

Hwange National Park is overflowing with elephants, which now routinely wander outside the boundaries to feed, sometimes running into deadly conflicts with people living in the surrounds.

Zimbabwe and its neighbours in southern Africa have seen their elephant herds thrive in recent years and are now home to about 70 per cent of the continent’s elephants.—AFP



In much of Africa, poaching and habitat loss have seen elephant numbers decline. **PHOTO: AFP**

PANDEMIC
WORLD

Covid-free Pacific nations set to ease border restrictions

ONE of the world’s last Covid-free countries has set a date to reopen its borders for the first time since the pandemic began, while another is poised to loosen its hardline restrictions.

The governments of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Marshall Islands both say they are prepared for negative consequences, but concede they must transition away from maintaining strict border protocols.

FSM will lift border restrictions on 1 August while the Marshall Islands is set to reduce

quarantine requirements next month, authorities from the two countries said on Friday.

The Pacific Ocean is home to the only four countries to have never recorded a Covid-19 case in their communities according to the World Health Organization. The other two are Nauru and Tuvalu.

Three other locales with the same Covid-free status are also in the Pacific: the territories of Tokelau and Pitcairn Islands, and the self-governing state of Niue.

FSM President David Pa-

nuelo said he hoped setting a date of 1 August for opening up would encourage his population of just over 100,000, spread across more than 600 islands, to maximize its vaccination coverage.

“Choosing to open the nation’s borders on 1 August is equivalent to purposefully choosing to introduce Covid-19 into the FSM shortly thereafter,” he said in a statement on Friday.

“Thus, it is essential that the decision be made so the nation transitions from Covid-19 free to Covid-19 protected.”—AFP



The Marshall Islands remains Covid-free and has never had community transmission. This picture taken on 13 November 2010 shows the dock at Jabor Island, Jaluit Atoll. **PHOTO: AFP PHOTO / GIFF JOHNSON**

Chinese province of nearly 100 million to Covid test every two days



China has persisted with its zero-Covid policy, imposing hard lockdowns and movement restrictions on several cities to deal with an Omicron-fuelled surge. A medical worker takes a swab sample from a child for COVID-19 test at a testing site in Zhengzhou, central China’s Henan Province, 10 January 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/HAO YUAN**

THE Chinese province of Henan has ordered its nearly 100 million people to take a Covid test every two days, an unprecedented step as the country grapples with an Omicron-fuelled surge.

China has persisted with

its zero-Covid policy, imposing hard lockdowns and movement restrictions on several cities even as much of the world has transitioned to living with the coronavirus.

The curbs, including stay-

at-home orders in economic engine Shanghai and creeping restrictions across Beijing, have inflicted a heavy economic toll.

To avoid a similar city-wide lockdown, local governments are adopting high-frequency testing to detect cases more swiftly and potentially isolate clusters without ordering entire populations to stay indoors.

“Residents of (Henan) province and other personnel there should complete nucleic acid sampling at least once every 48 hours,” according to an article posted Sunday on the local government’s website. The testing will begin in Henan’s provincial capital of Zhengzhou before the end of May, authorities said, according to the report, to help with “identifying potential risks” quickly. Residents who do not comply will have problems scanning the codes needed to enter public places or take transport, the report added.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Argentine president pays ‘fine’ for birthday dinner

ARGENTINA’S President Alberto Fernandez and the first lady on Monday paid a fine of three million pesos (about \$24,000), in the form of a charitable donation, in return for legal proceedings against them being dropped over a birthday dinner during the pandemic lockdown that caused a scandal.

A federal judge approved the president’s “economic compensation” proposal, in which he will pay 1.6 million pesos to a prestigious vaccine research institute, the Malbran Institute.

His partner, Fabiola Yanez, offered a donation of 1.4 million, which was also approved.—AFP

UK PM faces ‘Partygate’ reckoning

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson braced Wednesday for the release of a senior civil servant’s long-awaited full report into a “Partygate” scandal, as new allegations emerged about a culture of lockdown-breaking boozing in his offices.

A photograph published by the Daily Mirror newspaper showed a Downing Street table laden with wine bottles and doughnuts, and it said an accompanying WhatsApp message told staff: “Time to open the Covid secure bar.” But the Mirror said that particular event in November 2020 was thought not to have been investigated by civil servant Sue Gray or London’s Metropolitan Police, which has issued multiple fines over other events, including one against Johnson himself.—AFP

Mexico tourism projected to return to pre-pandemic level this year

THE number of tourists visiting Mexico is set to return to pre-pandemic levels by the end of this year, the country’s tourism minister said on Monday, with projected revenues of US\$24.25 billion.

With an estimated 40 million international visitors, Mexico’s tourism sector will have recov-

ered to “almost 100 per cent” of its performance in 2019, Miguel Torruco said at a tourism promotion fair in the southern resort town of Acapulco.

Torruco attributed the expected recovery to the government’s roll-out of Covid vaccines and the establishment of anti-vi-

rus protocols.—AFP

A woman takes pictures of a seal fish seating on the back of a yacht in the harbour of Cabo San Lucas in Mexico’s Baja California Peninsula, on 25 April 2021. **PHOTO: DANIEL SLIM/ AFP**



ECONOMY WORLD

BRICS ministers urge cooperation on new industrial revolution

BRICS industry ministers met virtually on Monday, calling for deepening innovative cooperation on the new industrial revolution for achieving sustainable development goals in a stronger, healthier and more resilient manner.

The sixth BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting was held via video link in the port city of Xiamen, east China's Fujian Province.

BRICS is the acronym for an emerging-market bloc that groups Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

During the meeting, the ministers had in-depth exchanges on promoting comprehensive cooperation, digital transformation of traditional industries, and collaboration on industrial and supply chains. Xiao Yaqing, minister of industry and information technology, reviewed progress that has been made since the first Meeting of BRICS Industry Ministers in 2015, and lauded progress made through BRICS practical cooperation on industry with the establishment of the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR),

alongside the BRICS PartNIR Innovation Center.

Xiao noted that, as the world faces a pandemic and drastic changes that have not been seen in a century, the Chinese government has taken proactive measures to balance pandemic response and socioeconomic development. China stands ready to work with all parties to deepen innovative cooperation on the new industrial revolution for achieving sustainable development goals in a stronger, healthier and more resilient manner, the minister added.—Xinhua



An employee of Bosch Limited works in the manufacturing plant of the company in Bangalore, India 21 July 2008. **PHOTO: DIBYANGSHU SARKAR/AFP/FILE**

Singapore's economy likely to grow moderately in 2022

SINGAPORE'S Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) announced on Wednesday that it continues to expect the Singapore economy to grow by 3-5 per cent in 2022, with growth likely to come in at the lower half of the forecast range. The forecast was made taking into account the performance of the Singapore economy in the first quarter, as well as the latest global and domestic economic developments, the ministry said.

The MTI said that the Singapore economy grew by 3.7 per cent year on year in the first quarter of 2022, moderating from the 6.1 per cent expansion in the previous quarter. On a quarter-on-quarter seasonally-adjusted basis, the economy expanded by 0.7 per cent, slower than the 2.3 per cent growth in the fourth quarter of 2021.

It said that the external economic environment has deteriorated since February, due in part to the onset of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Domestically, the stabi-



This photograph taken on 22 July 2021 shows a delivery robot named Camello during a trial run as it makes its way delivering items from a shopping mall to a nearby housing estate in Singapore. **PHOTO: ROSLAN RAHMAN/AFP**

lized COVID-19 situation, as well as the high vaccination rate and strong booster takeup, have allowed for a faster-than-expected lifting of domestic and border restrictions since end-March.

"Against this backdrop, the growth outlook for some outward-oriented sectors in the Singapore economy has weak-

ened this year," the MTI said, adding that some other sectors, such as the electronics cluster, the professional services sector, the aviation- and tourism-related sectors, the consumer-facing sectors, and the sectors reliant on migrant workers, have seen a strengthening of their growth outlook. —Xinhua

Ukraine war pushes Brazil towards natural fertilizers

FEARING Russia's invasion of Ukraine will disrupt its crucial supply of fertilizer imports, agricultural powerhouse Brazil is increasingly turning to natural alternatives.

Brazil, a top producer of soy, corn, cotton, sugarcane and coffee, is the world's

fourth-biggest consumer of so-called "NPK" chemical fertilizers — nitrogen-, phosphorus- and potassium-based.

It imports around 80 per cent of its total supply — and 25 per cent of that from Russia, whose exports have now been targeted by Western sanctions

over the Ukraine invasion.

That is causing farmers in the South American giant to turn to alternatives, including remineralizers, or "agrominerals" — pulverized, nutrient-rich rocks that are spread on fields before planting. —AFP

NEWS IN Brief

One in 10 eurozone households own cryptoassets, says ECB

Nearly one in 10 European households has invested in cryptoassets, an ECB study published Tuesday said, highlighting high demand for the risky investments. "As many as 10 per cent" of survey respondents in six large eurozone countries, including Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Italy and the Netherlands, said they owned cryptoassets. The proportion of crypto owners varied between the countries, with the figure as low as six percent in France and above 14 per cent in the Netherlands.

Financial oversight bodies have been increasing their scrutiny of the crypto market as the asset class has grown, while recent volatility has highlighted the risks involved for investors.—AFP

Argentina to ease exchange control for oil and gas companies

ARGENTINA on Tuesday announced an easing of foreign exchange controls for the shale oil and gas industry in a bid to promote investment and boost production.

In an area known as Vaca Muerta in Patagonia, Argentina has what is considered the second-largest shale gas reserve in the world and the fourth largest of shale oil. Extraction has been hampered by a lack of much-needed but costly investment, especially for hydraulic fracking. On Tuesday, Economy Minister Martin Guzman said "a special regime for currency access" would be put in place for the hydrocarbon industry "to guarantee the special equipment they require", especially for fracking.—AFP



A tanker truck waits to download gasoline at the headquarters of the Argentine Automobile Club in Buenos Aires. **PHOTO: AFP / DANIEL GARCIA / FILE**

Spicejet faces
ransomware attack;
flights impacted

HUNDREDS of SpiceJet airlines passengers were stranded at various airports due to a ransomware attack that impacted the morning flight departures on Wednesday.

Confirming the development, a spokesperson informed that a ransomware attack on Tuesday night had slowed down the departure of flights today morning. “Certain SpiceJet systems faced an attempted ransomware attack last night that impacted and slowed down morning flight departures today. Our IT team has contained and rectified the situation and flights

are operating normally now,” the SpiceJet tweeted after getting numerous queries over the delay in departure. Meanwhile, as the passengers stuck at airports raised concerns over the delay the ground staff informed them that ‘the server was down’.

One of the passengers, Saurav Goyal tweeted, “Extremely poor customer service by flyspicejet. My flight to Srinagar SG 473 scheduled at 6:25 am from Delhi today is still at the airport. The Staff has no clue and poor excuse is ‘server down’ so cannot take printouts. Passengers are suffering.”—ANI

After wheat, India caps sugar exports

INDIA said it has capped sugar exports to safeguard its own supplies and ease inflation, days after a ban on wheat shipments sent global prices soaring in the wake of the Ukraine war.

The world’s largest sugar producer and number two exporter after Brazil said on Tuesday that shipments would be limited to 10 million tonnes for the current marketing year to September.

The decision was taken “with a view to maintain the domestic availability and price stability during the sugar season,” the food ministry said in a statement.

Sugar exports are forecast to hit a record high this marketing year, with contracts signed



India is the world’s second largest sugar exporter after Brazil. Indian vendors carry a bundles of sugarcane from a truck as they wait for customers at the wholesale market in Chennai. **PHOTO: AFP / ARUN SANKAR/FILE**

for around nine million tonnes, and 7.8 million tonnes already shipped, it said.

Citing inflation and its own food security needs, in mid-May India banned any new wheat exports without government approval after the hottest March on re-

Ukraine, which previously accounted for 12 per cent of global exports.

The decision also stoked fears of growing protectionism in the wake of the conflict.

The export ban also left hundreds of thousands of tonnes of wheat stranded at a major port in western India, with long lines of thousands of trucks waiting to unload.

Authorities stressed that government-to-government requests for wheat from other countries reeling from record high prices would be permitted.

Elsewhere in Asia, Indonesia temporarily halted palm oil exports and Malaysia banned chicken exports.—AFP

British retailer Marks and
Spencer exits Russia

BRITISH clothing-to-food retailer Marks and Spencer on Wednesday announced a full exit from Russia following the country’s invasion of Ukraine.

After halting product shipments to Russia at the start of March, Marks and Spencer said it had decided “to fully exit” its Russian franchise run by Turkish conglomerate Fiba Group.

The exit, plus disruption to M&S operations in Ukraine run also by franchisee Fiba, is costing the British company £31 million (\$39 million, 36 million euros).

“Unfortunately, our Ukrainian business has also been partially closed as a result of war impacts, and we are working with our partner to reopen as and when possible,” the company added in a statement.—AFP

Businesses rattled by Japan’s reluctance to
welcome foreign tourists



Travellers gather in the international arrivals lobby at Narita airport near Tokyo on 7 April 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPANESE business circles, particularly those in the tourism sector, are unsettled by what appears to be overly cautious government policy towards resuming tourism from abroad as the Asian country’s economy struggles to recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

Japan is set to further ease COVID-19 border controls by doubling the cap on overseas arrivals to 20,000 people per day starting in June, following Prime Minister Fumio Kishida’s remarks earlier this month that the country will relax restrictions on par with other Group of Seven countries.

But such international arrivals do not include tourists, and the government has not yet indicated when Japan will start accepting tourists from overseas.—Kyodo

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TRIESTE TRADER VOY.NO. (219W/2220E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TRIESTE TRADER VOY.NO. (219W/2220E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-5-2022** 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 IAL 001 VOY.NO. (S126)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (S126)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-5-2022** 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 INTER ASIA LINES

Kishida, Modi vow to beef up ties to keep Indo-Pacific free, open



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (R) and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi shake hands during their meeting at the State Guest House in Tokyo on 24 May 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, reaffirmed Tuesday their commitment to building a free and open Indo-Pacific by beefing up defence ties to keep an increasingly assertive China in check.

The two leaders also pledged to deepen bilateral relations in economic, cultural and other realms, the Japanese government said, with this year marking the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India.

During the talks, which last-

ed around 70 minutes, Kishida and Modi agreed to work towards conducting, as early as possible, the first joint air drill between the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force and the Indian Air Force after the training had been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The two leaders also affirmed a plan to hold the next so-called two-plus-two meeting involving their foreign and defence ministers in the near future.

On the economic front, they agreed to work towards implementing a plan unveiled by Kishi-

da in New Delhi in March to invest 5 trillion yen (\$39 billion) in India over five years to improve supply chains and make conducting business easier.

Japan has been supporting urban infrastructure development in India, including a project to introduce Japanese high-speed trains to the South Asian country.

In addition to noting the project's progress, the two leaders also agreed to further promote collaboration in areas such as next-generation technology and clean energy.— Kyodo

QUICK SUMMARY

Russia imposes personal sanctions against 154 members of UK House of Lords

RUSSIA has imposed personal sanctions against 154 members of the British House of Lords in a retaliatory move, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

"In response to the decision made by the UK government in March this year to include almost the entire composition of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on its sanctions list, Russia has imposed personal restrictions against 154 members of the House of Lords of the British Parliament on the basis of reciprocity," the ministry said.

The sanctioned individuals were directly involved in the "development of anti-Russian sanctions", the destruction of Russia's economy, and the promotion of a Russophobic agenda, it said, adding that they would be denied entry into Russia. — ANI

Pro-Russian ex-president of Moldova detained for 'treason'

MOLDOVA on Tuesday detained pro-Russian ex-president Igor Dodon on suspicion of treason and corruption, prosecutors said, as the conflict in neighbouring Ukraine has heightened tensions in the country seeking EU membership.

"Igor Dodon was detained on Tuesday for 72 hours," Mariana Chiorpec, a spokeswoman for the prosecutor-general's office, told journalists, adding that he is being held in the National Anti-Corruption Centre.

She said that searches were ongoing at 12 different locations including Dodon's home in the capital Chisinau.

Dodon is being investigated over four separate offences: state treason, receiving political funds from a criminal organisation, illegal enrichment and "passive corruption". — AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Switzerland unveils July reconstruction conference for Ukraine

SWITZERLAND has invited leaders from scores of countries and international organizations to a July conference on rebuilding Ukraine, President Ignazio Cassis told the World Economic Forum in Davos on Tuesday.

As well as pledging funds for reconstruction, "the conference will be about reforms that can still be implemented in the present situation" of continued fighting against the Russian invasion that began on 24 February, Cassis told reporters.

"Given how long the road will be... we can't start soon enough," he said.

"I can imagine that it might take some years before the international community decides on such a big investment."

Scheduled for 4 and 5 July in Lugano, near the Italian border, the conference had originally been slated to discuss reforms in Ukraine before being repurposed for war reconstruction.

"We are ready for reconstruction even now, because we

liberated some territories and we need to bring life back to those territories," said Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, who arrived late due to bad weather.

Cassis said he and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky had asked around 40 world leaders and chiefs of 18 international organizations to attend the high-level talks.

Speaking by video link via an interpreter, Ukrainian

Prime Minister Denys Shmygal said Kyiv would use any money raised "to rebuild our country with leading institutions, the International Monetary Fund and also the World Bank and the European fund of solidarity with Ukraine".

But details of the conference's aims remain sketchy, with no consensus so far on how much cash might be needed to make good the war damage.— AFP



The conflict has become a grinding and bloody affair, with both sides making gains and losses. **PHOTO: AFP**

Putin allies eye prolonged conflict in Ukraine

TOP allies of President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday that Moscow was ready for a prolonged conflict in Ukraine in order to achieve the Kremlin's goals in the pro-Western country.

The hostilities, which entered their fourth month Tuesday, have killed thousands of people, displaced more than eight million and forced more than six million refugees to flee across the borders.

"We will continue the special military operation until all the objectives have been achieved, regardless of the massive Western aid to the Kyiv regime and the sanctions against Russia," Defence Min-

ister Sergei Shoigu told regional counterparts from the Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organization.

He added that Moscow's efforts to avoid civilian casualties "are of course slowing down the

pace of the offensive, but this is deliberate".

Separately, the secretary of Russia's Security Council, Nikolai Patrushev, said that Moscow's offensive would last as long as necessary.—AFP

N. Korea fires apparent ICBM, 2 missiles after Biden’s Asia trip



This photo of the Hwasong-17 new type intercontinental ballistic missile being displayed during a military parade in Pyongyang on 25 April 2022, appeared in North Korea’s Rodong Sinmun on 26 April. **PHOTO: KOREA MEDIA/KYODO**

NORTH Korea fired three ballistic missiles — one believed to be of intercontinental range — off its east coast on Wednesday, South Korea’s military said, a day after US President Joe Biden concluded his first Asia trip since taking office, vowing to deter Pyongyang with allies.

The first projectile, presumed to be an intercontinental ballistic missile, was launched at around 6 am followed by two others at 6:37 am and 6:42 am from Pyongyang’s Sunan area, according to the military.

One of the two that followed the ICBM was believed to be

a short-range ballistic missile, while the other disappeared from radar after reaching an altitude of about 20 kilometres, it said.

Japan’s Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi and other officials in Tokyo said the missiles apparently landed outside the country’s exclusive economic zone and there were no reports of damage to ships or aircraft. The first missile flew about 300 km with a maximum altitude of around 550 km, while the second, which reached as high as 50 km, travelled around 750 km before falling in waters east of North Korea, the Japanese government said, add-

ing it was looking into the third projectile launch. Missiles are fired on steep or “lofted” trajectories to test capabilities. Concerns have grown about North Korea’s development of nuclear-capable ICBMs that could reach the US mainland. The latest launches, which came after talks between Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and a summit of the so-called Quad leaders also involving Australia and India, were “clear provocations,” Kishi said, adding Japan cannot tolerate North Korea’s efforts to advance its missile-related technology.—Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Malaysia PM visits Japan to deepen ties based on “Look East” policy

MALAYSIAN Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob paid a six-day visit to Japan from Monday to deepen bilateral ties, as their countries commemorate the 40th anniversary of his country’s “Look East” policy modeled after Japan’s economic development and work ethic.

Ismail Sabri is scheduled to hold talks on Friday with his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida, with the “Look East” policy as well as post-COVID-19 cooperation high on the agenda, the Malaysian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

It will be the first face-to-face meeting between Ismail Sabri and Kishida, who both assumed office last year. 2022 marks 65 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and Japan.

Ismail Sabri, during his official visit, will also exchange views with Kishida “on the importance of international order and regional stability,” the ministry said, without elaborating.—Kyodo

‘The state of being lonely’: South Korean horror writer shortlisted for Booker

A head pops out of the toilet, a woman gets pregnant from birth control pills — South Korean Booker Prize nominee Bora Chung’s short stories are full of horror, inspired by her own lonely life.

An academic specializing in Slavic literature, Chung was considered a “genre writer” and excluded from South Korea’s mainstream literary scene. Until recently, she was relatively unknown to local readers.

Her stories — which combine science fiction, horror and fantasy — are not considered “pure” literature by Seoul’s cultural elite. But her life took a dramatic turn when her 2017 collection “Cursed Bunny” caught the eye of translator Anton Hur.

Hur’s English edition of the book, released by British publisher Honford Star, has been named a finalist for this year’s International Booker Prize.

Only two South Korean writers — Han Kang (“The Vegetarian”) and Hwang Sok-yong (“At Dusk”) — have previously been nominated for the honour, and both were far more established and well-regarded domestically. “Cursed Bunny” has not won any prizes in South Korea, and Chung mostly earned a living teaching at a university and translating Russian literature.—AFP

Countries agree to overhaul WHO funding



“This is a historic moment,” WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said as the resolution was adopted at the World Health Assembly, the annual gathering of the organization’s member states which serves as its decision-making body. **PHOTO: WHO**

SHAKEN by the pandemic, the World Health Organization’s member states agreed Tuesday to overhaul how they fund the UN health agency, giving it much more money to spend on its own

priorities.

The budget revamp is aimed at strengthening the organization and making it more agile when responding to global health crises.

The change will give the WHO a more stable income stream and control over a much bigger portion of the funding flowing through its Geneva headquarters.

“This is a historic moment,” WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said as the resolution was adopted at the World Health Assembly, the annual gathering of the organization’s member states which serves as its decision-making body.

He said it would transform how the WHO is funded, and how it works. “It will give us a predictable and sustainable funding platform from which to deliver long-term programming in countries,” he said. Member states currently channel most of their cash into short-term health projects of their own choosing, which can fluctuate.—AFP

World Health Assembly re-elects Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to second term as WHO Director-General

WHO Member States on 24 May 2022 re-elected Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to serve a second five-year term as Director-General of the world’s leading public health agency. Dr Tedros was first elected in 2017.

His re-election was con-

firmed during the 75th World Health Assembly in Geneva. He was the sole candidate.

“I am humbled by the opportunity provided by Member States to serve a second term as WHO Director-General,” said Dr Tedros. “This honour, though,

comes with great responsibility and I am committed to working with all countries, my colleagues around the world, and our valued partners, to ensure WHO delivers on its mission to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable.”—WHO



‘World’s best’ Alisson: The goalkeeper who transformed Liverpool

JURGEN Klopp surveyed the wreckage of Liverpool’s 2018 Champions League final against Real Madrid and responded with a transformative swoop for Brazilian goalkeeper Alisson Becker.

Without Alisson’s prodigious contributions to the Liverpool cause, including a vital goal last season, Klopp’s side would not be preparing for Saturday’s revenge mission against the Spanish champions in Paris.

Liverpool’s agonising loss to Real four years ago was an especially bitter pill for Klopp to swallow as his hand-picked keeper, Loris Karius, was largely to blame for the 3-1 defeat.

Klopp signed Karius from Mainz and made him first choice ahead of Simon Mignolet, but the German never convinced and his Champions League meltdown in Kiev proved the final straw.

Minutes after half-time, with the score at 0-0, Karius



Alisson Becker reacts after saving a penalty in the FA Cup final against Chelsea. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

inexplicably threw the ball against Karim Benzema and watched helplessly as the ball rolled behind him into the empty net.

Liverpool were still in the game at 2-1 down with seven minutes left, but Karius then fumbled Gareth Bale’s long-range shot into the net to seal Real’s victory.

Just weeks later, Klopp signed Alisson from Roma for a then world-record fee for a goalkeeper of around £67 million (\$84 million).

While Mohamed Salah and Virgil van Dijk have been Liverpool’s most influential stars in the Klopp era, Alisson’s impact cannot be understated.

Goalkeepers have always been revered at Liverpool, with a mural for 1970s great Ray Clemence adorning a house wall near Anfield.

Alisson, 29, deserves to be ranked among Liverpool’s all-time greats between the posts and Klopp has no doubts about his quality.—AFP

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.

Dozens of Roma fans sent home after clashes in Tirana

DOZENS of Roma fans were sent home Wednesday after violent clashes in Tirana on the eve of their Europa Conference League final with Feyenoord, which left 19 police officers injured, police said.

The situation remained calm overnight after clashes late Tuesday in which one officer was stabbed while 60 supporters of both sides, the majority of whom were Italians, were arrested, a police official said.

The clashes erupted as police tried to stop a group of Feyenoord fans heading towards an area where Roma supporters were located.

They attacked police with bottles, stones, sticks and other objects, official Albert Derwishaj told reporters.

Supporters of the Italian club also attacked authorities with sticks and stones, police said earlier while according to an AFP reporter fans clashed in at least three locations in Tirana.

On Wednesday morning, 80 Roma fans were sent home from the Adriatic port of Durres.

The injured officers and 10 people, including five Albanians, three Italians and two Dutch, sought medical help.

Four police vehicles were damaged.

The situation was calm on Wednesday morning in the Albanian capital and police urged bars not to serve alcoholic drinks along with glass bottles to prevent them being used in possible new clashes.—AFP

Egypt international midfielder Mohamed Elneny has signed a new contract with Arsenal



ARSENAL midfielder Mohamed Elneny has signed a new contract with the Premier League club.

The Egypt international has scored five goals in 147 appearances since arriving at the Emirates from Swiss club Basel in 2016.

The length of the 29-year-old’s new deal has not been disclosed by the Gunners.

Manager Mikel Arteta told the club website: “Mo is a really important part of the team. He brings endless energy, enthusiasm and commitment to the team and is loved by everyone.

“He’s an important player for us on and off the pitch, a real role model to our younger players and I’m delighted he’s staying.”

Elneny made 14 top-flight appearances this season as Arsenal finished fifth in the Premier League, while also helping his country reach the final of the Africa Cup of Nations, where they were beaten on penalties by Senegal.

He lifted the FA Cup during his first season in north London and spent the 2019/20 campaign on loan at Turkish club Besiktas. —AFP

Egypt’s midfielder Mohamed Elneny runs with the ball during the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) 2021 round of 16 football match between Ivory Coast and Egypt at Stade de Japoma in Douala on 26 January 2022. PHOTO: CHARLY TRIBALLEAU / AFP