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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.

It is necessary to focus on the interests of the Union as regions and states are inhabited not only by a single ethnicity but by all ethnicities as a Union: Senior General



SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for the documentary photo with the KNU/KNLA(PC) delegation in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 May 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received

a peace delegation led by Chairman Saw Htaw Lay of the Karen National Liberation Army (Peace Council) KNU/KNLA (PC) at the parlour of Bayintnaung Villa in

Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning to talk about peace issues.

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 My-

int Tun and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae. The Chairman of Karen National Liberation Army (Peace Council) KNU/KNLA (PC) was

SEE PAGE-2

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Enrolment for 2022-2023 Academic Year to be continued until end-June

PAGE-6

NATIONAL

6th Myanmar-India bilateral meeting on drug control held

PAGE-7

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Payments in Myanmar must be made in Kyat, Central Bank orders

PAGE-10

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar ships 1.6 mln tonnes of corns in eight months

PAGE-11



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

It is necessary to focus on the interests of the Union as regions and states are ...



The Senior General receives the KNU/KNLA (PC) delegation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



The Senior General cordially greets the KNU/KNLA (PC) Chairman.

FROM PAGE-1

accompanied by Vice-Chair Naw Kapaw Htoo and Central Executive Committee Member Saw Maung Maung.

At the talks, the Senior General explained it is necessary to focus on the interests of the Union as regions and states are inhabited not only by a single ethnicity but by all ethnicities as a Union. He also discussed

the need to consider the development of relevant ethnics, regions and states only when the country restores peace can the state-building and nation-building tasks be speeded up, and implementation of the tasks for uplifting the education standards across the nation including ethnic regions as it is necessary to emerge the well-versed human resources in order to

exercise democracy, the realization of multiparty democracy in conformity with the people's desire, and building the Union based on democracy and federalism.

The Chairman of Karen National Liberation Army (Peace Council) KNU/KNLA (PC) and the party discussed the same attitudes on exercising the multiparty democratic system,

and building the Union based on democracy and federalism and reported on regional development measures. Then, they frankly exchanged views of the same attitudes on peace issues and regional development tasks.

After the talks, the Senior General presented gifts to the Chairman of Karen National Liberation Army (Peace Council) KNU/KNLA (PC) and the

party and posed for documentary photos.

The Chairman of Karen National Liberation Army (Peace Council) KNU/KNLA (PC) and party will hold peace talks with the Peace Talks Team and the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee formed with members of the State Administration Council.

— MNA

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

THE Ministry of Commerce oversees the importation of important medical supplies plus anti-COVID-19 devices critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities, including liquid oxygen and oxygen cylinders, through trading posts, international airports and

seaports.

On 26 May, two vehicles from two companies transported 10 tonnes of masks via the Chinshwehaw trading post.

Officials from relevant departments cooperate to facilitate and expedite standard operating procedures for the import

process.

It is reported that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with relevant departments and treatment of COVID-19 as well as contact persons for enquires can be reached through the Ministry's Website — www.commerce.gov.mm. — MNA

4 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 26 May, total figure rises to 613,260

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,260** after **4** new cases were reported on 26 May 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,244** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at **19,434** without more casualties.—MNA

Union spirit is the resolve to build a Union through mutual amity between all the nationalities

UNION spirit is the foundation of the historic independence struggle, and it will also be the cornerstone of the future democratic country. In fact, the Union spirit is the resolve to build a Union through mutual amity between all the nationalities. As a peaceful and stable democratic State will be built only with the Union spirit we must nurture a highly qualified new generation possessing a strong Union spirit.

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

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla pay homage to remains of State Ovadacariya Shwethuwun Sayadaw

VENERABLE Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agg Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Saddhiya, State Ovadacariya Sayadaw, Presiding Nayaka of Ponnya Neinmitayama Shwethuwun Monastery in Kyeepwayay Ward of Thingangyun Township in Yangon Region, passed away at 1:40 am on 21 May 2022, Saturday.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla paid homage to the remains of the venerable Sayadaw yesterday afternoon.

First, the Senior General paid homage to Ovadacariya Sayadaws of the Final Rites Organizing Committee led by Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Ketumala, Abbot of Dhamma Rekkhita Wuntho Monastery in Myitkyina, Secretary of Kachin State Sangha Nayaka Committee, supplicated preparations to hold the final rites of the venerable Sayadaw and fulfilled the needs. Then, he donated alms to the Abbot of Dhamma Rekkhita

Wuntho Monastery. The Senior General presented a cash donation for holding the final rites of the venerable Sayadaw to the Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture. Next, the Senior General, wife and party paid homage to the remains of venerable Shwethuwun Sayadaw.

Venerable Shwethuwun Sayadaw was born of U Htwe and Daw Hnin Aye in Aungchantha (Khanbe) Village in Wundwin Township in Meiktila District on 11th Waxing of Nadaw, 1300 ME. He was the eldest among six siblings. He learned education from Hmankyaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundala of the village and was initiated into novice in 1311 ME and ordained in 1319 under the auspices of Yayle Monastery Sayadaw in Myittha. He passed the religious examinations yearly. In his novicehood, he passed the Dhammacariya lecturer exam in 1319 ME, and the novice was offered the Sasanadhaja Siripavara Dhammacariya title by President U Win Maung.



SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla pay homage to remains of the State Ovadacariya Shwethuwun Sayadaw yesterday.

He obtained an Acariya degree in 1982 at Nalanda Postgraduate School under Darbhanga University of Bihar State of India and MA Buddhist Study at Magadh University in 1986. The venerable Sayadaw was offered Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika title by the government in 1997, Agga Maha Pandita title in 2007, Doctor of Letters in 2017, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title in 2019 and Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika title in 2021. —MNA

Peace delegation led by NMSP Vice-Chairman leaves Nay Pyi Taw



AS Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing called for peace talks, a peace delegation led by Vice-Chairman of the New Mon State Party (NMSP) Nai Aung Min left Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning after the peace talks in Nay Pyi Taw. On leaving the Horizon Lake View Resort in Nay Pyi Taw, the delegation was seen off by officials and members of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, departmental officials and ethnic people of the Department of Culture and the locals by holding 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

Officials need to invite investments of businesspersons for the housing to operate businesses where war veterans and families can work: Senior General



The Senior General hears the reports on the Myanmar Tharkaung War Veterans Housing (Laydauntkan) project in Dagon Myothit (South) Township in Yangon Region on 26 May 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, yesterday afternoon, inspected progress in the construction of Myanmar Tharkaung War Veterans Housing (Laydauntkan) in Dagon Myothit (South) Township in Yangon Region.

Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Kyaw Swa Lin, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe and Director of Military Engineers Maj-Gen Myo Thant reported to the Senior General on settlement of war veterans and families at the housing, extended construction of housing, growing of shade trees, supply of water and electricity, raising of advanced layer farms for food, accommodation and livelihoods of war veterans, operation of a garment factory, welfare tasks in the housing, construction of playground and library in the housing.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General stressed the need to arrange settlement of war veterans at the remaining apartments although completed

apartments have been allotted to war veterans and families. As it is an urban project, emphasis must be placed on the enhancement of the education qualification of family members. Arrangements are being made to establish the businesses based on agriculture and livestock farms, vocational training schools and jobs, technical high schools, and agriculture and livestock high schools in the compound of the housing. Hence, it is necessary to encourage education enhancement tasks. Moreover, the Senior General urged officials to build a modern shopping mall for the enhancement of the living standard of the local people. Officials need to invite investments of businesspersons for the housing to operate businesses where war veterans and families based on their age limit can work. It is necessary to currently initiate the pastureland for livestock farms in the project. Preparations must be made for operating the modern livestock farms which cannot take large farm areas and left instructions on smooth trans-

portation with good conditions of roads.

Union minister and officials reported on suitable content in urbanization, proper drainage systems, and implementation for tasks of education, health and job opportunities. The Senior General responded to the

reports.

Myanmar Tharkaung War Veterans Housing (Laydauntkan) project was started in 2017 with the aim of establishing the war veteran city for those who took retirement from the Tatmadaw with wishes to reside in Yangon. The project will be an

urban project facilitated with education, health, social, economic and other basic needs of residents from the housing. The housing comprises a hospital, school and library. War veterans and families are resettled there, and the housing is being extended in construction. — MNA



The Senior General cordially greets the family members of the war veterans.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy PM Vice-Senior General Soe Win addresses meeting 1/2022 of central committee on national tourism development

THE first meeting (1/2022) of the Central Committee on National Tourism Development was held yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw. Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win attended and addressed the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Union ministers, the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, deputy ministers, tourism experts, and representatives from tourism associations through video conferencing.

While addressing the meeting, the Vice-Senior General said the purpose of the meeting is to cooperate among the members of the central committee to support the socio-economic development of the people through tourism and to prepare in advance for the challenges and difficulties that may be encountered.

He highlighted the impact of COVID-19 in the global and domestic tourism sector by comparing the number of tourists in the pre-pandemic period and the post-pandemic period. Myanmar received 4.36 million tourists in 2019, and after the declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic, it received 0.9 million in 2020 and 0.13 million in 2021.

Health restrictions have been eased to make it easier for international tourists to visit Myanmar. From the first day of Myanmar New Year on 17 April, regular international flights have been allowed to operate, he said. As of 25 May, 20,657 domestic passengers and 5,561 foreign passengers arrived on regular international flights. There is an average of nine airlines and 282 landings per day. He said there is good potential for tourism to resume as Myanmar has a lot of tourism destinations to attract tourism, such as coastal regions, underwater coral reefs, large natural parks such as Lampi island, archaeological sites for the study of art and construction techniques such as UNESCO World Heritage Sites and the Death Railways in Thanbyu-



The Vice-Senior General chairs the first meeting 1/2022 of the Central Committee on National Tourism Development in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 May 2022.

zayat in Mon State.

The traditional culture and food of the ethnic nationalities are also attractive to tourism, and it is necessary to be able to capture the interesting attractions that already exist, he said. The Vice-Senior General also added that more than 33 million people have been vaccinated against COVID-19 in Myanmar, including 0.28 million people working in the tourism industry and tourism activities must be carried out in line with disease prevention rules and regulations.

In addition, the reopening of border crossings will be considered as international tourists visit Myanmar through border crossings. Myanmar is working with international and regional organizations to resume post-COVID-19 tourism, and to adopt ASEAN-level policies for mitigating and rehabilitating the regional impact of the COVID-19 disease, which is part of the ASEAN Tourism Recovery Plan, development of common health guidelines, the establishment of ASEAN

Travel Corridors and drafting and mutual recognition of ASEAN-level Travel Pass and Safety Protocols.

He added the need to gain the trust of tourists who will visit Myanmar, and the fact that the destination is a COVID-19 safe destination with health& safety protocols is the most effective marketing and promotion tool for promoting the destination.

He also added that the online and digital platforms have become widely used during the pandemic and it is the time for those involved in the tourism industry to apply the changing technology.

He also talked about the Enchanting Myanmar Health and Safety Protocol (HSP), national-level HSP, Guest List Management System-GLMS, cooperation works of region/state tourism committee to use the Guest List Management System at the hotels, granting of national ID cards for people to enjoy local tours easily and develop the local tourism sector.

He highlighted the need to hold seasonal festivals, ceremonies, sports competitions, and traditional festivals and explore the beauty of nature to lure the local and foreign visitors as the country boasts of unique culture, tradition, religions and nature that provide various tourism sectors.

He also added that the region tourism committees should supervise each level for the recovery of the COVID-19 hit tourism industry and to be familiar with New Normal. It needs to prioritize the tourism industry of the region/state in drafting region development programmes and fulfilling the basic infrastructure to develop that sector. Moreover, the committees should supervise the entrepreneurs in paying the taxes to the State in the hotels and tourism sector.

He then pointed out the measures to prepare for the people with disabilities in the tourism sector, create job opportunities for the disabled to ensure a tourist destination for all types of travellers in im-

plementing a responsible and sustainable tourism industry.

He also highlighted the role of the tourism industry as the main economic sector for regional development and as a tool in creating economic growth and job opportunities, conserving the culture and natural resources and promoting mutual understanding between international tourists and Myanmar people, and called for proper works by following the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN.

Then, Central Committee Vice-Chairman Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung reported on tourism-related matters.

Afterwards, the participants discussed the decisions made at 1st meeting, pilot projects for barrier-free tourism and other matters.

Then, the Vice-Senior General concluded the meeting after Director-General U Hlaing Oo of the Office of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism explained the formation of the Myanmar Tourism Board. — MNA

School Enrolment Day for 2022-2023 Academic Year inaugurated in Nay Pyi Taw



The School Enrolment Day event for the 2022-2023 Academic Year in progress in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE School Enrolment Day ceremony for the 2022-2023 Academic Year was held at B.E.H.S No 6 in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the ceremony, Union Minister Dr Nyunt Pe said the school enrollment week for this year is set from 26 May to 1 June. The basic schools across the nation will be open at the same time on 2 June and the teaching processes will be conducted.

The ministry also makes efforts in producing skilled intellectuals and offering equal learning opportunities for all

school-age children. It also targets for all school-age children to complete (KG+9) (middle school) and to join the vocational training schools and also learn higher education.

The Grade-5, Grade-8 and Grade-11 students have to study new curriculums in the 2022-2023 Academic Year and it also conducted refresher courses on new curriculums for respective subject teachers. All should participate in the development of education for students as per the motto of school enrolment day “Every school-age child should

enrol for learning opportunities”.

Then, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Maung Maung Naing remarked and handed over the textbooks, stationeries and school uniforms to officials. Sein Shwe Mya, Mya Shwe Kaung, and Golden Style construction companies also donated 1,200 dozen books to MoE Deputy Minister U Zaw Win.

The school enrolment week is from 26 May to 1 June and the students’ parents enrol their children at basic education schools across the nation.

— MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

THE State Administration Council has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Min Hein Ministry of Defence	Director-General Department of Electronic Registration System Ministry of Immigration and Population
(2) Dr Khin Thant Sin Pro-Rector Bhamo University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Mandalay University of Distance Education Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Enrolment for 2022-2023 Academic Year to be continued until end-June

FOR the 2022-2023 Academic Year, the enrolment week for primary, middle, and high schools under the Department of Basic Education throughout the country is from 26 May to 1 June 2022, and students will be admitted until the end of June.

Yesterday was the opening day of the enrolment week, and students were enrolled in their respective schools in Yangon

Region.

No fees will be charged for this year’s enrolment as the Ministry of Education has issued a ban on the sale of school badges, and accepting cash plus gifts.

Daw Aye Myint San, a headmistress of Thuwunna Basic Education High School, said: “The enrolment week is from 26 May to 1 June, and our school



At the BEHS No (6) Botahtaung Township.



At the BEHS No (2) Latha Township.



At the BEHS No (2) Sangyoung Township.



At the BEHS (Thuwunna) Thingangyun Township.

admits students from 8 am to 2 pm daily. Only students along with parents or guardians will be accepted for admission.”

Distributing masks and face shields, having vinyl and posters about COVID-19 awareness, and setting garbage and basins for cleaning and washing hands were seen in the school compounds so as to prevent COVID-19.

In the current 2022-2023

Academic Year, Grade-5, Grade-8 and Grade-11 curricula courses will be opened. A new TOT course for teachers was launched in April.

In the 2021-2022 Academic Year, there were 2,758 basic education schools, including four practising high schools of the Yangon University of Education, 230 monastic schools, and 273 private schools in the Yangon Region. —MNA

Grade-2, Grade-3 of Accounting, Office Work Proficiency Course No 100 opened

THE opening ceremony of Intermediate Level (Grade-2) and Advanced Level (Grade-3) of Accounting and Office Work Proficiency Course No 100 was held at 8:30 am on 26 May at the Assembly Hall of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, Nay Pyi Taw, in line with COVID-19 rules and regulations.

Union Auditor-General Prof Dr Kan Zaw delivered an address that the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union has opened Accounting and Office Work Proficiency Courses with 3 levels; Basic Level (Grade-1), Intermediate Level (Grade -2) and Advanced Level (Grade-3) which are important and basic requirements for the staff of government departments and organizations to prepare the accounts with the expertise in accountancy without error in line with the rules and regulations as well as to perform the office work efficiently.

He stated that those courses have been commenced at the Yangon Training School, the former Office of the Auditor-Gen-

eral (Head Office) in 1960 and it had been 62 years. Course No. 82 was started at the Nay Pyi Taw Training School in 2006, and 2,478 and 1,325 certificate holders of Intermediate Level and Advanced Level had been produced to date.

At the training, 140 trainees for Intermediate Level (Grade-2) and 68 trainees for Advanced Level (Grade-3), totalling 208 trainees from Union-Level Departments/Organizations, are attending, and eight subjects such as General Commercial Knowledge, Accounting, Auditing, Costing, Financial Rules and Regulations, Service Rules and Regulations, Departmental Accounting, Public Finance, and Summarizing and Writing office letters will be delivered for three months from 26 May 2022 to 4 August 2022 during office hours.

The permanent secretary, the director-general (Audit Department), deputy permanent secretary, deputy directors general, responsible persons, the trainers and the trainees attended the ceremony. — GNLM

6th Myanmar-India bilateral meeting on drug control held



The sixth Myanmar-India bilateral meeting on drug control in progress online.

THE 6th Myanmar-India Bilateral Meeting on Drug Control was hosted by India yesterday morning and was attended by the delegation led by Joint-Secretary of the Central Committee Drug Abuse Control, Commander of the Drug Enforcement Police Force, Police Brig-Gen Win Naing through video conferencing in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, Police Brig-Gen Win Naing, who led the Myanmar delegation, said that the COVID-19 crisis does not impact the regional drug trade and production. The drug problem is a global problem and all countries are working to eradicate it in various ways; The dangers of drugs affect society and community health; It has a huge

impact on the regional economy and is a major obstacle to the functioning of the government and the development of the country. It is also a long-term task for all countries to work together; he said.

He added that the production of synthetic drugs in the region continues to rise due to the illegal entry of precursor chemicals used in drug production. In addition to the emergence of new, more cost-effective and high-quality man-made medicines, the drug problem continues to grow due to the involvement of drug cartels outside the region, market expansion, and changes in the pattern of transportation, with the advancement of technology.

To solve the drug problem,

it is necessary to prioritize the control of precursor chemicals which is essential in drug production, he highlighted. He said Myanmar will enhance its cooperation with the neighbouring countries to control precursors.

The meeting was attended by the Indian delegation led by Director-General Mr Satya Narayan Pradhan of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). At the meeting, the two sides discussed information exchange issues related to local heroin trafficking, factories producing drugs and psychotropic drugs and secret laboratories, trafficking in methamphetamine, illegal cultivation of opium and marijuana in border areas, and issues related to Myanmar hosting the 7th meeting. — MNA

Ex-minister U Han Tun for Agriculture, Livestock and Breeding, Forest and Energy of Yangon Region Government, Yangon ex-mayor U Maung Maung Soe, ex-vice-mayor U Soe Lwin, former secretary Daw Hlaing Maw Oo and former joint secretary U Than, BOD member U Zin Min Aung charged under Anti-Corruption Law

THE Anti-Corruption Commission inspected the complaints against the officials of the Yangon City Development Committee.

According to the findings, former minister U Han Tun for Agriculture, Livestock and Breeding, Forest and Energy of Yangon Region Government, Yangon ex-mayor U Maung Maung Soe, former vice-mayor U Soe Lwin, former secretary Daw Hlaing Maw Oo and former joint secretary U Than failed to calculate the land area at K20,000 per square feet set by Internal Revenue Department in granting 60-year land lease grant for two land plots measuring over five acres in Dagon Myothit Township in 2018 and 2019 to open fuel stations to partner companies of

Yangon Region Government and let them pay K2,000 per square feet, and so it caused more than K4,200 million losses of the State budget.

Ex-minister U Han Tun of the Yangon Region government, ex-mayor U Maung Maung Soe and former joint secretary U Than also failed to calculate the land area at K100 million per square feet set by the Internal Revenue Department in granting a 60-year land lease grant for more than 63 acres of land in Dagon Myothit Township in 2019 to open a fuel station with the name of a partner company of Yangon Region government and let it pay K2,000 per square feet, and it caused more than K800 million losses to the State fund. They also allowed to change

the name of the grant with the name of the member of BOD of the company for the partner company-owned land and it sold the land at K6,570 million to a private company and more than 63 acres of land were lost.

Ex-mayor U Maung Maung Soe and former joint secretary U Than did not follow the facts of mining procedures in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 regarding the coal mining jointly conducted by YCDC and a company. They reduced the price of coal price to K42,000 per tonne from the original price of K77,000 and allowed to produce lesser than the estimated amount. Therefore, it caused K550 million losses to the State budget.

Former mayor U Maung Maung Soe, vice-mayor U Soe Lwin, secretary Daw Hlaing

Maw Oo and joint secretary U Than did not apply the fixed price of the Internal Revenue Department and reduced the rental fees while the Playgrounds and Garden Department agreed with companies for 21 garden work sites in the 2019-2020FY. Although the Auditor-General Office suggested collecting the proper fees according to the current situation, they did not follow it. Therefore, the State lost more than K21,000 million.

Former mayor U Maung Maung Soe, vice-mayor U Soe Lwin, secretary Daw Hlaing Maw Oo and joint secretary U Than used only the State budget in paying the salaries of City FM staff although it must be paid by YCDC and partner company. The Auditor-General

office suggested amending, but they did not do anything. And so, it caused more than 70 million losses to the State budget for paying salaries from July 2018 to January 2021.

Therefore, former minister U Han Tun for Agriculture, Livestock and Breeding, Forest and Energy of Yangon Region Government and former mayor U Maung Maung Soe were prosecuted under Section 55 of the Anti-Corruption Law while former vice-mayor U Soe Lwin, secretary Daw Hlaing Maw Oo, joint secretary U Than and BOD member U Zin Min Aung under Sections 55/63 of the Anti-Corruption Law at Kyauktada Myoma police station of Yangon Region yesterday, according to the commission. — MNA

Dream brighter future for people with a booming State economy

UTMOST efforts are being made in all arenas to develop the State economy. In doing so, encouragement is being given to produce a large volume of domestic products in order to increase the export volumes for earning incomes. Consequently, the trade surplus was on the rise in the mini-budget period of 2022.

On the other hand, the government is enhancing the small and medium scale enterprises so as to ensure the domestic products are larger. Meanwhile, investments from foreign and local businesspersons are invited to the running of businesses in various sectors of the country. Only when the investment volume increases will the State economy boom with larger job opportunities.

Thilawa Special Economic Zone jointly established by Myanmar and Japanese governments as of 2015-16 financial year is being operated with US\$2.12 billion within eight years. Currently, it is a main drive for the State economy. Nine Myanmar companies with more than 17,000 shareholders and three Japanese companies are working in the SEZ together.

Before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, 94 companies from 21 countries operated their production with investments. During the third wave of the pandemic in 2021, 89 companies suspended their operations. Thanks to the efforts of the Thilawa SEZ Work Group and management committee, 82 companies resumed their operations. The remaining companies are also expected to resume their work soon.

Currently, the Thilawa SEZ has created more than 13,300 employment opportunities for local people with more plans to generate more than 300,000 jobs for the Myanmar people. Those employments will be allotted to industries in the SEZ to engage in manufacturing. But, electricity is the most important for running the industries at full capacity. If the authorities can grant to supply electricity to the industries together with other guarantees for their businesses, foreign investments are sure to flow into the SEZ soon.

Now is the time to strive for further development of the Thilawa SEZ and other SEZs across the nation. To do so, the authorities need to grant the investors to manage their businesses under the SEZ law and the monetary policy by drawing their attention to put investments. Meanwhile, it is necessary to earn the deserved taxes to be levied from companies for the State.

Now is the time to strive for further development of the Thilawa SEZ and other SEZs across the nation. To do so, the authorities need to grant the investors to manage their businesses under the SEZ law and the monetary policy by drawing their attention to put investments. Meanwhile, it is necessary to earn the deserved taxes to be levied from companies for the State.

Efforts for booming SEZs must turn to relevant businesspersons as well as the State. The development of the State economy will help surge the socio-economic status of the national people by dreaming of a brighter future.

Brief information on monkeypox

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

MONKEYPOX is caused by the monkeypox virus which belongs to the orthopoxvirus genus of the Poxviridae family. There are two clades of monkeypox virus: the West African clade and the Congo Basin (Central African) clade. The name monkeypox originates from the initial discovery of the virus in monkeys in a Danish laboratory in 1958. The first human case was identified in a child in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1970.

Monkeypox virus is transmitted from one person to another by close contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials such as bedding. The incubation period of monkeypox is usually from 6 to 13 days but can range from 5 to 21 days. Various animal species have been identified as susceptible to the monkeypox virus. Uncertainty remains on the natural history of the monkeypox virus and further studies are needed to identify the exact reservoir(s) and how virus circulation is maintained in nature.

Monkeypox is usually self-limiting but may be severe in some individuals, such as children, pregnant women or persons with immune suppression due to other health conditions. Human infections in the West African clade appear to cause less severe disease compared to the Congo Basin clade, with a case fatality rate of 3.6 per cent compared to 10.6 per cent for the Congo Basin clade.

Outbreak at glance
Since 13 May 2022, cases of

monkeypox have been reported to World Health Organization (WHO) from 12 Member States that are not endemic to the monkeypox virus, across three WHO regions. Epidemiological investigations are ongoing, however, reported cases thus far have no established travel links to endemic areas. Based on currently available information, cases have mainly but not exclusively been identified amongst men who have sex with men (MSM) seeking care in primary care and sexual health clinics.

The objective of this Disease Outbreak News is to raise awareness, inform readiness and response efforts, and provide technical guidance for immediate recommended actions.

The situation is evolving and WHO expects there will be more cases of monkeypox identified as surveillance expands in non-endemic countries. Immediate actions focus on informing those who may be most at risk for monkeypox infection with accurate information, to stop further spread. The currently available evidence suggests that those who are most at risk are those who have had close physical contact with someone with monkeypox, while they are symptomatic. WHO is also working to provide guidance to protect frontline health care providers and other health workers who may be at risk such as cleaners. WHO will be providing more technical recommendations in the coming days.

Description of the outbreak
As of 21 May, 13:00, 92 labo-

ratory-confirmed cases, and 28 suspected cases of monkeypox with investigations ongoing, have been reported to WHO from 12 Member States that are not endemic for monkeypox virus, across three WHO regions (Table 1). No associated deaths have been reported to date.

Table 1. Cases of monkeypox in non-endemic countries reported to WHO between 13 to 21 May 2022 as at 13:00

Country	Confirmed	Suspected
Australia	1-5	-
Belgium	1-5	1-5
Canada	1-5	11-20
France	1-5	1-5
Germany	1-5	-
Italy	1-5	-
Netherlands	1-5	-
Portugal	21-30	-
Spain	21-30	6-10
Sweden	1-5	-
United Kingdom	21-30	-
United States of America	1-5	-
Total	92	28

Reported cases thus far have no established travel links to an endemic area. Based on currently available information, cases have mainly but not exclusively been identified amongst men who have sex with men (MSM) seeking care in primary care and sexual health clinics.

To date, all cases whose samples were confirmed by PCR have been identified as being infected with the West African clade. Genome sequence from a swab sample from a confirmed case in Portugal indicated a close match

of the monkeypox virus causing the current outbreak, to exported cases from Nigeria to the United Kingdom, Israel and Singapore in 2018 and 2019.

The identification of confirmed and suspected cases of monkeypox with no direct travel links to an endemic area rep-

mechanisms (Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response) for cases in endemic countries as summarized in Table 2.

Monkeypox endemic countries are Benin, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ghana (identified in animals only), Ivory Coast, Liberia, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, and South Sudan.

Table 2. Cases of monkeypox in endemic countries between 15 December 2021 to 1 May 2022

Country	Time period	Cumulative cases	Cumulative deaths
Cameroon	15 December 2021 to 22 February 2022	25	<5
Central African Republic	4 March to 10 April 2022	6	<5
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1 January to 1 May 2022	1238	57
Nigeria	1 January 2022 to 30 April 2022	46	0

Public health response
Further public health investigations are ongoing in non-endemic countries that have identified cases, including extensive case finding and contact tracing, laboratory investigation, clinical management and isolation provided with supportive care.

Genomic sequencing, where available, has been undertaken to determine the monkeypox virus clade(s) in this outbreak.

Vaccination for monkeypox, where available, is being deployed to manage close contacts, such as health workers. WHO is convening experts to discuss recommendations on vaccination.

WHO risk assessment
Endemic monkeypox disease

is normally geographically limited to West and Central Africa. The identification of confirmed and suspected cases of monkeypox without any travel history to an endemic area in multiple countries is atypical, hence, there is an urgent need to raise awareness about monkeypox and undertake comprehensive case finding and isolation (provided with supportive care), contact tracing and supportive care to limit further

Based on currently available information, cases have mainly but not exclusively been identified amongst men who have sex with men (MSM) seeking care in primary care and sexual health clinics. No deaths have been reported to date. However, the extent of local transmission is unclear at this stage, as surveillance has been limited. There is a high likelihood of identification of further cases with unidentified

onward transmission.
Cross-protective immunity from smallpox vaccination will be limited to older persons since populations worldwide under the age of 40 or 50 years no longer benefit from the protection afforded by prior smallpox vaccination programmes. There is little immunity to monkeypox among younger people living in non-endemic countries since the virus has not been present there.

Historically, vaccination against smallpox had been shown to be protective against monkeypox. While one vaccine (MVA-BN) and one specific treatment (tecovirimat) were approved for monkeypox, in 2019 and 2022 respectively, these countermeasures are not yet widely available.

chains of transmission, including in other population groups. With a number of countries in several WHO regions reporting cases of monkeypox, it is highly likely that other countries will identify cases.

The situation is evolving and WHO expects there will be more cases of monkeypox identified as surveillance expands in non-endemic countries. So far, there have been no deaths associated with this outbreak. Immediate actions focus on informing those most at risk for monkeypox infection with accurate information, stopping the further spread and protecting frontline workers.

WHO advice
Identification of additional

cases and further onward spread in the countries currently reporting cases and the other Member States is likely. Any patient with suspected monkeypox should be investigated and if confirmed, isolated until their lesions have crusted, the scab has fallen off and a fresh layer of skin has formed underneath.

Countries should be on the alert for signals related to patients presenting with an atypical rash that progresses in sequential stages – macules, papules, vesicles, pustules, scabs, at the same stage of development over all affected areas of the body – that may be associated with fever, enlarged lymph nodes, back pain, and muscle aches. These individuals may present to various community and healthcare settings including but not limited to primary care, fever clinics, sexual health services, infectious disease units, obstetrics and gynaecology, urology, emergency departments and dermatology clinics. Increasing awareness among potentially affected communities, as well as health care providers and laboratory workers, is essential for identifying and preventing further secondary cases and effective management of the current outbreak.

Reference
-WHO factsheet on monkeypox
-WHO monkeypox outbreak toolkit

More than 200 cases of monkeypox worldwide: EU disease agency

THE number of confirmed cases of monkeypox worldwide has reached 219 outside of countries where it is endemic, according to an update released by the European Union's disease agency.

More than a dozen countries where monkeypox is unusual, mostly in Europe, have reported at least one confirmed case,

It added that most of the cases were detected in young men, self-identifying as men who have sex with men.

The United Kingdom — where monkeypox's unusual appearance was first detected in early May — currently has the largest bulk of confirmed cases, 71.

It is followed by Spain with 51 cases and Portugal, 37.

Outside of Europe, Canada has 15 and the United States has nine.

The total number of cases reported Wednesday has increased fivefold since its first count on 20 May, when the EU agency said there were 38 cases.

Contagion risk is “very low”, the ECDC said earlier this week, but warned that people who have had multiple sexual partners — regardless of sexual orientation — are more at risk. “The clinical presentation is generally described to be mild,” it said, adding that there has been no deaths.

SOURCE: AFP

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has detected 7 additional cases of monkeypox in England. The latest cases bring the total number confirmed in England since 7 May to 77, as of 24 May. An ambulance worker is seen beside a London Ambulance outside University College Hospital in London on 17 July 2020. **PHOTO: TOLGA AKMEN / AFP/FILE**



CURRENT AFFAIRS

Payments in Myanmar must be made in Kyat, Central Bank orders

THE Central Bank of Myanmar has ordered ministries, region/state governments, and the city development committee of Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Mandalay, to make payments in Kyats.

The statement said payments in foreign currency in the country have led to widespread use of the foreign currency, increasing demand for foreign currency and volatility in the exchange rate. Therefore, ministries, region and state governments are required to pay in kyats for the purchase and sale of goods and services within their subordinate organizations, affiliated government and private entities, and organizations.

According to the Notification No. 12/2022 issued by the Central Bank, foreign exchange earnings of the residents must be sent back to Myanmar to a foreign currency account at Foreign Exchange Authorized Dealers (AD) banks



Central Bank of Myanmar.

and must be exchanged to Kyats within one working day.

The statement also said that payments at the hotels, restaurants, international schools, accommodation for foreigners and souvenir shops in the country are made in US dollars, instead of Kyat. In addition, organizations under the ministries are also accepting payment for land rental, capital investment for the insurance business, and receipts from joint ventures in foreign exchange.

The statement also ordered the respective ministries, region/state governments, and city development committees of Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Mandalay, to report the further instructions to their subordinate organizations to the central bank. — TWA/GNLM

US embassy in Yangon reopens on 2 June

THE US Embassy in Yangon will resume regular and emergency visa services for US citizens . Regarding the immigrant visa, priority will be given to those who have been suspended the interview for the visa from 1 February, according to the statement on the embassy website.

The Diversity Visa (DV) is still being discussed and plans are underway to provide necessary services from July as the deadline is 30 September 2022. The resumption of the visa services will accept bookings for the student visa (F-1). Those who are coming to the embassy are not allowed to bring any personal electronic devices or liquid.

While the suspension of visa services the US embassy in Yangon, Myanmar citizens applied for visas in Bangkok, Thailand. — TWA/GNLM



Current situation of Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre

THERE were ten onion trucks and eight potato trucks at the Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre on the morning of 26 May, according to the data of the centre.

Although the 10 onion trucks carried 60,000 visses, the price was not high as the transaction was slack, said buyer Ko Aung.

About 20 onion trucks enter the Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre daily while there are about 50 some days.

On 26 May, the prices of Monywa onion were K550 per viss of medium size, K775 per viss of special medium size, and K875 per viss of medium and special sizes. The price of Pakokku onion was K600-740-825 per viss, K1,400 per viss of China potato, K1,100 per viss of Heho potato (black) A1 size, K1,350 for OK while S1 was K1,400, S2 K1,450 and K2,900 for one small bag of Kyukok garlic.

It was K1,650 per viss of S2 Shan garlic, K2,300 per viss of S3, K3,050 per viss of S4 and K3,500 per viss of S5, according to the garlic wholesale centre in Yeta-mar road of Bayintnaung.

The prices of Kyukok garlic drastically decline. On 8 March 2022, the wholesale price of Kyukote garlic was K6,800-K7,000 per viss while K4,550-4,850 on 22 April and K3,800-K4,000 on 4 May. The consumers buy the



Lorries are seen entering the Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre on 26 May 2022.

Kyukok garlic at K6,000 per viss, housewife Ma Myo from Lanmadaw Township told the GNLM. She bought about 60 ticals at K4,300 from one shopping centre of her township, she added.

The price of Shan potato was K1,600-1,900-2,000-2,100 on 7 March and K1400-1600-1700 on 25 April. The retail price of potatoes is K2,400 per viss and K1,500 per kilogramme, according to the buyers.

On 26 May 2021, the same period as last year, the wholesale

price of onion at Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre was K175-300-350 per viss while K1,200-1,400-1,600-1,800 per viss of Shan garlic, K2,400-2,500 per viss of Kyukok garlic and K300-430-450 per viss of Shan potato.

Although the transaction is slack at the Bayintnaung market, the prices of onion, garlic and potato were higher this year when compared to the same period of last year, and the farmers earn more income, U San Myint, a food supplier to the delta region told the GNLM. —TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar ships 1.6 mln tonnes of corns in eight months

MYANMAR exported over 1.6 million tonnes of corn to the external market between October 2021 and May 2022, said Chairman U Min Khaing of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Out of 1.6 million tonnes, over 700,000 tonnes of corns were delivered through sea trade.

“The sea export was earlier sluggish. This year, over 700,000 tonnes of corns were exported through sea trade,” he told the GNLM.

Myanmar conveyed corns to Thailand and China through border posts and the corns are shipped to the Philippines, India and Viet Nam through the sea route.

At present, the inventory is low in the domestic market and only 700,000 tonnes of corn remain for exports, U Min Khaing continued.

“The production declined this year. Meanwhile, export volume via sea trade has increased this year. This is why the inventory is quite low. Only 600,000-700,000 tonnes of corns are left for exports,” U Min Khaing told the GNLM.

The prices stood at K1,100 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilograms) in the Yangon market and FOB prices were approximately US\$340-360 per tonne, according to the Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and In-

dustry (Bayintnaung).

Myanmar Corn Industrial Association targeted to export approximately two million tonnes of corn during the current corn season (October-September).

Myanmar exported 2.3 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021 financial year. The majority of them were sent to Thailand.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons — winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/GNLM



Myanmar has three corn seasons – winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year.

Newly harvested black sesame price surges in Mandalay market



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

THE price of newly harvested black sesame seeds (Samone variety) spiked in the brisk market during the last week of May 2022, according to Mandalay wholesale market.

Those sesame seeds which pass acid test levels receive a higher price of K225,000-K230,000 per 45-viss bag. The fresh black sesame from Sagaing Region is flowing into the market.

“The black sesame price went up as the Sino-Myanmar trade channel is open again. Chinese traders are constantly purchasing them,” said an exporter.

This year, the price of black sesame seeds soared at the beginning of the season. The prices of black sesame seeds hit over K200,000 per 45-viss bag in early 2022, while it was priced at approximately K185,000 per bag on 12 May 2022.

The prevailing price is higher than the price recorded last year. In early June 2021, the black sesame seeds fetched only K130,000-K143,000 per bag.

Myanmar’s sesame was earlier exported to China, South Korea, Japan, Singapore and China Taipei. However, it is now relying

solely on China and the shipments to other foreign countries have certain difficulties.

Among the agricultural products that are allowed to be exported through the border posts, oil crops (peanut and sesame seeds) except black sesame are temporarily suspended for exports to secure the local consumption starting from 9 May, according to the Trade Department.

The Export licence is required for various beans and pulses, oil crops and oil, according to notification (7/2022) of the Ministry of Commerce.

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

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

Egg price rally continues on high feed price

THE prices of chicken eggs and duck eggs have been increasing significantly starting from May 2022, the market’s data indicated.

In the first week of May, the prices stood at K150-K170 a chicken egg and K180-K200 a duck egg. In the last week of May, the prices rose to K180-K220 per chicken egg and K200-K250 per duck egg.

The high feed price, low production due to the hot weather, and skyrocketing transport fares are the contributing factors to the price hike, according to the Bago Region Department of Consumer Affairs.

In June and July 2021, the prices of poultry meat and egg dramatically jumped as the demand grew amid the COVID-19 cases spiking in the country, said the buyers from Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

The prices of eggs rose from K130 to K220 per piece, while chicken prices surged to K12,000 per viss then.

Livestock and poultry production in Myanmar have been growing 10-15 per cent annually. Most breeders are using traditional methods and some have shifted to modern methods. Moreover, integrated poultry and fish farming is

widely seen in Myanmar

According to the Myanmar Livestock Federation, there are 1.35 million broilers being raised for meat, about 1.465 million semi-broilers, and more than 2.9 million layers for eggs at integrated poultry and fish farms.

Additionally, the local producers are now also facing pressure from foreign investors entering the sector. Local poultry breeding is mostly carried out on a small scale by farmers, but now investments from China, Thailand and India have entered the sector. This being so, the local breeders need to shift to modern breeding methods and increase the production rate to keep up with the foreign investors. — KK/GNLM



ECONOMY

WORLD/AD

Australia urges China to drop trade tariffs



Prior to May 2020, Australia was China’s main barley source. But Chinese importers are now escaping the whopping 80.5% tariff on Australian barley by buying up unprecedented volumes from France, Argentina, Canada and Ukraine. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

AUSTRALIA’S economy minister called on China Wednesday to drop punishing trade tariffs if it wants to thaw frozen relations, after Beijing sent a message signalling it is ready to improve ties.

China — Australia’s biggest trading partner — imposed tariffs and disrupted more than a dozen key industries, including wine, barley and coal, as relations deteriorated sharply in the past two years.

Canberra had irked Beijing by calling for an independent probe into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic and by banning telecoms giant Huawei from building Australia’s 5G network.

Treasurer Jim Chalmers said Australia felt the pain of the Chinese trade squeeze, calling for the measures to be lifted “as soon as possible”.

“They are damaging our economy. They are making life harder for some of our employers and workers here in Australia,” he told public broadcaster ABC.

“Obviously, we would like to see those measures lifted. That would be a really great start, when it comes to how we manage what is a really complex relationship, a relationship that has become more complex over time.”

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang sent a congratulatory note to newly elected Prime Minister Anthony Albanese earlier this week, the most significant high-level contact between Beijing and Canberra in at least two years. — AFP

Singapore tourism numbers soar as it commits to remaining open, Indians visitors ranked first

SINGAPORE tourism numbers have been climbing since it re-opened its borders to foreign visitors earlier this year with Indians making the largest number of visitors by country of origin.

The island city-state now accepts all fully vaccinated travellers from around the world without any need for testing or quarantine. Looking around the tourist areas, one can see signs of tourists returning and various businesses gearing up for more visitors from abroad.

Popular tourist services like open top tour buses and trishaws (three-wheeler bicycles with a seat by the side) have suddenly made an appearance in Suntec City and Rochor Road respectively. A sight last seen pre-COVID.

Indeed, April saw tourist arrivals more than double from March’s figure of 121,200 to 294,200.

This is based on numbers published by the Singapore Tourism Board. However, this is still a far cry from the 1.638 million average monthly visitors Singapore received in the last pre-COVID year in 2019. —ANI



Passenger traffic at Changi Airport is expected to reach more than 40 per cent of pre-COVID levels this month compared with less than 20 per cent in March. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Britain urges Russia to allow exports of Ukrainian grain

UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace on Wednesday called on Moscow to do the “right thing” and release grain stuck in Ukrainian ports due to Russia’s military campaign.

Moscow has said it would permit food corridors in Ukraine and avoid a global food crisis if international sanctions imposed on Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine were removed.

“Let’s not talk about sanctions, let’s talk about doing the right thing by nations around the world,” Wallace told journalists in Madrid when asked about Moscow’s position.

“I call on Russia to do the right thing in the spirit of humanity and let the grain of Ukraine out,” he said, adding Russia was “potentially starving many countries around the world of grain”. —AFP

NEWS IN **Brief**

Crisis-hit Sri Lanka appoints PM to helm finance ministry

Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was on Wednesday given the additional responsibility of running the finance ministry as the island nation grapples with its worst-ever economic crisis.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's office announced that Wickremesinghe was sworn in, two weeks after he was invited to form a unity government following his predecessor's resignation.

Wednesday's appointment ends two weeks of wrangling among coalition partners for the crucial position ahead of the bankrupt South Asian nation's bailout talks with the International Monetary Fund. "The president's party had wanted the finance portfolio, but the PM insisted he wanted it if he is to lead the country out of the economic chaos," a top politician involved in the negotiations told AFP.—AFP

TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that THE JOINT STOCK COMMERCIAL BANK FOR INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF VIETNAM (BIDV) (Yangon Branch) organized under the Law of Myanmar and having its registered office at No.192, Kaber Aye Pagoda Road, 9Floor, Myanmar Plaza, Bahan Township, Yangon is the Beneficial Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademarks:



(Reg. No. 4/3446/2022)

The above trademark is used in the financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding.

The trade and public are hereby cautioned that any unauthorized application and/ or use of the aforesaid trademarks or any marks deceptively and/or confusingly similar thereto, would constitute violation of exclusive proprietary rights vested in our client and will be dealt with in accordance with Myanmar Law.

For THE JOINT STOCK COMMERCIAL BANK FOR INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF VIETNAM (BIDV) (Yangon Branch)

Daw May Thet Nwe (LL.B)
Higher Grade Pleader (Serial No. 48543)
No.192, Kaber Aye Pagoda Road, 9Floor, Myanmar Plaza, Bahan Township, Yangon



Thai works load export containers at the Port Authority in Bangkok. **PHOTO: AFP/ PORNC HAI KITTIWONGSAKUL/FILE**

Japan, Thailand eye bolstering regional ties through IPEF

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and his Thai counterpart Prayut Chan-o-cha began talks Thursday in Tokyo in which they are expected to agree on enhancing regional ties through a US-led Indo-Pacific economic framework launched earlier in the week.

Kishida is also expected to express Japan's cooperation for a successful Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit meeting to be held in November in Bangkok chaired by Thailand.

The United States

and 12 other members of the Indo-Pacific economic framework, or IPEF, aim to set standards for the digital economy, ensure secure supply chains and help make major investments for clean energy transition, though how the negotiations will proceed is still unclear.

At the outset of the talks, which was open to the press, Kishida said, "I would like to exchange views on how we can further develop our bilateral relations and realize a free and open Indo-Pacific."—Kyodo

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Boon Rawd Brewery Co., Ltd., a company incorporated and existing under the laws of Thailand, and having its registered office at No. 999, Samsen Road, Thanon Nakornchaisri Sub-district, Dusit District, Bangkok 10300, Thailand, hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following Trademark:



The above Trademark is used in respect of "Aerated water; aerated mineral water; aerated fruit juices; soda water; alcohol-free beers; beer; cider, non-alcoholic; cocktails, non-alcoholic; drinking water; fruit beverages and fruit juices; mineral water (beverages); non-alcoholic beverages; non-alcoholic preparations for making beverages; soft drinks; syrups for making beverages; malt syrup for beverages." in **Class 32**.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the above Trademark or other infringements whatsoever thereto will be dealt with according to law.

Daw Aye Tha Zin Myo, (H.G.P)
For **Boon Rawd Brewery Co., Ltd.**
c/o **Baker & McKenzie Limited**
Suite 28, Level 14, Junction City Tower,
No. 3/A Bogyoke Aung San Road,
Pabedan Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Tel: +95 9 44918 9060
Dated: **27 May 2022**

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (10/2022-2023)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(1)	DMP/L-065(22-23) (Retender)	Hakjaw Complete Set	(1) Set Ks
(2)	DMP/L-070(22-23) (Retender)	Heat Shrinkable Sleeve and Closure Patches (4) Items	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-075(22-23) (Retender)	Central Control Integrated Monitoring System (CCIMS) (Phase-2) (1) Lot အား Turnkey စနစ်ဖြင့်ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း	Ks
(4)	DMP/L-155(22-23)	Electrical Accessories for MAG-SPT Oil Field (37) Items	Ks
(5)	DMP/L-156(22-23)	Electrical Accessories for ZJ 50D Drilling Rig (3) Groups	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-157(22-23)	Electrical Accessories for Yenangyaung and Mann Oil Field (4) Groups	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-158(22-23)	Electrical Spares Parts for ZJ 50D SR -II Rig (35) Items	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 27 May 2022 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 12:00 pm on 10, June 2022.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time - 10-6-2022, 12:00 pm

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 - 411206

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

သတင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

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သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာစံချိန်စံညွှန်းဖြင့် ပုံနှိပ်လိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

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ကြော်ငြာခွင့်နှင့် ကြော်ငြာခေ့ငြိမ်းမှုစား ကြော်ငြာ ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက ထိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ် ဆွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါတယ်

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY.NO. (1181W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XETHA BHUM VOY.NO. (1181W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-5-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0264-719N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0264-719N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-5-2022** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD

Iran and Russia eye more cooperation in energy, trade



Both sides have “good capacities for cooperation in energy, banking, transportation, agriculture, nuclear energy, industry and trade”. Floating power unit (FPU) Akademik Lomonosov is being towed to Atomflot moorage of the Russian northern port city of Murmansk on 19 May 2018. Constructed by the state nuclear power firm Rosatom, the 144 by 30-metre (472 by 98-foot) ship holds two reactors with two 35 megawatt nuclear reactors that are similar to those used to power icebreaker ships. **PHOTO: ALEXANDER NEMENOV / AFP/FILE**

TEHRAN and Moscow are seeking to expand cooperation in energy and trade, officials said Wednesday, as Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak visited Iran.

Both countries have huge oil and gas reserves but are constrained by sanctions imposed by the West that limit their ability to export their resources.

Novak led an economic delegation on a visit to Tehran that came as Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has sent global oil and gas prices soaring.

“Iran and Russia are both under oppressive sanctions, which, God willing, can be neutralised by working together and developing relations in various fields,” Iran’s Oil Minister Javad Owji said, according to the ministry’s official news agency, Shana.

Russia’s Interfax news agency meanwhile quoted Novak as saying: “Energy is one of the most important sectors of our trade and economic cooperation.”

He added that they had discussed the potential for oil and gas swaps, as well as “increasing joint investments in oil and gas projects”.

Novak and Owji head the Iran-Russia Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation. “Good agreements were reached in the fields of rail, road transport, shipping and aviation,” Owji said, without expanding further. He added that both sides have “good capacities for cooperation in energy, banking, transportation, agriculture, nuclear energy, industry and trade”.—AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

Residents of occupied cities to get Russian passports
RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin signs a decree making it easier for residents of Russian-occupied parts of southern Ukraine to get a Russian passport.

The move targets people in the city of Kherson, which was the first to fall to Russian forces, and in the region of Zaporizhzhia, which is partially controlled by Moscow.

Moscow has said both regions could become part of Russia.

Ukraine slams the passport plan, which was devised in 2019 for parts of eastern Ukraine controlled by pro-Russian separatists, as a “flagrant violation of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.”

The US State Department says the plan is part of “Russia’s attempt to subjugate the people of Ukraine -- to impose their will by force.”

Russian forces at gates of Severodonetsk
FIGHTING between Russian and Ukrainian forces has reached the outskirts of the key eastern city of Severodonetsk, the regional governor says.

“Russian troops have advanced far enough that they can already fire mortars” on the city, Lugansk governor Sergiy Gaiday says in a statement on social media.

Severodonetsk, which had a pre-war population of around 100,000 people, has been under relentless Russian shelling for weeks. It is one of the key goals in Russia’s offensive in the industrial Donbas region, which consists of Donetsk and Lugansk.

In a video later Wednesday, he governor says Russia now controls “around 95 per cent” of the Lugansk region.

Zelensky blasts Western disunity
UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky blasts the West for lacking unity on the war during an address by videolink to an event held on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

SOURCE: AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

‘Everything Russian must go’: Ukraine’s Kharkiv renames streets

BEFORE the war, it was called “Moscow Avenue”. But now this wide boulevard which runs through Ukraine’s second city has been renamed “Heroes of Kharkiv” in honour of those fighting against invading Russian forces.

“Here in Kharkiv, there is no place for an avenue named after the capital of the occupier that is killing our people,” explains arts student Evgen Deviatka on the newly named street running through the heart of the north-eastern city. Kharkiv has already renamed three of its streets and toppled a statue of Alexander Nevsky, a medieval Russian hero celebrated for his military victories. In time, more than 200 streets or squares could be renamed or come under scrutiny.

Lying some 50 kilometres from the Russian border, Kharkiv came under attack at the start of the 24 February invasion, enduring long weeks of deadly bombardment before Ukrainian forces were able to push the Russians back. —AFP

Pedestrians walk down on the newly named “Kharkiv Heroes Avenue”, formerly “Moscow Avenue” in downtown of Kharkiv. **PHOTO: AFP**

Moldova, Georgia say EU bids must not be slow-walked

THE prime ministers of Moldova and Georgia said Wednesday that the EU membership applications they submitted alongside Ukraine following Russia’s invasion of its neighbour must not be shunted into the slow lane.

“I would say whatever brings us closer to European Union, to the EU membership, is of course acceptable for us. We have no other alternative,” Georgia’s government chief Irakli Garibashvili told attendees at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

French President Emmanuel Macron this month suggested a “European political community” of potential EU members that were not yet ready to fully join the bloc, warning it could take “decades” for Ukraine to enter.

After candidate countries and some existing member states bristled, he added last week that “this community is not an alternative to the membership process but a complement”.—AFP

Slovenia political newcomer Golob to be appointed PM



Robert Golob, leader of Gibanje Svoboda (Freedom Movement) party, arrives to address members of the National Assembly before the vote to elect the new prime minister in Ljubljana, on 25 May 2022. **PHOTO: JURE MAKOVEC / AFP**

SLOVENIA'S parliament met on Wednesday to appoint political newcomer liberal Robert Golob as prime minister after his party defeated conservative veteran Janez Jansa in a general election last month.

Golob's Freedom Movement (GS) party won more than a third of votes in the 24 April election after mass protests over the previous government's crackdown on civil liberties.

Critics accuse three-time premier Jansa of attacking media freedom and the judiciary and undermining the rule of law in his latest term in office in the

small Alpine EU member of two million people.

"Voters have clearly decided they want to live in a normal state without permanent uncertainty," Golob said addressing the newly elected parliament.

His government's main objective was to bring "hope back to citizens" and make Slovenia "a state with social justice, solidarity and based on knowledge", he said.

The 55-year-old former power company manager is expected to be voted in by MPs later Wednesday to head a coalition government.

Together with the centre-left Social Democrats (SD) and left-ist Levica party, the coalition has 53 seats in the 90-seat parliament.

Golob is expected to assume office in June after his ministers are also approved by parliament at a session to be called next week.

"During the summer we want to prepare for the two main challenges of the autumn: the energy crisis and a possible new wave of COVID-19," Golob said after he was nominated by President Borut Pahor on Monday.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK readies for Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee

BRITAIN brings out the bunting next week for Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, with four days of public events to mark her 70 years on the throne.

Across the country, red, white and blue Union Jack are being hung for street parties, picnics and barbecues over four days from Thursday to Sunday.

With two public holidays and the weekend, retailers and the hospitality sector in particular are hoping for a sales boost, after a difficult few years.

Harvir Dhillon, an economist at the British Retail Consortium, predicted a rush to stock up on party food and booze.

"Fresh food, sales of alcohol and particularly items adorned with the Union Jack are expected to perform well," he told AFP.

The British Beer and Pub Association estimated that 90 million pints will be sold, giving a 105-million-pound (\$132 million, 124 million euros) boost to the trade. —AFP

France announces vaccination strategy against monkeypox

THE French National Authority for Health (HAS) announced Tuesday a reactive vaccination strategy after three cases of monkeypox were detected in the country.

HAS said in a press release that the vaccination is for adults at risk of exposure to the virus, including health professionals. It recommends only the third generation vaccine to be administered, ideally in the four days after the contact at risk, to maximum 14 days later. —Xinhua

China foreign minister arrives in Solomon Islands amid security deal

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi arrived in the Solomon Islands on Thursday, at a time when concerns are mounting over China's increasing military clout in the region following a controversial security pact signed by the two countries last month.

Hours after Wang touched down in Honiara, leaked documents reported by Australian Broadcasting Corp. revealed that China is seeking a region-wide agreement with almost a dozen Pacific island countries, covering areas including security, trade and data communication.

A draft communique and five-year action plan were sent by China to 10 Pacific island nations that have diplomatic ties with Beijing, ahead of a foreign ministers' meeting on 30 May, according to ABC.

Wang is on an eight-country tour of the Pacific islands. His visit comes after China and the Solomon Islands signed a security deal that reportedly allows the deployment of Chinese



This picture taken on May 25, 2022, shows Solomon Island's Foreign Minister Jeremiah Manele (L) escorting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (C) upon his arrival at the Henderson International Airport in Honiara. **PHOTO: STRINGER / AFP**

police, military and other armed personnel, as well as the docking of the Asian nation's ships in the islands.—Kyodo

Texas gunman shared plan on Facebook just before attack, used AR-15 rifle: governor

THE Texas school gunman shared his plan to attack a school on Facebook approximately 15 minutes before opening fire, the state governor said Wednesday, adding the attack weapon was a AR-15 assault rifle.

Governor Greg Abbott also

told a press conference that the gunman shot his grandmother in the face before heading to the elementary school, where he shot dead 19 children and two teachers.

"The first post was to the point of, he said 'I'm going to

shoot my grandmother,'" Abbott said. "The second post was 'I shot my grandmother.' The third post, maybe less than 15 minutes before arriving at the school was 'I'm going to shoot an elementary school.'"

Facebook rapidly released

a statement after Abbott's comments, saying the posts "were private one-to-one text messages that were discovered after the terrible tragedy occurred."

"We are closely cooperating with law enforcement in their ongoing investigation," said Andy Stone,

spokesman for Facebook's parent company Meta.

Abbott gave basic details of Tuesday's attack.

"The first thing that happened was that the gunman shot his grandmother in the face," he said.—AFP



Chelsea sale gets green light from UK government

THE British government announced Wednesday it had approved Todd Boehly's £4.25 billion (\$5.3 billion) purchase of Chelsea football club from the sanctioned Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich.

Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Nadine Dorries said she had issued a licence permitting the deal, hours after it won approval from the Premier League on Tuesday evening.

"We are satisfied the proceeds of the sale will not benefit Roman Abramovich or other sanctioned individuals," Dorries tweeted. "Given the sanctions we placed on those linked to (Vladimir) Putin and the invasion of Ukraine, the long-term future of the club can only be secured under a new owner," she said.

A consortium led by Boehly, a co-owner of baseball's Los Angeles Dodgers, had agreed a record deal to buy the club from



Chelsea supporters display a large flag as they build the atmosphere ahead of the English FA Cup semi-final football match between Chelsea and Crystal Palace at Wembley Stadium in north west London on 17 April 2022. PHOTO: GLYN KIRK / AFP

Abramovich earlier this month.

The Russian put Chelsea on the market in early March, just before he was sanctioned by Britain following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Completion of the takeover has been a lengthy process due to government concerns over the potential for Abramovich to profit from the sale.

Earlier this month, the deal seemed close to collapse over concerns proceeds would not reach good causes as promised by the outgoing owner.

The Russian, who bought Chelsea in 2003, denied he had asked for his £1.5 billion loan to the club be repaid when the sale was concluded.—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.

Aussie Lee off to quick start in LPGA Match-Play

MINJEE Lee, coming off a seventh US LPGA title at the Founders Cup, launched her LPGA Match-Play campaign with a 6&5 victory over Chun Young-in at Shadow Creek in Las Vegas, Nevada, on



Australia's fourth-ranked Minjee Lee opens her LPGA Match-Play campaign with a 6&5 round-robin victory over South Korean Chun Young-in. PHOTO: AFP

Wednesday. Australia's Lee, ranked fourth in the world and the top seed in the 64-strong field, seized control with back-to-back birdies to win the third and fourth holes. She birdied six and seven and eagled the ninth before winning the 10th and 11th with pars. Chun won the 12th with a birdie before Lee took the match when they halved the 13th. "It was really fun today," said Lee, whose victory two weeks ago in New Jersey was her first since she captured her maiden major at the Evian Championship last year.

"I made a bunch of birdies. It was nice to get done early today -- it's getting really hot.

"It's nice to have played really well today and hopefully I can take it into tomorrow," said Lee, who said her competitive nature made the tour's rare foray into match-play especially enjoyable.—AFP

Real Madrid remain Europe's most valuable football club: report



Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior (L) and Karim Benzema. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

REAL Madrid remain Europe's most valuable football club despite the ever-increasing dominance of the English Premier League, according to a report published Thursday by analysts Football Benchmark.

The report ranks Europe's 32 most prominent clubs, calculating their value based on their

annual financial statements and assessing squad values. Real, who face Liverpool in Saturday's Champions League final, came out on top for the fourth consecutive year of the report, with a valuation of 3.184 billion euros (\$3.4 billion).

That is still short of their valuation in 2020, just before the pan-

demic, of nearly 3.5 billion euros, although the report points out that they were one of few clubs to register a net profit in both seasons impacted by the pandemic.

"Real Madrid have extended their lead at the top due to continuous sporting and commercial success," says the report's author, Andrea Sartori. It said Real lost 84 million euros due to the absence of matchday revenues with supporters shut out due to the pandemic. However, Real "made the most of the restrictions...accelerating works on the Bernabeu. It will be ready at the end of 2022 or the beginning of 2023 and will certainly give them a massive revenue boost and potentially a competitive advantage". Manchester United (2.9 billion euros) and Barcelona (2.8 billion euros) rounded out the podium, with Bayern Munich fourth and Liverpool fifth (2.556 billion euros).—AFP