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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing talks about peace issues with Vice-Chairman of United Wa State Party (UWSP) U Lau Yaku

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a peace delegation led by Vice-Chairman of the United Wa State Party (UWSP) U Lau Yaku at the parlour of Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning to talk about peace issues.

Also present at the talks were Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council members General Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae. The Vice-Chairman of the United Wa State Party (UWSP) was accompanied by Deputy Head of External Relations Division U Pauk Aik Kaw and In-charge of Lashio Liaison Office of External Relations Division U Nyi Yan.

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives U Lau Yaku, Vice-Chairman of the United Wa State Party (UWSP) in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 May 2022.

The Senior General explained that it is necessary to consider the requirements of the State, the needs of local ethnic nationals and the development of the region and the country as restoration of peace can reflect the smooth and swift region and nation-building tasks. Only when cooperation covers the prevalence of peace and stability, education and health sectors will it contribute much towards regional development. Moreover, the Senior General clarified exercising the multiparty democracy in conformity with the people's desires, and the issues of building the Union based on democracy and federalism.

The Vice-Chairman of the United Wa State Party (UWSP) and the delegation discussed **the agreement of the United Wa State Party (UWSP) over practising the multiparty democratic system and building the Union based on democracy and federalism and its same attitudes and reported on regional development**. Then, they frankly discussed both sides' views on peace issues, education, health and regional development tasks.

The Senior General presented gifts to the Vice-Chairman and party of UWSP who returned domestic gifts. Then, they posed for documentary photos.

The Vice-Chairman of the United Wa State Party (UWSP) and party plan to continue further discussions on peace talks with the Peace Talks Team and the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee formed with members of the State Administration Council. — MNA

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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.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Archaeological murals inside Koekhangyi Cave or Watgyi Cave in ruins

Photo shows the Koekhangyi Cave, pagodas and temples in Minbu (Sagu) Township.

KOEKHANGYI Cave (or) Watgyi Cave is located in the Hmankin Monastery in Minbu (Sagu) Township, Minbu District, Magway Region. The murals inside the cave, painted around 1,144 ME, are in ruins, historians say.

In addition to the eight Zattawgyi (pre-Buddhahood dramas) written by Minbu Sayadaw U Obhasa such as Temiya, Maha Janaka, Nemi, Mahosadha, Candakumar, Narada, Vidhura, Vesantara and Suvannasam Jataka written by Shin Pannatikkha, Bhuridatta Jatak written by Shin Nandamedha were vividly painted, but the works are in a state of disrepair.

Pagodas and monasteries are mostly decorated with mural paintings and frescoes, and most of them are based on princes, princesses, soldiers, elephants and horses, and goddesses, life stories of Buddha.

Ancient paintings and sculptures delighted the hearts of onlookers, and tourists from all over the world visit the pagodas and temples in Myanmar with great interest.

As such, among the ancient artefacts, the ancient murals of the Koekhangyi Cave or Watgyi Cave inside the Hmankin Monastery in Minbu will be revered as a place of interest for tourists from all over the country if they are repaired. — Zeyar Htet (Minbu)/GNLM

State Administration Council's Information Team to hold press conference 15/2022

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold a press conference (15/2022) at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1:00 pm on 1 June. Local and foreign media personnel are invited to the press conference, it is learnt. — MNA

15th Press Conference of Information Team to be broadcast live on 1 June

THE 15th press conference of the Information Team of the State Administration Council will be broadcast live on MRTV HD, MRTV News, MWD HD, MWD Variety HD MITV, MOI Website, MOI YouTube, MRTV Website and aired live on Radio Myanmar, Thazin FM, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Padamyar FM, FM Bagan and Cherry FM starting from 1:00 pm on 1 June, at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information. — MNA

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)

NEWS ON PAGE-1

The Senior General warmly greets the UWSP Vice-Chairman.

The Senior General and the UWSP delegation pose for the documentary photo yesterday.

SAC members attend opening ceremony of Inter-State/ Region Boxing Tournament 2022

THE opening ceremony of the Inter-State/Region Boxing Tournament was held at the Boxing Gymnasium of Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

State Administration Council members Mahn Nyein Maung, Daw Aye Nu Sein, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U Moung Har, U Sai Lone Saing, Saw Daniel, Dr Banyar Aung Moe and U Shwe Kyein and Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Thar Htay, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Thein Soe, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, U Min Thein Zan, U Shwe Lay, U Saw Tun Aung Myint and Dr Htay Aung, Deputy Ministers U San Lwin, U Myint Soe, U Myo Hlaing and U Zaw Aye Maung attended the ceremony.

First, Union Minister U Min Thein Zan called for the emergence of a new generation of athletes who are healthy and friendly among the various ethnic groups in various regions.

Increasing the interest of young people in boxing and developing the boxing sport is important, he said. The competitions are aimed at producing brave, healthy and brilliant new athletes representing the country. To win the tourney fairly, it is necessary to compete with the utmost purity of sports spirit.

Athletes need to show their talent and respect the rules and regulations set by the tournament, the Union minister added.

He urged the new generation to strive to become good boxers and launched the boxing tournament.

Afterwards, the athletes took their sports oaths and the members of the State Administration Council and the Union Minister greeted the athletes.

In the 56-kilo Men's Event, Saw Atit from Kayin State fought with Shine Nge from Shan State.

In the 60-kilo Men's Event, Nute Marr from Kachin State fought against Saw Bwe Kalo from Yangon Region.

In the 48-kilo Women's Event, Thin Thin Khaing from Magwe Region faced Aye Aye Pyae from Taninthayi Region.

The Union minister addressed the opening ceremony of the International Shooting Training Course No (1/2022) jointly organized by the Myanmar Shooting Federation and the Tatmadaw Shooting Committee led by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs at the Multipurpose Hall at the Gold Camp, Nay Pyi Taw Sports Training Centre. — MNA

SAC members and dignitaries watch the opening event of the Inter-State/Region Boxing Tournament 2022 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MoALI Union Minister addresses 4th assembly of Myanmar national committee on large dams

THE fourth General Assembly of the Myanmar National Committee on Large Dams was held yesterday morning in Yangon.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo, Deputy Minister for Electric Power Dr Aung Zeya and members of the National Committee on Myanmar Large Dams, executive committee members attended the ceremony.

At the ceremony, Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo, a member of the Panel of Patrons of the National Committee on Large Dams, said that Myanmar has more freshwater resources than any other countries in the world. Over 250 million acre-feet of water in the Ayeyawady River, over 114 million acre-feet of water in the Chindwin River, about 66 million acre-feet in the Sittoung River, and over 200 million acre-feet in the Thanlwin River flow annually, and over 870 million acre-feet of freshwater flow in the country annually.

The net irrigated area of the net cultivated area is 34 per cent in Thailand, 49 per cent in Viet Nam, 27 per cent in Laos and 39 per cent in India, while Myanmar accounts for just over 20 per cent of the irrigated area of the net cultivated area. Although there are many freshwater resources, there is less irrigated area compared to neighbouring countries and there is still a great need to identify and use existing water resources for irrigation, he said.

He also added the need to ensure the safe and long-term use of the existing dams, which are designed to use the precious freshwater resources in an environmentally friendly manner; the access to hydropower and agricultural benefits. It is also necessary for the Committee to identify plans for the benefit of future generations by studying the construction and use of dams in the region, he continued.

The Union Minister also called for increased cooperation with the international community, including the International Commission on Large Dams-ICOLD, on the expansion of research on climate change, the impact of unforeseen natural disasters on dams, and the transfer of technology to the next generation of professionals.

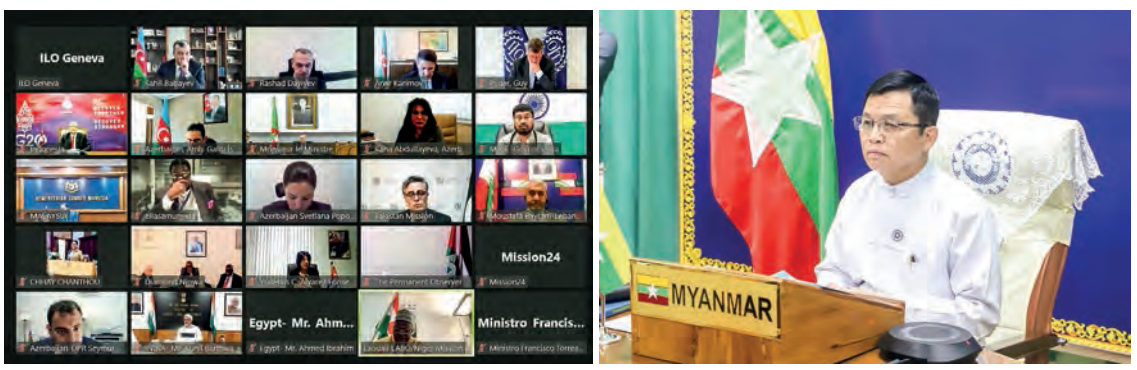
Afterwards, the Chairman of the Myanmar National Committee on Large Dams gave a speech. The Secretary of the Committee read the report of the Executive Committee and sought the approval of the Assembly.

The Myanmar National Committee on Large Dams (MNCOLD) was established in Myanmar to discuss issues related to the safety, stability, and impact of the dams which are already built, under construction, and to be built in Myanmar on the natural, economic and social environment, and a wide range of scientific and technological and investment issues. — MNA

MoL Union Minister attends labour ministers' meeting of non-aligned movement members during 110th International Labour Conference

UNION Minister for Labour U Myint Kyaing attended the Labour Ministers' Meeting of Non-Aligned Movement members during the 110th International Labour Conference held yesterday via videoconference.

At the meeting, the chairperson of the Non-Aligned Movement Member States Minister for Labour and Social Protection of Azerbaijan Mr Sahil Babayev delivered opening remarks.



The online NAM's labour ministers' meeting in progress, attended by MoL Union Minister U Myint Kyaing.

While addressing the meeting, Union Minister U Myint Kyaing said the State Administration Council has set the five-point roadmap and nine objectives in building a genuine, disciplined, multiparty democratic system, focusing on the economic development of the country through the tripartite cooperation among the government, employers, and employees.

To recover from the economic devastation caused by the COVID-19 crisis, the government is providing support for the development of SMEs to increase employment opportunities for citizens, for more domestic and foreign investment to develop technology and labour market and provide investment support.

The largest Myanmar citizen investment and foreign investment are in the industry, services, hotels and tourism industry, and the electricity sector, which have created many job opportunities, he said.

In addition to creating job opportunities for local workers, we are also working with the countries concerned to ensure the safe migration of Myanmar migrant workers abroad and their full access to rights and protections under the laws of their respective countries, he added.

A total of K585.472 million was provided as financial benefits for more than 4,028 pregnant women insured workers registered for social security during the COVID-19 outbreak, and K292.570 million was provided for more than 5,125 insured workers who were diagnosed with COVID-19 disease and who needed to be quarantined.

A total of 1,634,174 insured workers from factories, which were temporarily closed during the first and second waves of COVID-19, received a total of K70,829.756 million as social security benefits.

As a social protection programme, the Maternal and Child Cash Transfer Programme (MCCT) provides financial support to pregnant women and their children under the age of two and social pension programmes for the elderly aged 90 and over. The coverage age has been reduced to 85 years.

Myanmar will work for a genuine, disciplined, multiparty democracy, a union based on democracy and federalism, support local businesses, create jobs that will produce more of the country's products, prioritize the interests of workers, and protect employers under the law, he said. — MNA

11 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 30 May, total figure rises to 613,326

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 613,326 after 11 new cases were reported on 30 May 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 592,276 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 19,434 without more casualties. —MNA

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

Yellow Food Grade barrel used for palm oil consumers safety

THE yellow Food Grade barrels or purified Food Grade Tanks are being used to carry palm oil from edible oil tanks in Yangon in May.

On 22 April 2022, the Ministry of Commerce released a directive regarding the barrels for palm oil to ensure the safety of consumers and the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association issued a statement. Merchants started using them, according to the Yangon edible oil market.

"We used iron barrel and blue plastic barrel in the past. Now, we have to use yellow plastic barrel and so the change is in the colours of the barrel for cooking oil. It is good for consumers for using Food Grade yellow plastic barrels," said Ko Aung Htwe, a driver of the oil bowser.

According to the new system, the locally produced yellow plastic barrel is priced at K50,000 weighing six visses and 50 ticals at the factory and it is about K57,000 outside, he added.

As the designated barrel cannot be bought in time, the old iron barrels and plastic barrels used for chemical imports are painted with yellow colour, said Ko Myo Thein.

In the barrel market, the price of a new thick iron barrel is K34,000 while K43,000 for the yellow iron barrel and K150,000 for a small tank that can accommodate five oil barrels, he said.

Around 2000, the palm oil was directly imported using the iron barrel and with an In-Bulk system at the hull of edible oil vessels later and filled the oil tanks in Yangon. The current changes are made for the safety of consumers as the barrels of customers are not clean enough when they take out the oil from the oil tanks, the cooking oil merchants said.

Palm oil in food grade tanks is loaded on the lorry.

In the scrap market, the price of an iron barrel is K1,000 per viss and the iron barrel weighing 13 visses is priced at K13,000, according to the market. — TWA/GNLM

Agricultural sector receives over $446 million in foreign investment

THE foreign investment amount in the agriculture sector was more than $446 million which is 0.49 per cent of total foreign investments of the country as of April end of the 2022-2023FY, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration-DICA.

The annual investment in the agriculture sector, the foreign investment from April to September 2018 was only $10.650 million.

In the 2017-2018FY, the agriculture sector received a $134.485 million investment and did not receive any investment in the 2016-2017FY.

The country has so far received a $441.838 million foreign investment in the agriculture sector, while $926.218 million in the livestock and breeding sector, according to the department. — TWA/GNLM

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Palm oil price up by K8,000 despite fixed price at K5,725

ALTHOUGH the palm oil price is set at K5,727, the people have to buy at K8,000, according to the fried food industry.

The Ministry of Commerce announced that those who raise the palm oil prices, save the palm oil to manipulate the price and conduct any destructive elements must face legal action according to the Essential Supplies and Services Act.

The authorities announced the basic reference prices based on the FOB at K5,725 per viss of palm oil in Yangon between 30 May and 5 June, the buyers have to buy at higher prices, according to the fried food business people and housewives.

"The fixed palm oil price is just over K5,000. But it is about K8,000, actually. Officials should study the real situation and take action against those who manipulate the prices," said Ma Aye Myint, fritter seller.

The ministry also controls the local palm oil prices to be fairer according to the global palm oil prices. They always watch the FOB prices of Malaysia and Indonesia daily and announce the reference prices by taking into account the needs regarding transport and banking charges.

"One fritter was K100 in the past but now it becomes K500 for four fritters. One Samosa (an Indian snack) is K100 and it is K500 for four and now for three as the oil price is high. We also pledge customers to give more fritters to them when the oil price drops," said Daw Than Aye, a fritter seller.

At the market, the consumers have to buy the palm oil at nearly K8,000 per viss and the officials should scrutinize the situation, said the wives and fritter sellers. — TWA/ GNLM

Fried snacks vendors are seen using palm oil.

LBVD monitoring restricted antibiotic use in animal feedstuffs

A lab technician is seen testing for animal feedstuffs and drugs.

ANIMAL Feed and Drug Research Section (Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory) under the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Insein Township, Yangon Region is conducting lab tests for animal feedstuffs and drugs. The division is stepping up a project to monitor the prohibited and restricted use of antibiotics in animal feedstuffs.

Feed is of vital importance in Good Animal Husbandry Practice. Food producing animals that were exposed to restricted drugs, toxins and contaminants in agrichemicals and gold mining residues can harm human health. Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is carrying out contamination testing for eggs, milk and meat to ensure food safety for the people.

"We conduct testing for the feedstuffs processing factory and meat production industry (poultry, cattle and pig farming) to check whether there is antibiotic use and contamination in various feedstuffs and eggs, milk and meat consumed by people or not. We always monitor the animal farms and feedstuffs processing factories to check if they comply with Good Animal Husbandry Practices as clean food can contribute to the national health sector. Animal Feed and Drug Research Section is also implementing lab testing in line with the project," said Dr Moe Moe Thein, deputy director of the section.

The section runs lab tests for feed, vaccines and drugs. Moreover, it checks nutrition value and contamination in animal feed, veterinary drugs and related substances, vitamins and minerals, pesticides, domestically produced or imported vaccines, small animal breeding for diagnostic tests, antibiotic residues in eggs under the Food and Agriculture Organization project and antibiotic contamination in feedstuffs, with the support of the International Atomic Energy Agency, FAO and the government. A one-year project monitoring antibiotic use in animal feedstuffs (December 2020- November 2021) was carried out. That project continued to progress starting from early 2022. Additionally, chemical residues and contamination in eggs, milk and meat are traced under a project as well. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, foodstuffs and vehicles seized in different cities

Officials confiscal illegal timbers.

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, effective action is being taken to prevent illegal trade under the law.

On 29 May, a combined inspection team conducted inspections at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Checkpoint, under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

K4,160,000 worth of consumer goods and foodstuffs that showed no official documents from a vehicle carrying these illegal items worth K15 million heading from Myawady to Yangon were seized. The action was taken under the Customs law.

Similarly, the combined inspection team confiscated the consumer goods and water heater electronics worth K4,920,000 and two vehicles carrying the illegal items. The action was taken under the Customs Law.

In addition, the investigations were carried out under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force in the Yangon Region.

A team led by the Forest Department seized 7.3348 tonnes of teak and hardwood worth K3,988,040 in Hlegu Township from two vehicles (approximately K33 million and took action under the Forest Law.

Moreover, on 30 May, an inspection team led by Bago Region Forest Department inspected 4.3984 tonnes of timbers worth K1,634,808 in the Toungoo and Thayawady districts and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Thus, 12 arrests worth K62,702,848 were made on 29 and 30 May, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Drugs seized in some townships

ANTI-DRUG police force searched a motorcycle driven by Soe Lay accompanied by Aik Aung (alias) Aik Kham on the Kunlong-Holi Road in Kunlong Township at 7:30 pm, on 28 May and seized 1,570 stimulant tablets.

Similarly, an anti-drug force examined a suspected Kya Yo in Sanseng Ward of Tachilek Township and captured 8,000 stimulant pills at 6:30 pm on 29 May.

At 7:15 pm on the same day, police searched a house of Bo Jay in Chithtu village of Tachilek Township and confiscated 0.08 kilogramme of heroin and 1.3 kilogrammes of opium according to the examination.

In addition, police stopped and searched a motorbike driven by Kya Nu on the Monghsat-Mongpyin Road in Monghsat Township and captured 3.5 kilogrammes of heroin at 6 am on the same day.

They were prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

An arrestee is pictured along with seized drugs and a motorbike.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar exports over 1,000 tonnes of fishery products to Bangladesh monthly

THE State is prioritizing agriculture and livestock sectors with an aim to increase foreign currency earnings and enhance the socio-economy of the farmers. Myanmar's monthly export of fishery products to Bangladesh via border posts in Rakhine State is estimated at 800 to over 1,000 tonnes.

In April, Bangladesh's demand for fishery products dropped during Ramadan. Starting from the first week of May, bilateral trade is bustling with the steady supply by the rohu farmers from Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago regions by ship or vehicle.

Although the high and volatile fuel oil prices force the transport sector to raise the fares, the price of fishery products does not escalate. The traders are facing difficulties to raise the price of marketable fish amid the high feed price. Nevertheless, they are endeavouring to keep the export of fishery products steady while there is a strong demand.

Approximately 1,000 tonnes of rohu from Yangon city are delivered to Sittway and Maungtaw border posts in Rakhine State with Bangladesh. Rohu from the other two cities is also sent to the border via sea route and road transport.

"Those fish farmers working on a manageable scale convey the fish to Sittway and Maungtaw border areas by means of road transport and then load the fish and other commodities on motor vessels for export. Fish farmers from Yangon deliver fish by vessels and send them directly to Bangladesh's seaport of entry after passing tests at the Sittway checkpoint. They have to wait for five days in the sea to run a health test to enter Yangon. Despite the hike in oil prices, the contract keeps the breeders going regularly. We see a regular trade flow. Bangladesh's border plays a crucial for the fish farmers. It is a win-win situation for both the fish farmers and the consumers if the marketable fish are harvested and exported. This month, about 800 to over 1,000 tonnes of fishery products are flowing into the border market," said U Thet Oo, director of the Rakhine State Fisheries Department.

Fishery products are pictured prepared for exporting to Bangladesh via one border crossing. **PHOTO: KANU**

A combined team conducts checks on fishery products and other commodities at two border posts with Bangladesh; the Shwemingan point in Sittway city and Kanyinchaung point in Maungtaw town.

Myanmar levied a two per cent tax on exported goods to Bangladesh. Additionally, the registration of a vessel is charged US$50 and the weighted average price for the fishery is set at five US dollars per tonne under the Marine Fisheries Law.

The fish farmers and traders from Bangladesh were battered by a temporary closure of the border posts triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. To facilitate the trade flow, the Rakhine State government requested the National Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of the COVID-19. The committee gave the green light and the border trade resumed after a four-month closure. This move allowed the fish breeders from three big cities to do a roaring business.

Rohu and other dried commodities such as onion, tamarind, ginger, and dried plum are shipped to Bangladesh through Rakhine State, while wide striped longyi for men (Palaykat Sarong), plastic gallon containers, footwear and construction materials are imported to Myanmar. Exports surpass imports in cross-border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Myanmar exported over 11,000 tonnes of commodities to Bangladesh in the past six-month mini-budget period (Oct 2021-Mar 2022). The exports generated an income of over US$11 million which indicated a significant increase compared to those figures ($4.7 million-$5.3 million) recorded in the same corresponding period of the previous years. Fishery product exports grew and foreign currency earnings increased.

Rakhine State witnessed a sluggish trade with Bangladesh in April and border trade raised its head again in May, full of lively activities. Up to 1,000 tonnes of fishery products were exported to Bangladesh this month. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

3,800 companies struck off register due to the absence of AR as of 23 May: DICA

A total of 3,800 companies have been struck off the register as of 23 May 2022 since July 2021 as they fail to submit annual return (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA has notified any registered company which fails to submit its AR on MyCO are to be suspended, under 430 (F) of Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

All registered companies need to file AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

According to Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously.

All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, as per Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, more than 16,000 companies were suspended for failure to submit AR forms within the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totaling K250,000.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website were commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017. The number of companies registered on the online registry system, MyCO, totalled 2,100 in the past two months (Jan-Feb) 2022, the statistics released by the DICA.

At present, 100 per cent of the applicants are using the online registration platform, according to data provided by the DICA.—GNLM

OPINION

Build the society through nation-building endeavours of healthy youths

MYANMAR people prefer to smoke cheroots and cigarettes made of tobacco products and pipes and chew betel quads in their spare time. Truly, these are additional costs for their lifestyle, wasting their incomes they hardly earned. Such a point is enough for discarding these habits.

Member states of the World Health Organization set the World No-Tobacco Day on 31 May 1987 to draw global attention to the tobacco epidemic and the preventable death and disease it causes. This yearly celebration informs the public on the dangers of using tobacco, the business practices of tobacco companies, what the World Health Organization (WHO) is doing to fight against the use of tobacco, and what people around the world can do to claim their right to health and healthy living and to protect future generations.

> Actually, such behaviours as smoking and chewing betel quads are inappropriate for health conditions. Hence, elder persons should avoid their moves of smoking and betel quid chewing and urge the youths not to do so in order to improve their health conditions so as to establish a healthy society. If so, the nation would be brighter with nation-building endeavours of healthy youths.

The day is further intended to draw attention to the widespread prevalence of tobacco use and to negative health effects, which currently lead to more than 8 million deaths each year worldwide, including 1.2 million as the result of non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke. The day has been met with both enthusiasm and resistance around the globe from governments, public health organizations, smokers, growers, and the tobacco industry.

Smokers may face some 10 ten years shorter than non-smokers in their longevity. Due to the content of nicotine in the cigarettes, smokers can suffer from a kind of chronic diseases. Moreover, smokers may face damage to respiratory tracts and cells, genetically change, cancers, artery, oral, lung, blood and urine problems, raising 25-30 times heart attack.

Based on the statistics, Myanmar annually loses some K2.6 trillion in its economic sector, accounting for 3.3 per cent of the GDP in 2016 because of abusing tobacco products. As a nature of Myanmar society, some youths of student age smoke cigarettes and cheroots and chew betel quads. It is because those youths follow the behaviours of adults and elder persons who also smoke cheroots and chew betel quads as traditions.

Actually, such behaviours as smoking and chewing betel quads are inappropriate for health conditions. Hence, elder persons should avoid their moves of smoking and betel quid chewing and urge the youths not to do so in order to improve their health conditions so as to establish a healthy society. If so, the nation would be brighter with nation-building endeavours of healthy youths. ■

ARTICLE
NATIONAL

Sputnik V demonstrates strong protection against Omicron variant: Study

GAMALEYA National Research Centre of Epidemiology and Microbiology on 25 May said that Sputnik V demonstrated strong protection against Omicron variant of COVID-19.

A comparative study conducted at the Italian Spallanzani Institute, the Italian research institute for infectious diseases, by a joint Italian-Russian team of researchers representing the Institute and the Gamaleya Centre show that the Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine demonstrates higher titers of virus-neutralizing antibodies to Omicron (B.1.1.529) variant than 2 doses of Pfizer vaccine (2.1 times higher in total and 2.6 times higher 3 months after vaccination), Gamaleya Centre said in a statement.

The study was published in an article by a team of 12 Italian and 10 Russian scientists led by Francesco Vaia, Director of the Spallanzani Institute and Alexander Gintsburg, Director of the Gamaleya Centre. According to the findings, the Sputnik vaccine provides for eliciting high titers of virus neutralizing antibodies to Omicron variant. Fast-spreading Omicron sub-variants BA.4 and BA.5 are currently causing surges of coronavirus cases in the United States, South Africa and 70 other countries.

The advantages of Sputnik V are the use of native S glycoprotein (spike protein without proline-stabilization and other modifications) and the use of a heterologous prime-boost vaccination regimen. The Pfizer vaccine utilizes the spike protein in a proline-stabilized form in contrast to Sputnik V.

Proline-stabilization and other modifications may move an immune response predominantly to the actively mutating receptor-binding domain (RBD) of the spike protein. In the Omicron variant, a substantial number of mutations were registered precisely in RBD, which is why such a significant drop in neutralizing activity against this variant may be observed in the sera of Pfizer-vaccinated.

The results were published in the Vaccines peer-reviewed leading medical journal.

The study demonstrates that Sputnik V neutralizes the Omicron variant by inducing robust antibody response associated with high levels of protection.

According to the Gamaleya Centre, among the top quartile of individuals with high RBD-specific IgG antibodies, 100 per cent of those vaccinated with Sputnik V were able to neutralize Omicron variant in comparison to 83.3 per cent of individuals vaccinated with Pfizer. Furthermore, among all samples, 74.2 per cent of Sputnik V-vaccinated sera were able to neutralize Omicron vs 56.9 per cent for Pfizer-vaccinated.

The study discusses several reasons for Sputnik V eliciting stronger virus neutralizing antibodies against Omicron including — Sputnik V develops a wider pool of antibodies to different epitopes in contrast to Pfizer vaccine, which utilizes the spike protein in a proline-stabilized form directed mainly to the specific epitopes, which were highly affected by the mutations in the Omicron variant.

Heterologous prime-boost vaccination regimen of Sputnik scheme and better mimicking of adenoviral vaccine platform of the infection.

The data supports the results of the recent laboratory study by the Gamaleya Center published in MedRxiv[1] demonstrating that Sputnik V induces robust neutralizing antibody response to Omicron variant, which is further strengthened by Sputnik Light booster.

Sputnik Light is a universal booster to other vaccines. Sputnik V has been authorized in 71 countries with a total population of over 4 billion people, and Sputnik Light in more than 30 countries.

SOURCE: ANI

A woman receives a dose of Russia's Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine at a vaccination centre at Gostiny Dvor in Moscow, on 7 July 2021. **PHOTO: DIMITAR DILKOFF / AFP**

Risk of blood clots in lung doubled for Covid survivors: US study

CORONAVIRUS survivors have twice the risk of developing dangerous blood clots that travel to their lungs compared to people who weren't infected, as well double the chance of respiratory symptoms, a large new study said Tuesday.

The research by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention found that as many as one in five adults aged 18-64 years and one in four of those over 65 went on to experience health conditions that could be related to their bout of Covid — a finding consistent with other research.

Among all conditions, the risk of developing acute pulmonary embolism — a clot in an artery of the lung — increased the most, by a factor of two in both adults younger and older than 65, as did respiratory symptoms like a chronic cough or shortness of breath.

Pulmonary embolisms usually travel to the lungs from a deep vein in the legs, and can cause serious problems, including lung damage, low oxygen levels and death.

The study was based on more than 350,000 patient records of people who had Covid-19 from March 2020 - November 2021, paired with 1.6 million people in a "control" group who had sought medical attention in the same month as a corresponding "case" patient, but weren't diagnosed with Covid.

The team assessed the records for the occurrence of 26 clinical conditions previously associated with long Covid.

Patients were followed one month out from the time they were first seen until they developed a subsequent condition, or until a year had passed, whichever came first.

The most common conditions in both age groups were respiratory symptoms and musculoskeletal pain.

In patients under 65, risks after Covid elevated for most types of condition, but no significant differences were observed for cerebrovascular disease, mental health conditions, or substance-related disorders.

"Covid-19 severity and illness duration can affect patients' health care needs and economic well-being," the authors wrote.

"The occurrence of incident conditions following infection might also affect a patient's ability to contribute to the workforce and might have economic consequences for survivors and their dependents," as well as placing added strain on health systems.

Limitations of the study included the fact that data on sex, race, and geographic region were not considered, nor was vaccination status. Because of the time period, the study also didn't factor in newer variants.

SOURCE: AFP

A nurse wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) including a personal air purifying respirator (PAPR) works in a Covid-19 intensive care unit (ICU) at Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Community Hospital on 6 January 2021 in the Willowbrook neighborhood of Los Angeles, California. **PHOTO: PATRICK T. FALLON / AFP**

ENVIRON WORLD

Japanese student's game enlists players to hunt for trash

A Japanese university student has created a game that turns trash picking on the streets into a fun team competition, aiming to take it overseas to clean up the global environment.

Yuto Kitamura came up with the idea of Seisochu, in which points are awarded based on the type and weight of litter collected within a set time, after realizing picking up trash is like "a treasure hunt".

Shocked by online images of beaches overflowing with garbage, Kitamura started to pick up trash on his own three years ago while a high school student and became excited when he found items from foreign countries washed up.

Supplied photo shows participants playing the trash picking game Seisochu in the city of Nagano in central Japan in July 2020. **PHOTO: KYODO**

He also relished the challenge of using a wooden stick to collect pieces of floating trash that were out of reach.

Although he enjoyed clearing trash from riverbanks and other places he happened to visit, Kitamura started feeling uncomfortable with the praise he received, such as "You are very conscientious", and "You are great". That was when Kitamura, now 19, came up with the idea of a trash picking game that could involve many people and turn an entire town into a game area.

He named the game Seisochu after being inspired by "Run for Money: Tosochu," a popular TV variety show in which celebrities run away from hunters with a prize at stake. In the game, participants pick up trash and also try to complete "missions" sent to their smartphones. A "hunter" will appear and confiscate the trash they have collected. Participants compete for points.— Kyodo

Heads roll at Aussie power giant after green takeover bid

AUSTRALIA'S biggest carbon emitter AGL abruptly announced on Monday the departure of its chairman, CEO and a string of board members, while scrapping a long-planned move to spin off its lucrative coal business.

In a statement to investors, the company said Peter Botten would resign as chairman and Graeme Hunt would step down as CEO when a replacement is found.

Operations at AGL — Australia's largest energy company — have been under fierce scrutiny since billionaire green activist Mike Cannon-Brookes tried to buy the firm for about US$6 billion.

AGL rejected the bid in March, saying the offer was "well below the fair value of the company".

Cannon-Brookes, a 42-year-old tech mogul, launched his audacious bid to acquire the company in order to shutter its highly-polluting coal-fired power plants and repurpose the network to focus on renewables.

He had opposed a "demerger" of AGL's coal and retail business, saying if it was allowed to be spun off his takeover would no longer make sense.

Australia is one of the world's largest producers of coal and gas, and during a decade of conservative rule backed the building of new fossil fuel projects.

But Australians — hit by a series of intense droughts, floods and bushfires — overwhelmingly support more action to tackle climate change and recently voted in a centre-left government to do just that.—AFP

This picture taken on 4 November 2021 shows steam rising from cooling towers of the power generating plants in the town of Singleton, some 70km (43 miles) from Newcastle, the world's largest coal exporting port. **PHOTO: SAEED KHAN / AFP**

Critically endangered elephant, unborn baby suspected poisoned in Indonesia

This handout photo taken and released on 26 May 2022 by the Riau Conservation of Natural Resources shows veterinarians examining the carcass of a dead Sumatran elephant and its unborn baby in Bengkalis, Riau province. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / RIAU CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES / AFP**

A critically endangered Sumatran elephant and its unborn baby were found dead from suspected poisoning in western Indonesia, a conservation official said on Thursday.

The carcass of the heavily pregnant mammal was found next to a palm plantation in Riau province on Sumatra, a large island home to some of the world's rarest animals.

The archipelago nation faces an ongoing battle against wildlife crime and several elephant poisoning cases have been reported in recent years, including one in 2019 when a Sumatran elephant was found decapitated with its tusks ripped off.

A plantation worker discovered the mother, who was 22 months pregnant, on Thursday and immediately reported the carcass to authorities who collected samples before burying the body.— AFP

Hurricane Agatha strengthens en route to southwest Mexico

THE first hurricane of the Pacific season was rapidly strengthening off the southwestern coast of Mexico where it is likely to strike Monday as a major storm, the country's weather service warned.

High sea temperatures and Hurricane Agatha's slow speed could give it plenty of time to strengthen before it roars ashore, Alejandra Mendez, general coordinator of Mexico's National Weather Service (SMN), said in a videoconference.

As of Sunday night, Agatha was forecast to climb to a Category Three on the Saffir-Simpson scale, strengthening in intensity as it churned about 225 kilometres (140 miles) southwest of Puerto Angel, Mexico, according to a report by the US National Hurricane Centre (NHC).

"It is forecast that the hurricane will probably make landfall as a Category Three between Puerto Escondido and Huatulco, Oaxaca," said Mendez, adding that she expected landfall Monday.

Agatha was packing maximum sustained winds of 175 kilometres per hour, while moving northeast at about nine kilometres per hour, according the NHC report, released at 0300 GMT on Monday.

The NHC said the storm was "expected to bring an extremely dangerous storm surge and life-threatening winds to southern Mexico on Monday."

Authorities in Oaxaca, Guerrero and Chiapas states encouraged preventative measures beginning on Saturday, asking residents to safeguard property near coastal areas and calling on the population to take shelter.

They also closed the ports of Oaxaca and Guerrero.

The popular surfing destinations of Puerto Escondido and Huatulco set up temporary shelters with a capacity to house 26,800 people and arranged for the potential accommodation of another 5,200 in local hotels.—AFP

PANDEMIC WORLD

Thousands quarantined after Beijing man breaks Covid rules

A Beijing man has landed thousands of his neighbours in quarantine after he ignored an order to stay at home and later tested positive for Covid, prompting a police investigation.

The Chinese capital has ordered hundreds of thousands of residents to stay home over the last five weeks to curb its largest coronavirus outbreak since the start of the pandemic.

Officials said Sunday a man in his 40s surnamed Sun had failed to follow a requirement to isolate that he was given after he visited a shopping centre considered "high risk".

"During the home isolation period he... went out many times and walked in the neighbourhood," said Beijing public security official Pan Xuhong.

Sun and his wife later tested positive, prompting authorities to lock down 5,000 of their neighbours at home and send 250 to a government quarantine centre.

It comes as virus restrictions began to be eased in Beijing on Monday, with authorities re-opening parks, museums and cinemas and declaring the outbreak under control.

China is wedded to a zero-Covid strategy of hard lockdowns, mass testing and long quarantine periods to wipe out clusters as they emerge.

There are tough penalties for breaking the rules and Sun is now under police investigation.

Beijing's Omicron-fuelled cluster has seen more than 1,700 infections since late April — a tiny number by global standards but troubling for China's rigid approach to the virus.

Case numbers have dropped sharply in the past week.

People visit the Temple of Heaven in Beijing on 30 May 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

"There have been no new cases found in society (outside quarantine centres) for two days," Xu Hejian, a spokesman for the Beijing government, said Sunday.

"The situation is stable and improving... but the risk of a rebound still exists."

Most bus, subway and taxi services in three of the capital's most populous districts were running again Monday and millions were told to return to work.

A handful of tai chi practitioners and locals were enjoying balmy weather in a re-opened downtown park.— AFP

Shanghai to ease COVID-19 control measures

SHANGHAI will relax the curbs on entering or leaving residential compounds, resume public transport services and ease rules on private cars on roads, local authorities said Monday.

The new rules will be put into effect starting Wednesday as the city's COVID-19 situation has been effectively curbed, according to a statement by Shanghai municipal leading group for COVID-19 prevention and control.

No restrictions should be put on residents entering or leaving residential compounds except for those in middle and high risk areas and areas put under COVID-19 restrictions, the statement said.

Shanghai will also essentially resume public transport services, including buses, rail transport and ferries, in the city, according to the statement.

Taxis and online-hailing services will resume business and private cars will be allowed on roads, except for those in middle and high risk areas and areas put under COVID-19 restrictions, it said. — Xinhua

People shop at a supermarket in Xuhui District of east China's Shanghai, 16 May 2022. China's Shanghai has cut off the community transmission of COVID-19 in 15 out of its 16 districts, according to a press conference on epidemic prevention and control held Monday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

10 US states to see biggest rise in COVID-19 cases by Memorial Day: media

THE US state of South Carolina will see the biggest jump in its COVID-19 case rate of all states by Memorial Day, according to forecasts from Rochester, Minnesota-based Mayo Clinic.

The case rate in the United States will increase from 33.1 cases per 100,000 on 23 May to 37.7 per 100,000 on 30 May, Becker's Hospital Review, a monthly publication that offers up-to-date business and legal news related to hospitals, quoted Mayo Clinic's forecast as saying last week. Besides, nine other states, including Pennsylvania, West Virginia and several others, is projected to see the largest jumps in daily cases by 30 May. Driven by highly transmissible omicron subvariants BA.2 and BA.2.12.1., COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in the United States have been rising for more than a month. As the nation's most dominant strain, Omicron BA.2.12.1 accounted for 57.9 per cent of all US COVID-19 cases in the week ending 21 May, CDC data show.— Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vietnam reports 1,118 new COVID-19 cases

VIETNAM recorded 1,118 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, up by 228 from Sunday, according to its Ministry of Health.

All the new infections were domestically transmitted in 45 provinces and cities.

The northern Bac Ninh province led the country with 265 new cases recorded on Monday, followed by the capital Hanoi with 261 cases and the northern Yen Bai province with 62 cases.

The infections brought the total tally to 10,718,369 with 43,078 deaths. Nationwide, 9,456,541 COVID-19 patients, or over 88 per cent of the infections, have so far recovered.

More than 220.8 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the country, including over 199.1 million shots on people aged 18 and above, said the ministry.

Vietnam has by far gone through four coronavirus waves of increasing scale, complication and infectivity.

As of Monday, it has registered more than 10.7 million locally transmitted COVID-19 cases since the start of the current wave of infections in April 2021, said the health ministry. — Xinhua

India records 2,706 new COVID-19 cases, 25 more deaths

INDIA'S COVID-19 tally rose to 43,155,749 on Monday with 2,706 new cases registered during the past 24 hours across the South Asian country, showed the federal health ministry's latest data.

Besides, 25 deaths from the pandemic registered across the country since Sunday morning took the death toll to 524,611.

Currently there are 17,698 active COVID-19 cases in the country, an increase of 611 in the past 24 hours.

So far, 42,613,440 COVID-19 patients have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals, including 2,070 newly reported recoveries. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

Equity markets extend rally as China eases curbs

ASIAN and European stock markets advanced Monday on a wave of investor optimism as China eases some of its strict Covid curbs in Shanghai and Beijing.

London equities gained 0.2 per cent in late morning deals, while Frankfurt won 0.8 per cent and Paris gained 0.9 per cent around midday in the eurozone.

Asian indices rebounded as traders also digested strong US data and a pre-weekend rally on Wall Street, which remains shut on Monday for the Memorial Day public holiday.

"Worries about global growth have eased — and hopes (are) that China's worst Covid woes may be over," said Hargreaves Lansdown analyst Susannah Streeter.

"There was a ripple of relief across European markets after authorities in Shanghai announced a lifting of restrictions from Wednesday, with more production now expected to begin across the manufacturing and tech hub."

A woman walks past an electronic share price board showing the closing numbers on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo on 30 May 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

The prospect of easing Covid curbs has buoyed hopes for the world's number two economy.

Rate hikes

Monday's gains extended a positive end to last week for global equities, with some commentators saying there was a growing hope that the months-long sell-off may have run its course.

Wall Street provided a strong lead and snapped a series of weekly losses, with Friday's rally supported by data showing an easing of the key personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index.

Markets have been pummelled this year as soaring prices — caused by the Ukraine war, supply chain snags and China's lockdowns among other things — forced central banks to hike interest rates and warn of more to come.

The US reading lent hope that the worst of the inflation surge may have passed and could allow the Federal Reserve to ease back from its hawkish rate hike drive later in the year.

May jobs data — due for release on Friday — should provide a fresh snapshot of the economy and possibly an idea about the Fed's next policy moves.

The possibility that China's Covid curbs could be gradually removed helped oil prices rise, with Brent topping $120 per barrel for the first time in two months as traders bet on a pick-up in energy demand.

That comes as European leaders are said to be edging towards a deal to impose sanctions on imports of crude from Russia in retaliation for its invasion of Ukraine.

Still, while optimism is higher on trading floors at the moment, it remains at a premium with inflation still elevated and borrowing costs expected to rise further, while the war in Ukraine and China's struggling economy continue to drag.— AFP

Vietnam attracts less foreign investment in 5 months

VIETNAM attracted an estimated foreign investment of nearly 11.71 billion US dollars in the first five months of this year, down 16.3 per cent year-on-year, according to the country's Ministry of Planning and Investment on Monday.

During the period, Vietnam licensed 578 new foreign direct investment (FDI) projects with total registered capital of 4.12 billion US dollars, down 5.7 per cent in quantity and 53.4 per cent in capital year on year.

The country also saw that 395 operational FDI projects raised capital by 5.61 billion US dollars in total over the five months, up 45.4 per cent.

From January to May, the disbursed FDI capital totalled 7.71 billion US dollars, up 7.8 per cent year-on-year, said the ministry.

Among countries and regions with newly licensed investment projects in Vietnam during the period, Denmark was the largest source of registered capital with 1.32 billion US dollars, followed by Singapore with 798.4 million US dollars and China with 505.3 million US dollars, according to the ministry.— Xinhua

Beijing releases action plan for promoting digital economy

BEIJING has released an action plan for the development of its digital economy to stimulate the vitality of the industry.

The plan puts forward measures such as improving the supply capacity of digital technology and nurturing the ecology for its innovation, according to the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Economy and Information Technology on Monday.

It focuses on breakthroughs in core technologies in high-end chips, artificial intelligence, key software, blockchain, privacy computing, urban space operating systems and other fields. Domestic and foreign open-source projects and institutions will be attracted to land in Beijing, and efforts to open and share data will be further intensified, according to the plan.

In the first quarter of 2022, the added value of Beijing's digital economy reached 387.36 billion yuan (57.9 billion US dollars), up 7.2 per cent year on year, accounting for 41.2 per cent of the city's GDP, official data showed.— Xinhua

Japan, S Korea business leaders vow to expand economic cooperation

Photo taken 30 May 2022, in Tokyo shows Japanese business leaders and their South Korean counterparts (on the screen) taking part in the 54th bilateral business conference. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPANESE and South Korean business leaders agreed Monday to expand economic cooperation as the two sides welcomed signs of the improvement of soured bilateral ties after President Yoon Suk Yeol took office earlier this month.

They expressed hope that the two governments will promote dialogue despite wartime history-linked issues between the two neighbours, according to a joint statement issued after an online meeting.

"In a difficult environment, cooperation and coordination by both countries will be the power to overcome the crisis," the statement said, referring to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and international sanctions on Moscow in response.

Tokyo-Seoul relations severely deteriorated under Yoon's predecessor Moon Jae In over "comfort women" who worked at Japan's military brothels against their will and Korean laborers who were mobilized to work at mines and factories.

The two nations have also been at odds over Japan's restrictions on semiconductor material exports to South Korea in July 2019, a move seen as retaliation for the Moon administration's handling of the history-related issues.— Kyodo

Japanese automakers' global output falls 20% in April on parts crunch

TOTAL global production by eight major Japanese automakers in April fell 20.1 per cent from a year earlier to 1.66 million vehicles, industry data showed Monday, reflecting a worldwide semiconductor shortage and supply disruptions caused by a COVID-19 lockdown in Shanghai.

Of the eight, six automakers, including Toyota Motor Corp and Honda Motor Co, marked declines. Toyota saw a 9.1 per cent fall to 692,259 cars, the first decrease in three months and below its forecast of about 750,000 units.

Toyota and other automakers have been forced to curb production due to a shortage of semiconductors, which are used in a wide range of products such as automobiles, air conditioners and smartphones, as demand has increased on the back of accelerating digitalization.

Honda's global output slipped 54.2 per cent on its slower production in China. Mazda Motor Corp and Nissan Motor Co also saw declines of 49.9 per cent and 26.5 per cent, respectively.

In contrast, Subaru Corp's worldwide output grew 63.3 per cent last month for the first rise in three months.

That of Daihatsu Motor Co. accelerated 4.1 per cent, lifted by increasing production in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Cars bound for shipment are seen parked at Kawasaki Port, in Kawasaki on 18 May 2022.
PHILIP FONG / AFP

Toyota said its global sales in April dropped 11.1 per cent from a year earlier to 763,708 vehicles, declining for the eighth straight month.

Its sales in Japan sank 16.8 per cent to 103,143 units, including those of minivehicles, while its domestic output fell 9.0 per cent to 243,425 vehicles in the reporting month.

Toyota's overseas sales fell 10.2 per cent to 660,565 vehicles, while output declined 9.1 per cent to 448,834 units.

By region, Toyota's sales in China plunged 30.7 per cent to 111,134 vehicles on weakening demand following a COVID-19 lockdown in Shanghai. Output in the country dived 33.8 per cent to 93,297 units, affected by a plant closure in Changchun.

In North America, sales fell 19.7 per cent to 218,837 vehicles in April from a year earlier, while production dropped 7.1 per cent to 153,154 units, also impacted by the shortage of components. —Kyodo

Thailand's Kasikornbank to buy majority stake in Indonesia firm

ONE of Thailand's largest banks bought a $220 million majority stake in Indonesia's Bank Maspion on Monday.

The deal will give Kasikornbank, the kingdom's second-largest lender by assets, 67.5 per cent of Maspion's shares and is expected to be finalized by the end of the year, the Thai lender said in a message to the Stock Exchange of Thailand.

It comes as Thailand looks for investment abroad with the local economy stagnating under low interest rates and burdensome household debt.

Indonesia — the region's biggest economy — is a particular target, with the largest commercial firm and rival Bangkok Bank snapping up a $2.28 billion stake in Bank Permata two years ago. The latest deal will allow Kasikornbank to establish a more permanent foothold in Indonesia, following a 2017 decision to invest $20 million for 10 per cent of Bank Maspion.—AFP

CHANGING THE NAME OF PESTICIDE TRADE NAME

Myanma Shwe Nagar Agricultural Group Co.,Ltd brand pesticide which are registered under pesticide registration Board of Myanmar. Myanma Shwe Nagar Agricultural Group Co.,Ltd is now would like to change its product trade name as mentioned below. Any objection regarding to this trade name change can notify to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within a period of fourteen (14)days from the publication of this notice.

No	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type And Number
1.	Gong Wei	Yan Paing	Lambda-cyhalothrin 2.5% EC	Full F 2016-1174

Myanma Shwe Nagar Agricultural Group Co.,Ltd
No-402, U Phoe Hlaing St, Shwe Lin Pan Industrial Zone,
Hlaing Thar Yar Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar.
Ph - 09 452264311

Norwegian to buy 50 Boeing 737 MAX, option for 30 more

LOW-COST carrier Norwegian Air Shuttle said Monday it would buy 50 Boeing 737 MAX 8 planes, in another boost for the crisis-hit US aircraft after two deadly crashes.

The 50 new aircraft will be delivered between 2025 and 2028, or around the same time that Norwegian's aircraft leasing deals come to an end, and the contract includes an option for 30 more, the company said in a statement.

The order is welcome news for the US manufacturer's flagship Boeing 737 MAX 8, which was grounded for 20 months following two fatal accidents and has been gradually returning to service since late 2020.

Norwegian and Boeing have meanwhile been locked in a legal battle for several years, with the Norwegian carrier launching legal proceedings against the US giant for compensation following setbacks related to its 737 MAX and 787 Dreamliner long-range jets.

The low-cost airline did not say Monday whether the order was part of any dispute resolution.—AFP

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER NO.1/2022-2023

(1) Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, No.(1) Mining Enterprise Invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender with United State Dollars (USD) (or) Chinese Yuan (CNY) which is the equivalent of USD for serial (a) and United State Dollars (USD) (or) Myanmar Kyats which is the equivalent of USD for serial (b) -

(a) Cathode Copper (5000)M/T

(1)Lot (1000) Tonnes each, 5 Lot Monywa, Mine Site

Base price of Cathode Copper shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the L.M.E price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses) shall be winning tender.

(b) Smelter Slag (50000)M/T

(1)Lot (10000) Tonnes each, 5 Lot Namtu Site

(2) Tender Closing Date and Time is 15th June, 2022 (13:00) hrs and Opening Tender (15:00)PM.

(3) Tender documents are available from the Procurement Department, No.(1) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No.(19), Nay Pyi Taw and details can be asked to +95-(0)67-3409162 and +95-(0)67-3409012 within the office hours.

Tender Committee
No.(1) Mining Enterprise

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 21 VOY.NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 21 VOY. NO. (-)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **31-5-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** 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.

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

China to build new platforms for cooperation with Pacific island countries

Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (L) and Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama attend a joint press conference in Fiji's capital city Suva. **PHOTO: AFP**

VISITING Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Monday that China is willing to build new platforms for cooperation with Pacific island countries in such fields as tackling climate change, poverty alleviation, development, disaster prevention and mitigation.

Wang made the remarks at a joint press conference with Fijian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Voreqe Bainimarama after their meeting.

He said the Chinese side is willing to make consistent efforts to build the China-Pacific Island Countries Reserve of Emergency Supplies, and the centres on tackling climate change, poverty alleviation and development, agricultural cooperation, disaster prevention and mitigation, and Juncao technology, so as to constantly inject impetus into the cooperation between China and Pacific island countries.

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties, China and the Pacific island countries have seen bilateral cooperation expand constantly, covering over 20 fields including trade and investment, marine environment, disaster prevention and mitigation, poverty reduction and health care, Wang said.

In addition, China has become an important trading partner and source of investment to the Pacific island countries, he said, citing a 13-per-cent annual growth from 1992 to 2021 in China's trade volume with the island countries.

The investments by Chinese enterprises in the Pacific island countries have surpassed 20 billion US dollars in total, and China has helped build infrastructure facilities such as roads, bridges, docks, hospitals, schools and stadiums, Wang said.— Xinhua

Israel warns citizens against travelling to Turkey over Iran attack concerns

ISRAEL on Monday warned Israelis not to travel to Turkey, citing Iranian threats of revenge for the assassination of a senior Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) officer last week.

Israel's National Security Council Counter-Terrorism Bureau said in an update that Teheran might be looking to attack Israeli tourists in Turkey, making it "a country that currently has a high level of risk for Israelis".

The warning stems from "a tangible threat to Israelis in Turkey," the bureau said, adding that there is also "a higher threat level" in additional countries bordering Iran. "There is increasing concern in the security establishment regarding Iranian efforts to attack Israeli targets around the world," the statement read. Iran has accused Israel of the killing of Hassan Sayyad Khodaei, an IRGC colonel, and vowed to avenge his death. Khodaei was shot and killed last Sunday by two motorcyclists in Tehran. — Xinhua

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Two injured in blast in Ukraine's Russia-controlled Melitopol

TWO people were injured following an explosion in the Moscow-controlled city of Melitopol in southeastern Ukraine, local pro-Kremlin authorities said on Monday, pinning the blame on Kyiv.

Russian troops took control of the city in the Zaporizhzhia region in the early days of Moscow's military campaign in Ukraine but were met with fierce resistance from residents.

"This morning there was a terrorist attack aimed at destabilizing the peaceful life of the city," Melitopol's Russia-installed authorities said on Telegram.

According to the statement, a car packed with explosives exploded in the city centre, injuring two "humanitarian aid" volunteers, a 28-year-old woman and a 25-year-old man.

"The Ukrainian government continues its war on the civilian population and the infrastructure of cities," the statement said, adding that an investigation was underway.

Clouds of black smoke were visible in the city on Monday morning. The blast shook the windows and walls of nearby buildings, Vladimir Rogov, a Russia-appointed official in Melitopol, said on Telegram.

Some reports suggested that the blast took place near the area where the Russia-installed head of the Zaporizhzhia region, Yevgeny Balitsky, lives.

Last week, the Moscow-appointed mayor of Enerhodar, another city in the Zaporizhzhia region under Russian control, was injured in an explosion. — AFP

Russia says five dead in strikes on Donetsk in eastern Ukraine

Ukrainian servicemen walk next to a destroyed military vehicle in the village of Rus'ka Lozova, north of Kharkiv, on 28 May 2022, amid Russian invasion of Ukraine. **PHOTO : AFP**

AT least five people died following strikes on civilian infrastructure in Ukraine's separatist-controlled city of Donetsk, Russian investigators said Monday, claiming the attack was carried out by Kyiv's forces.

"On 30 May, Ukrainian security forces shelled the centre of the city of Donetsk. According to preliminary information, five civilians were killed, including a teenager born in 2009," Russia's Investigative Committee said as quoted by Russian news agencies.

It added 16 people were injured in the attack that damaged three schools.

Donetsk is the de-facto capital of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region that borders Russia.

Before sending troops into Ukraine, Russia recognized the independence of the DNR and neighbouring Lugansk People's Republic (LNR), another pro-Russian breakaway region.

Kyiv has been locked in conflict with Kremlin-backed separatists in the two breakaway regions since 2014.

Authorities in the DNR said on Telegram that two apartment blocks and three schools were hit in the attack, accusing Kyiv of using artillery and rockets with cluster munitions.—AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Race to save undersea Stone Age cave art masterpieces

TO reach the only place in the world where cave paintings of prehistoric marine life have been found, archaeologists have to dive to the bottom of the Mediterranean off southern France.

Then they have to negotiate a 137-metre (yard) natural tunnel into the rock, passing through the mouth of the cave until they emerge into a huge cavern, much of it now submerged.

Three men died trying to discover this "underwater Lascaux" as rumours spread of a cave to match the one in southwestern France that completely changed the way we see our Stone Age ancestors.

Lascaux — which Picasso visited in 1940 — proved the urge to make art is as old as humanity itself.

Archaeologist Luc Vanrell's life changed the second he surfaced inside the Cosquer cavern and saw its staggering images. Even now, 30 years on, he remembers the "aesthetic shock".

But the cave and its treasures, some dating back more than 30,000 years, are in grave danger. Climate change and water and plastic pollution are threatening to wash away the art prehistoric men and women created over 15 millennia.

Since a sudden 12-centimetre (near-five-inch) rise in the sea level there in 2011, Vanrell and his colleagues have been in a race against time to record everything they can.

Every year the high water mark rises a few more millimetres, eating away a little more of the ancient paintings and carvings.

(FILES) In this file photo taken on 23 November 2021 workers look at pictures on the site of the Cosquer cave replica at the Villa Mediterranee in Marseille, southern France. The Villa Mediterranee will host a restitution of the submerged cave and its paintings, dated between 33,000 and 19,000 years ago. French professional diver Henri Cosquer discovered the underwater Cosquer cave in 1985 in the Calanques of Marseille. **PHOTO: AFP**

Prehistoric wonders

Vanrell and the diver-archaeologists he leads are having to work faster and faster to explore the last corners of the 2,500 square metre (27,000 square feet) grotto to preserve a trace of its neolithic wonders before they are lost.

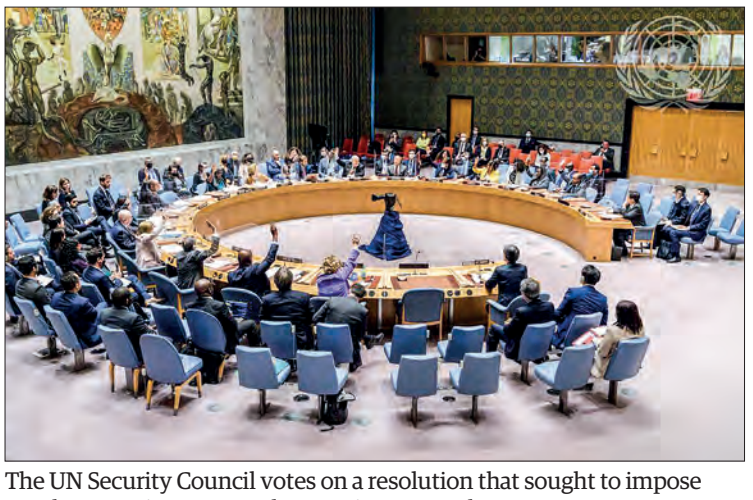
An almost life-sized recreation of the Cosquer cavern will open this week a few kilometres (miles) away in Marseille.

AFP joined the dive team earlier this year as they raced to finish the digital mapping for a 3D reconstruction of the cave.

Around 600 signs, images and carvings — some of aquatic life never before seen in cave paintings — have been found on the walls of the immense cave 37 metres below the azure waters of the breathtaking Calanques inlets east of Marseille.

"We fantasized about bringing the cave to the surface," said diver Bertrand Chazaly, who is in charge of the operation to digitalise the cave. —AFP

G-7 deeply regrets UN failure to adopt new sanctions on N Korea



The UN Security Council votes on a resolution that sought to impose tougher sanctions on North Korea in New York on 26 May 2022. China and Russia vetoed the resolution. (Photo courtesy of the United Nations) **PHOTO: KYODO**

FOREIGN ministers from the Group of Seven major developed nations said Monday they "deeply regret" failure by the UN Security Council to impose tougher sanctions on North Korea following its latest missile test, indirectly rebuking China and Russia, two of the five permanent members, for vetoing a draft resolution.

In a statement, the ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States plus the European Union "condemn in the strongest terms" Pyongyang's test-firing of an intercontinental ballistic missile last Wednesday, an act they say "undermines international peace and security".

It was the first rejection of a UN Security Council resolution aimed at preventing North Korea from developing nuclear weapons and missiles since 2006 when the first sanctions were adopted. The other 13 Security Council members voted for it.— Kyodo

Japanese consumers face hefty price hikes amid surge in raw material costs

FOOD and drink manufacturers in Japan are passing on costs to consumers under the pressure of higher raw material costs, with thousands of products subject to an average of a 12 per cent price hike, local media said Monday.

According to Credit research firm Teikoku Databank, of 105 major food and drink manufacturers polled in May, around 60 per cent of them have raised or plan to raise their prices this year.

The survey revealed that compared to a similar poll conducted in April, 2,000 more items will be affected by the price hikes, bringing the latest total to 8,385 items.

Teikoku Databank said that price hikes will average an increase of 12 per cent, although processed foods including cup noodles, ham and frozen foods will be marked up by an average of 13 per cent due to higher prices for wheat and cooking oil.—Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

31 rescued, 11 still missing after Indonesia ferry sinks

THIRTY-ONE people have been rescued and 11 are still missing after a ferry ran out of fuel and sank in bad weather off the coast of Indonesia, an official said Monday.

Local tugboats and fishermen brought many of the survivors ashore after the KM Ladang Pertiwi sank while sailing through the Makassar strait in South Sulawesi province on Thursday.

"Until now 31 people have been rescued alive and we are still looking for 11 more people who are still missing," head of local search and rescue team Djunaidi, who like some Indonesians goes by only one name, told AFP on Monday.

"They have returned home now and they are generally in good health," he added. Rescuers have deployed a helicopter and extended the search area to 20 nautical miles from where the boat sank in the search for the missing, Djunaidi said. —AFP

21 bodies found at crash site of Nepali plane

TWENTY-ONE bodies have been recovered from the crash site of a Nepali passenger plane in a remote hilly area in Nepal's Mustang district, a local government official said on Monday.

"Twenty-one dead bodies have been recovered while one remains missing," Netra Prasad Sharma, chief district official of Mustang, told Xinhua.

Ten bodies have been sent to Kathmandu in a helicopter, the official said. The Twin Otter plane went missing on Sunday morning minutes after it took off from the Nepali city of Pokhara for Jomsom in Mustang district. The Nepal Army, which is leading the search and rescue effort, found the crash site on Monday morning.

Nineteen passengers, among them 13 Nepalis, four Indians and two Germans, were aboard the plane along with three crew members, said Tara Air, the operator of the flight.

Indra Singh Sherchan, a hotelier at the crash site, said the site is located at 4,100 metres above sea level and the bodies were scattered here and there on the cliff.—Xinhua

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

China to build new platforms for cooperation with Pacific island countries

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Goalkeeper Phone Thitsa Min joins Yangon United

YOUNG Myanmar goalkeeper Phone Thitsa Min has joined Yangon United, according to the team statement.

"We are delighted to announce that former Shan United goalkeeper Phone Thitsa Min has signed a contract till the end of season 2022," team officials said.

Phone Thitsa Min was born in Yangon, he joined the Nay Pyi Taw academy in 2012 and progressed through the aged groups of Myanmar National youth teams.

The 24-year-old goalkeeper stepped into his professional career by joining Shan United (U-20) in 2016 and was part of the team holding up the Champions title. Then he made his senior debut with Shan United and won the Charity Cup and Myanmar National League for two consecutive years, said an official.

"This is the team which is based in my hometown, Yangon, and one of the greatest teams in Myanmar. I am interested to play and want to have my record with this great team. Moreover, I would like to thank our president and team officials and I will do my best for the team," the young goalkeeper said. — GNLM

PHOTO: PHONE THITSA MIN

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.

Djokovic braced to deliver Nadal hammer blow at French Open

NOVAK Djokovic renews his epic 16-year rivalry with Rafael Nadal at the French Open on Tuesday with a semi-final spot at stake and where victory could end the 13-time champion's Roland Garros career.

Nadal, who will turn 36 on Friday, puts his record of 109 wins and just three losses in Paris, since his title-winning debut in 2005, on the line against the defending champion.

The Spaniard was taken to five sets for only the third time in his tournament history by 21-year-old Felix Auger-Aliassime in the fourth round.

In the immediate aftermath of that victory, Nadal admitted that not only was this year's French Open at stake for him but possibly his entire playing future.

"I know my situation, and I accept it. I can't complain much," said Nadal, who arrived in Paris unsure if he would be able to take part after suffering a recurrence in Rome of a chronic foot injury which has plagued him for large parts of his career.

"I am just enjoying the fact that I am here for one more year. And being honest, every match that I play here, I don't know if it's going to be my last at Roland Garros.

"I went through a tough process again with my foot, so I don't know what can happen in the near future."

Overall, Djokovic leads Nadal 30-28 since their first career meeting at the 2006 French Open.

Nadal has a 19-8 edge on clay and has won seven of the pair's nine meetings in Paris.

Djokovic, however, came out on top in the semi-finals at Roland Garros in 2021 on his way to a second title.—AFP

Myanmar's team placed in Group B of ASEAN Women's Championship

Myanmar's Win Theingi Tun (white) attempts to clear the ball against Vietnamese player during their SEA Games semifinal match in Viet Nam on 18 May 2022. **PHOTO:VFF**

THE drawing-lots ceremony for the group stage of the 2022 ASEAN Women's Championship was held on 28 May, and the Myanmar team was placed in Group B.

Eleven members of the ASEAN Football Federation will compete in the tournament, which is the largest number in the ASEAN Women's Football history.

Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysian and Australia are placed in the group A of Championship while Myanmar is falling in the Group B with ASEAN powerhouse Viet Nam, Timor-Leste, Laos and Cambodia.

The tournament will be hosted by the Philippines from 4 to 17 July.

The ASEAN Women's Championships could not be held in 2020 and 2021 due to the Coronavirus pandemic, and will resume this year.

The Myanmar team has no difficulty in reaching the semi-finals in the group stage, but in the semi-finals, it is likely to face Thailand or Australia or the Philippines.

The Myanmar team won the championships in 2004 and 2007, but after that they were unsuccessful and satisfied with the second highest.

The Myanmar team has stopped training after the Vietnam SEA Games in May and will soon be training for the ASEAN Women's Games, football authorities said.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM