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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 Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing plants star-flower sapling at pre-monsoon tree planting ceremony as 2022 environmental greening activity

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the 2022 environmental greening activity at No (13) Yan Aung Myin forest reserve in Lewe Township of Dekkhina District in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, the Senior General said the 2022 monsoon tree plantation ceremony is held to ensure the sustainability of forest resources, conserve the ecosystem and mobilize the public to participate in forest conservation activities.

Every citizen should participate in natural environmental conservation in the nation according to the stipulations under Section 45 of the Constitution and Section 390 mentioned in the Chapter on Citizen, Fundamental Rights and Duties of the Citizen.

Conserving the forest and trees is also important for the proper ecosystem and sustainable development of the country and so it should be carried out as a national-level task.

Although the previous tree planting events were held only in June and July, they were conducted starting in May this year. The events should be held across the nation.

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State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing leads in the pre-monsoon tree planting ceremony along with a student at No 13 Yan Aung Myin forest reserve block in Lewe Township of Dekkhina District in Nay Pyi Taw on 31 May 2022.

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Announcement of Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

2nd Waxing of Nayon 1384 ME
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AS it is necessary to continuously control infection of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), it is hereby announced that public requests, orders, notifications and directives (except for easing the restrictions) released by the Union-level organizations and Union ministries up to 31 May 2022 have been extended until 30 June 2022 for prevention, control and treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Statement released
on terrorist bombing
of two-storey
Education Office in
Nawngkhio

THE two-storey auditorium of the Education Office in Nawngkhio Township, northern Shan State was bombed by a terrorist group and its affiliates on 31 May 2022.

The blast severely injured three heads of primary schools and injured one Township Assistant Education Officer, four teachers and one staff.

The injured were taken to a military hospital in PyinOoLwin for treatment, and a headmistress died of her injuries.

Yesterday, the Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA (Central), the Interfaith Friendship and Solidarity Group (Central) and the Myanmar Comedians Association (Central) have issued statements strongly condemning the terrorist actions. — MNA

Young Men's Buddhist
Association-YMBA (Central)
Statement

2nd Waxing of Nayon 1384 ME
31 May 2022

1. The government is arranging to open the basic education schools on 2 June and is making efforts to accept enrollment and provide school uniforms and stationery.
2. In doing so, we have learned that the two-storey meeting hall of the Nawngkhio Township Education Office in Shan State (North) was reportedly bombed by a terrorist group called NUG and its affiliates, PDF, at around 2 pm on 31 May 2022. Three school heads were seriously injured in the blast. Four teachers and school heads, including the Assistant Township Education Officer, and one civil servant were injured. They were taken to the military hospital in PyinOoLwin for treatment, and a headmistress died of her injuries.
3. The Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA (Central) strongly condemns this act of vandalism.

Executive Committee
Young Men's Buddhist Association-YMBA (Central)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Interfaith Friendship and
Solidarity Group (Central)

2nd Waxing of Nayon 1384 ME
31 May 2022

1. The government is striving for the stability and socio-economic development of the country and is also making efforts to open the basic education schools on 2 June.
2. While the government is working to ensure that the education of our children is not delayed, the NUG terrorist group and its affiliate PDF terrorists bombed the two-storey meeting hall of the Nawngkhio Township Education Office in Shan State (North) at around 2 pm yesterday.
3. In the incident, three heads of basic education primary schools, four school heads and teachers, including the Assistant Township Education Officer, and a civilian were injured and the injured were taken to the military hospital in PyinOoLwin for treatment. A headmistress died of her injuries.
4. The Interfaith Friendship and Solidarity Group (Central) strongly condemns such acts of violence against education personnel.

Executive Committee
Interfaith Friendship and Solidarity Group (Central)

Myanmar Press Council
Statement 3/2022

31 May 2022, Tuesday

1. This is the time that the government is arranging for students to study happily by designating the enrolment week in all basic education schools across the country.
2. However, organizations which want to disrupt the stability of the country are bombing schools and public places, and the people are suffering from the unfortunate news of casualties of innocent people, students and education personnel.
3. As education is a key foundation for the development of the nation, we declare and oppose any organization that disrupts safe and secure education and destroys the lives of innocent people.

Myanmar Press Council

Statement of the Myanmar
Comedians Association (Central)

2nd Waxing of Nayon 1384 ME
31 May 2022

1. We have learned that the two-storey meeting hall of the Nawngkhio Township Education Office in Shan State (North) was reportedly bombed by a terrorist group called NUG and its affiliate PDF on 31 May 2022.
2. Three primary school heads were seriously injured in the blast. Four teachers and school heads, including the Assistant Township Education Officer, and one civil servant were injured. They were taken to the military hospital in PyinOoLwin for treatment, and a headmistress died of her injuries.
3. The Myanmar Comedians Association (Central) strongly condemns this act of vandalism.

Myanmar Comedians Association (Central)

Myanmar Music Association
(Central)
Statement

2nd Waxing of Nayon 1384 ME
31 May 2022

WE have learned that the two-storey meeting hall of the Nawngkhio Township Education Office in Shan State (North) was reportedly bombed by a terrorist group called NUG and its subordinate PDF terrorists on 31 May 2022.

The blast left three heads of basic education primary schools seriously injured and four school heads and teachers and one civilian service personnel including an Assistant Township Education Officer wounded. Those injured were taken to the military hospital in PyinOoLwin for treatment, and a headmistress died of her injuries.

The Myanmar Music Association (Central) strongly condemns this act of vandalism.

Myanmar Music Association (Central)

10 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 31 May, total figure rises to 613,336

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 613,336 after 10 new cases were reported on 31 May 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 592,303 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 19,434 without more casualties.—MNA

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing plants star-flower sapling at pre-monsoon tree planting ceremony ...

FROM PAGE-1

The forest, trees and forest ecosystem provide the forest products and manage the climate changes. Moreover, they also prevent from occurring soil erosion and other natural disasters and bring a lot of benefits such as environmental-related services and benefits.

The Senior General also added that proper tree planting techniques should be adapted in growing trees to achieve the full survival of trees.

Being a developing country, the people still use firewood and charcoal. 70 per cent of the population live in rural areas and they mainly rely on the forest for the firewood. It was already instructed to implement two acres of village firewood planation at least in regions and states. It was estimated to grow 23,973,051 plants in 28,715 acres of state-owned forest area in the 2021 monsoon and to grow about 20 million plants in 24,269 acres this year.

The government also implemented systematic forest rings on both sides of roads to green the environment and offer a pleasant travelling experience. In 2021, a total of 278,573 plants were grown in 663 road sections and it is estimated to grow more than 250,000 plants in 859 road sections in the 2022 monsoon period.

According to a 2000 report issued by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 51.54 per cent of the country was covered in the forest while 46.96 per



The Senior General is seen throwing water at the sapling.

cent in 2010, 42.92 per cent in 2015 and 42.19 per cent in 2020. The figures showed declining forest coverage in the country.

The Senior General then highlighted the consequences of deforestation.

The Senior General said tree plantation and forest implementation works are being conducted in a good drive and the timber production was suspended in the mini-budget term of the 2021-

2022FY and the 2022-2023FY. It aims to accelerate natural forest conservation activities. Moreover, the logs and sawn timbers are banned from exporting and only the finished products are allowed.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is the capital city of the country and the officials make efforts to be Green City, Clean City and Smart City as well as a model for other regions/states.



The Vice-Senior General is pictured pouring water on the sapling.

All the doings are aimed not only for the country but also for the new generations to hand over a fine eternal heritage like pleasant, green, healthy, fun, developing and clean urban cities.

The Senior General called on the ethnic people and local/foreign organizations to work with the government while conserving the reserve resources of the country by reducing the exploration of natural resources, making efforts to reduce climate changes, ensuring the sustainability of state-owned forests, establishing village firewood-plantation and development of mangroves in coastal regions as a national task as well as to create greening Myanmar land area by holding tree-planting events across the nation.

Then, the Senior General grew the star-flower plant and the Vice-Senior General grew the ironwood tree at No 1 plot of Yan Aung Myin forest reserve block (13).

The SAC Members, Secretary and Joint-Secretary, Chief Justice of Union, UEC Chairman, Union Ministers, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers and officials and attendees also grew saplings

at the designated places.

The Senior General also planted Yinma sapling and the Vice-Senior General planted Pan Mezali sapling at the No (2) plot of Yan Aung Myin forest reserve block (13).

Then, the attendees grew the saplings at the designated places.

A total of 2,739 saplings of 35 species were grown at the event.

In 2022, it is estimated to implement 2 acres of village firewood plantation in each village and grow 30.57 million saplings.

According to the statement of FAO in 2020, only 49.19 per cent of the land area was covered by forest and so the government promoted the state-owned forest plantation area to ensure the forest coverage and meet the wood demands. The 10-year MRRP from the 2016-2017FY to the 2025-2026FY was also drafted. Based on the programme, the teak, ironwood, gun-kino, pine trees and more than 42,000 acres of watershed and mangrove plantations were established and there were 22,000 acres in the 2018-2019FY. If the commercial plantation is well conserved, it can produce wood for local demand without affecting natural forests. — MNA



The pre-monsoon tree planting event in action.

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)

Efforts were made to minimize the casualties as much as possible in performing the counterattacks to terror acts: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the meeting 4/2022 of the Union government in Nay Pyi Taw on 31 May 2022.

AS the emphasis is being placed on the formation of the districts in the administrative machinery, important departments should open their offices in the newly-formed districts and self-administered division and zones, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting 4/2022 of the Union government at the SAC Chairman Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Efforts for ensuring peace and stability

In his speech, the Senior General said efforts were made to minimize the casualties as much as possible in performing the counterattacks to terror acts. Some security personnel and innocent people lost lives in the terror acts. Now, the country is in tranquility.

Control of COVID-19 pandemic

Till 30 May, Myanmar has examined more than eight million people and found 613,326 people as infected persons. Among them, 19,434 people lost their lives. Now, the infection rate declines to 0.16 per cent in Myanmar. The Senior General expressed thanks to China, India, Thailand, Russia and Malaysia for their aid as showing the friendly relations.

Enhancement of the education sector

This academic year, efforts are being made to reopen the basic education schools which have admitted enrolment of more than 4.9 million students with more plans for enrolment of further students. Universities and colleges in the higher education sector are in operation to allow the learning of students. The government will fulfil the needs of students to peacefully learn education.

Need for a booming economy and increasing products for the development of the State

The Senior General said State-owned factories cannot manufacture quality products due to the use of old machinery, late technologies, less operating capacity, and a lesser volume of inputs. The government is carrying out the development tasks of the nation by spending its earnings. It is necessary to scrutinize the efficiently spending of the fund under the rules and regulations if necessary. Due to some requirements for trading of the State, restrictions were posed for importing some goods. But arrangements were made not to be a shortage of fuel and edible oil despite high prices in the world market.

Some regions and states are endowed with raw materials to produce steel and cement for the construction of the buildings. If it

Some regions and states are endowed with raw materials to produce steel and cement for the construction of the buildings. If it can establish small-scale industrial zones for the production of cement for construction tasks based on these raw materials, it will fulfil the regional development, benefiting the relevant regions.

can establish small-scale industrial zones for the production of cement for construction tasks based on these raw materials, it will fulfil the regional development, benefiting the relevant regions.

Need for development of relevant regions, land utilization and raising productivity

Regarding regional development, land utilization and raising productivity, the Senior General said: “I have told chief ministers one month ago.

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Efforts were made to minimize the casualties as much ...

FROM PAGE-4

If they utilize their land and natural resources to increase production, it will contribute much to the State. So, I emphasize resources. We have water and land resources. We have cultivable lands and the lands for livestock farms. So, I held a separate meeting for the development of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area recently. I told those present to fully utilize the land. For example, we have some 33 million sown acres in addition to 48 million acres of mixed and double cropping lands. So, some 15 million acres of land are used for single crops and the remaining are for the mixed and double cropping plants. If we try to cultivate double crops on 15 million acres of land, the volume of agricultural produce will double. Although it may be impossible, the actual work can bring good results. So, we have to manage land, quality strains and water for farmers. These products

can be used in livestock farms. It will be feedstuffs. Agricultural products will come out. If cattle farming achieves success, many businesses based on agriculture and livestock farms can be operated in regions and states. If industries are operated, they require electricity. If region and state authorities strive for generating electricity on their own without taking electricity from national grids, these productions can be operated in the electricity generating areas. If they operate productions for livestock and agricultural products, industries and industrial zones will come out in regions and states. It is just a potential way for production. I don't tell any impossibility. It will be the best that regions and states need to put investments in businesses in their areas without hoping for the investments from a far distance in order to manufacture the domestic products. I have told it once in Patheingyi. While

inspecting Patheingyi industrial zone, I heard a report inviting foreign companies to operate garment factories there. So, I said it may be possible. But, you have rice mills there. You grow beans. So, you should try hard to produce value-added products. You need to cultivate vegetables and operate livestock farms and then manufacture value-added products, so these businesses will contribute much to the State. So, these projects must be implemented by region and state authorities.”
Need for improvement in the sports sector

The Senior General continued to say that Myanmar stood in 7th position in the XXXI SEA Games. The Senior General said he himself met with athletes bound for the SEA Games. It was found that those athletes poured out utmost efforts in the competitions of the games. In reviewing the records of the games for three years, this year's result

is better than previous ones. In the XXXI SEA Games, 287 athletes bagged nine gold, 18 silver and 35 bronzes, totalling 62 in 20 sports events. Despite the fewer number of athletes than in previous years, their achievements gained progress. Sports are the prestige in a country. To improve the standard of sports, the countries with monetary assistance, encouragement and prevalence of peace and stability based on security and political trends secure a bigger win than Myanmar.

It can be found that athletes are weak in physical strength and physical development. So, it is necessary to repair the supply of food for them. It is necessary to prepare the job opportunities and guarantee for their lives.

Union ministers submitted reports on their respective sectors.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General pointed out the establishment of government technical institutes, technological colleges and technolog-

ical universities in regions and states. Regions and states need to establish vocational training schools. Relevant ministries need to arrange further learning for students from these schools to pursue university education. Provisions of the national education law are being reviewed to amend something if necessary, not to mix education with politics. Students can learn political science at the university but they are not allowed to mix education with politics. If they wish to engage in politics, they need to join the political field.

As the emphasis is being placed on the formation of the district in the administrative machinery, important departments should open their offices in the newly-formed districts and self-administered division and zones. The ministries relating to the international organizations need to prioritize discussions on the education sector and human resource development measures. — MNA

UEC inspects Kayah State Democratic Party under Election Commission Law

THE Union Election Commission looked into the political parties whether they conducted systematically for the membership of the parties, party funds and property, savings, maintenance, usage, audition and liquidation and parties' procedures under the Union Election Law Section 10 (1) "supervising, causing to supervise and guiding the political parties to carry out under

the law."

The inspection team included the officials of the Kayah State Auditor-General Office, the Internal Revenue Department and the Bureau of Special Investigation led by UEC member U Khin Maung Oo conducted inspections on Kayah State-based Kayah State Democratic Party between 27 and 29 May in Loileik Township of Kayah State. — MNA



Assistant Senior Auditors Fresher Course 1/2022 closed

THE closing ceremony of Fresher Course No 1/2022 for Assistant Senior Auditors was held at 2 pm

on 30 May at the Assembly Hall of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw

in line with COVID-19 rules and regulations.

At the ceremony, Prof Dr Kan Zaw, the Union Auditor-General, delivered an address that aims to understand proficiently the essential basic subjects for start-up new staff and train them theoretically and practically; he believed that learning from the training can be applied in their fieldwork, as the staff of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union are auditors who conduct auditing whether the activities implemented with the public fund in the public sector are actually and efficiently ob-

tained by the public; therefore, staff need to meet the required skills, knowledge and profession as well as try to apply the International Standards of Auditing in changing era. As auditing is a process performed with teamwork, the team members should cooperate by following leaders and need to build a good relationship with mutual respect in communication with departments and organizations.

Then he mentioned that trainees who are civil servants should try to be faithful to the nation, follow the law, rules, and regulations exactly in their re-

spective roles, and become good civil servants who perform their work dutifully while following ethics.

During the training for three weeks face to face, each from Head Office and Union Territory, and 38 trainees from Regions and States, a total of 40 trainees attended.

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



Re-invitation for basic education staff who are absent from duties

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

Invitation to basic education staff absent from duties extended

THE Information Team Committee of the State Administration Council invited teachers and education staff who have been absent due to intimidation, participation in protests, and travel difficulties and concerns to report to the nearest Township Education Offices before 31-5-2022 so as to resume their teaching duties.

To date, 2,482 teachers have contacted there.

For teachers who wish to report but are unable to report within the deadline due to transport and other difficulties, the reporting deadline has been extended to 7-6-2022.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Government's Peace Talks Team meets delegation led by Vice-Chairman of United Wa State Party (UWSP)



The meeting between the government Peace Talks Team and the delegation led by the UWSP vice-chair is in progress.

cil Member National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Chairman Union Minister for Government Office (1) Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, in his capacity as the leader of the Peace Talks Team, SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung, Vice-Chairman of the United Wa State Party (UWSP) U Lau Yaku, deputy head of the External Relations Division U Pauk Aik Kaw and In-charge of the Lashio Liaison Office of the External Relations Division U Nyi Yan.

During the talks, Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and UWSP Vice-Chairman U Lau Yaku made greeting speeches.

They then discussed peace and development-related matters. The discussion will be continued on 1 June. — MNA

THE discussion between the government's Peace Talks Team and the delegation led by the vice-chairman of the United Wa State Party (UWSP) was organized in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. The meeting was attended by State Administration Council

LOCAL BUSINESS

Domestic, foreign demand drive broken rice price up

THE prices of broken rice are moving upwards on account of the strong demand by domestic and foreign traders, said U Than Oo, secretary of Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre.

“The competitive buying of exporters and domestic alcoholic beverage manufacturers and feed industries hiked the price up. The price gap between rice and broken rice is only K200-300 per bag,” U Than Oo elaborated.

At present, the prices of broken rice moved in the range of K27,000-K30,000 per 108-pound basket. The price of broken rice is not that much different from the price of low-quality rice which is exported to foreign markets.

Additionally, approximately

600,000 bags of rice and broken rice are daily flowing into Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre. Half of them are broken rice, U Than Oo continued.

Last April, Myanmar exported over 170,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners, with an estimated value of US\$58.933 million.

Of them, \$15.627 million worth over 50,530 tonnes of broken rice were shipped through sea trade Myanmar delivered \$0.598 million worth of 1,940 tonnes of broken rice to neighbouring countries via cross border trade, with 1,620 tonnes to China and 320 tonnes to Thailand.

Myanmar conveyed about 18,200 tonnes of broken rice to



Workers are packing the export rice.

China, 30,600 to Belgium, 1,000 to Lithuania, 500 to Poland, 180 to Singapore and 50 to Germany respectively last month.

Moreover, Myanmar sent \$41.298 million worth over

119,260 tonnes of rice to the external market via sea trade, while \$1.410 million worth of 4,180 tonnes of rice were exported to China via the cross-border channel.

Rice export volume accounts for 26,940 tonnes to countries in Asia, 49,720 to European Union member countries and 42,600 to countries in Africa.

Myanmar exported rice primarily to Ivory Coast (10,000 tonnes), Cameroon (9,000 tonnes), Angola (15,000 tonnes), Madagascar (8,500 tonnes), China (14,300 tonnes), the Philippines (12,200 tonnes), Sri Lanka (250 tonnes) and Hong Kong SAR (180 tonnes) in Asia.

The country shipped rice to EU member countries; Poland (8,800 tonnes), Lithuania (8,200 tonnes), Italy (8,690 tonnes), Spain (15,180 tonnes), Bulgaria (7,750 tonnes) and Belgium (700 tonnes) respectively. — NN/GNLM

Mandalay Region Agriculture Dept to add 7,606 more acres of sugarcane in 2022-2023FY



The projected acres are 606 in Madaya, 4,000 in Singu, 1,000 in Thabeikkyin and 2,000 in Tagaung, totalling 7,606 acres.

THE Mandalay Region Agriculture Department targets to cultivate 7,606 new acres of sugarcane in four townships of Mandalay Region in the 2022-2023 Financial Year.

The pedigree sugarcane variety will be distributed to the growers in four townships in PyinOoLwin District. The projected acres are 606 in Madaya, 4,000 in Singu, 1,000 in Thabeikkyin and 2,000 in Tagaung, totalling 7,606 acres, said Daw Khaing Mo Mo Zin, deputy officer of the Mandalay Region Agriculture Department.

“Sugarcane likes moist soil. It has disorders with temperature extremes. It’s cultivated in November and December. The department demonstrated model farming acres and on-farm

trials to distribute pedigreed varieties. It also connects the growers with the sugar mills to adopt a contract farming system which helps the growers provide agricultural inputs.

Sugarcane is a lucrative crop if systematically grown. So I like to suggest the growers choose sugarcane crops. Technical assistance is also provided to maintain quality control of sugarcane and guarantee a steady income for the growers, she said.

There are 18 sugarcane varieties found across the region. They are five native sugarcane varieties (CO-775, F-15C, Yezin 1, VMC- 74, 527 and Yezin 2) and 13 other highly-yielded varieties. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Onion price likely to move upward on possible foreign demand in coming months

A gradual rise is expected at onion prices as traders expect increasing demand from the foreign trade partners in the coming months, according to Mawlamyine Commodity Centre.

This year, erratic weather conditions wreaked havoc on onion plantations in March and resulted in yield drop. Moreover, the number of onion acres has scaled down due to the collapse of the market in the past three consecutive years. Therefore, the acreage is possibly reduced by half in 2022, onion traders speculated.

“This year, onion production is estimated at 500,000 tonnes. The daily consumption of onions is around 650-800 tonnes. About 200,000 tonnes of onions can be delivered to the external market,” a market observer shared his opinion.

At present, the onion growing season has ended. Traders are stockpiling them for the monsoon season.

We do a roaring trade. Quality onions are offered up to K700 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) by brokers. Last year, the price was below K300 per viss, said an onion grower.

Additionally, the Cross-border trade channel between Myanmar and China is reopened again. Bangladesh offered to purchase Myanmar’s onions in mid-May. Onions are conveyed to Thailand as well.

“China’s border is not uncertain owing to virus policy. We have security concerns and transportation difficulties to export onions to Thailand. The small number of onions started flowing into the Bangladesh market,” a market observer elaborated on foreign market conditions.

Myanmar’s onions are regularly exported to Thailand and they are reexported to Malaysia and Viet Nam. Nonetheless, security challenges in Myanmar-Thailand border areas have blocked trade routes. Thailand imports about 38 per cent to fulfil the needs of local consumption, according to the National Enlightenment Institute.

“If Bangladesh’s demand for onions increases, the price will surely rocket. It is hard to predict the market condition now. China and Thailand prefer quality onions only,” said a trader.

The onion growers, as well as traders, experi-

enced market fallouts during the COVID-19 pandemic since the foreign demand dried up.

Next, Bangladesh’s demand for Myanmar’s onions coupled with high demand in the local market hiked up prices, soaring up to K4,000 per viss on 15 November 2019, according to the Mandalay commodity depot.

The prices of domestic onions exceeded K3,000 per viss in 2015, 2018, and 2019.

According to a 2018-2019 statistic from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, there were 174,423 acres of onions across Myanmar, with an estimated production of 629.605 million visses (3,620.71 visses per acre on average). Mandalay Region, the main producer, accounts for 36 per cent (227.57 million visses) of onion yields, followed by Sagaing Region with 32 per cent (200.149 million visses) and Magway Region with 26 per cent (162.17 million visses). Those three regions constitute 94 per cent of the overall production.

The onions are mostly grown in Mandalay, Magway and Yangon regions, Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State. — KK/GNLM

Try the utmost to surge the tourism industry

MYANMAR possesses abundant tourist attractions such as coastal areas, coral reefs, water creatures, national marine parks like Lampi Island, UNESCO-recognized ancient cultural areas such as Bagan and Pyu city-states, and snow-capped mountains in Kachin State and the Death Railway in Thanbyuzayat of Mon State.

Likewise, the traditions and customs of ethnics and their traditional foods are attractive to the local and foreign travellers. These are invaluable sources for the development of the tourism industry. Region and state authorities need to introduce significant and diverse seasonal festivals of local ethnicities, sports meets and

traditional entertainments to catch the attention of travellers. Hence, it is necessary to grasp the good opportunity to showcase these interestingly attractive figures to the travellers.

It is necessary to consider reopening border gates for international tourists to enter Myanmar. Meanwhile, Myanmar is implementing the ASEAN tourism recovery plan by adopting the policies for the recovery of businesses and drawing the common health guidelines, travel pass and safety protocol at the ASEAN level.

Myanmar earned US\$2,818.75 million from the visits of 4.36 million foreign travellers to Myanmar in 2019. But, the outbreak of the pandemic COVID-19 suspended almost all tourism services. Consequently, just 0.90 million international tourists paid visits to Myanmar in 2020, a declining 79 per cent of tourists in comparison with those from 2019. So also, just 0.13 million tourists entered the country in 2021.

The statistics of the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) stated that the number of tourist arrivals in 2021 increased by four per cent compared with that of 2020 but it still declined by 72 per cent rather than that of 2019. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, a total of 1.5 billion international tourists paid visits to the global countries in 2019 but 415 million in 2021.

Significantly, it is necessary to win the trust of travellers as part of motivating them to pay visits to respective regions and states by releasing information on COVID safe destinations for travellers and arranging exploration for tourists to these destinations under health and safety protocols. It is because everybody may pay visits to the same sites again and again.

As such, efforts must be made to the resurgence of the tourism industry in Myanmar in many ways of attractive measures. Supports of the government are invaluable for the development of the tourism industry with the participation of businesspersons based on awareness of raising the tourism services. Only when the tourism industry booms will it earn income from the visits of travellers.

Commemorating Bertrand Russell's 150th birthday: Is the Universe or the Multiverse (Un) just?

By Dr Myint Zan

Tributes to Bertrand Russell in newspapers in Burma on his death in February 1970



Bertrand Russell. PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

ONE hundred and fifty years ago on 18 May 1872, the philosopher Bertrand Russell (18 May 1872-2 February 1970) was born. During his long life, Bertrand Russell wrote many philosophical and related books, and treatises: their length might well exceed a million words. Books about him and his philosophy written before and after his death may also exceed a million words.

When Russell died on 2 February 1970, *The Working People's Daily* (predecessor to *The Global New Light of Myanmar*) carried the news on the front page in its 4 February 1970 issue. *The Guardian* (Rangoon, Burma not from the UK) which ceased publication sometime after September 1988 editorialized under a two-word headline 'Bertrand Russell' in its 5 February 1970 issue. Another article 'Russell: The Logician' written by then Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Mandalay (Daw) Kyi Kyi Hla (born 1932) was published in the 27 February 1970 issue of *The Working People's Daily*. These are only a few of the articles (written in English there are quite a few written in Burmese also) that appeared in newspapers and magazines in the aftermath of Russell's death.

Russell as a sceptic: editorial of 1970 and title of the book published 1958

The first sentence in *The Guardian* [Rangoon] editorial of 5 February 1970 was 'World's greatest philosopher and sceptic died at the age of 97' [It is reproduced here as it was published, shouldn't it be 'one of 20th century greatest philosophers'?].

This comment on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Russell's birth would focus on the four words that he apparently uttered in an interview. Those were stated to one of his biographers Alan Wood whose book *Russell: The Passionate Sceptic* was first published in 1958. In the book (from what I recall) his biographer asked Russell why there shouldn't be an after-life somewhere (in the Universe if not on Earth) so that people who have suffered injustice, deprivations and suffering in this life can be compensated in the after-life (or to put in more religious terms) in the 'hereafter'.

'The Universe is Unjust'

From what I recall Russell then (i.e., the year 1957) in his mid-eighties pondered a while before apparently answering 'The Universe is unjust'. In that particular context the comment revealed Russell's scepticism of, indeed non-belief, in an after-life as befitting both the title of Alan Wood's biography *The Passionate Sceptic* and the first sentence of *The Guardian* (Rangoon)'s editorial '... World's greatest philosopher and sceptic'. Russell's statement could well be responded to as a friend of this writer did by asserting that 'it is futile to even attempt to ascribe justice or injustice to the universe. The universe simply just is'.

Bertrand Russell certainly realized that it is 'futile to even attempt to ascribe justice to the universe'. He was responding to the belief or perhaps to him (though not to hundreds of millions of other persons throughout the world and through the ages) the pious hope for better things in an after-life. In order to compensate for the deprivations, suffering, and injustices suffered by some (good) people there should be someplace on Earth (or elsewhere in the Universe!) where the injustices and

suffering in the previous life were to be compensated was perhaps the point of the query posed to Russell.

I submit that when Russell expressed his scepticism if not rejection of that proposal expounded above, he was not (**not**) being amoral: he would have said he was being both sceptical and realistic.

One could add that the desire, the wish, the act of 'attributing' good/bad, justice/injustice, pleasing the gods/fear of angering the gods and propitiating them were the factors that led to the development of at least primitive religions and perhaps not so primitive ones as well.

The 'Big Bang' as the Beginning?

Several decades ago, I recall reading somewhere that 'the Universe is a phenomenon flowing from the infinite past to the infinite future heedless of our miseries and desires'.

Later, I came to learn that at least as far as the 'Big Bang' model in cosmology is concerned the Universe did not 'flow' from the 'infinite past' since the (current?) universe came into being? /existence/ from a 'singularity' through the 'Big Bang' about 13.8 billion years (1,380,000,000) years ago. The Big Bang model of the (THIS, see below) Universe was first proposed mainly by the astronomer and cosmologist George Lemaitre (17 July 1894-20 June 1966) in the early 1930s. In the mid-1950s the 'Big Bang' theory came to be generally accepted by perhaps most cosmologists. That was the time when Russell used the word 'the Universe' as a singular noun denoting, arguably, the (philosophical) monist position. One cosmological query: under the Big Bang theory or postulate is would the Universe expands forever (and forever) or at some point, billions and billions of years in the future will it collapse on itself in a 'Big Crunch'? This issue or *problematique* (to use a French word) is cosmological, not philosophical or ethical in that concerns about human justice do not factor in here. (But see the concluding sentences of my tribute to Russell below).

Multiverse: 'Infinite Past to the Infinite Future'?

Arguably, in the 1950s, the cosmological concept of 'multiverse' has not been seriously or even tentatively proposed by some astronomers and cosmologists. Perhaps it was in the 1980s that cosmologist Andre Linde (born 2 March 1948) and others proposed the 'multiverse' theory (in cosmology not in poetry!) where THIS Universe is (was?) one among many other (countless) Universe(s) (so to speak). That idea, hypothesis (or is it a 'construct'?) is designated as 'multiverse' by cosmologists. The late theoretical physicist Victor Stenger (29 January 1935-25 August 2014) in his posthumously published *God and the Multiverse* also endorsed the 'multiverse' hypothesis. Hence instead of a beginning in THIS Universe, there could be no beginning or indeed no 'end' in the multiverse cosmology. The statement that the Universe is a phenomenon 'flowing from the infinite past to the infinite future' apparently does/did not fully 'fit' the Big Bang hypothesis. But it may be applicable to the multiverse cosmology except that the phraseology would be 'multiverse is/are (rather than 'the Universe is') flowing from the infinite past to the infinite future'. Still, it should be mentioned that multiverse cosmology is not (from this writer's limited understanding) — to paraphrase a law term 'settled law' — 'settled science'. It could perhaps 'complement' rather than replace the Big Bang hypothesis for THIS Universe.

Bertrand Russell's dedicated efforts for social justice and the welfare of humanity

It is to be repeated and emphasized here that Bertrand Russell was not attributing unjustness to the Universe (or for that matter) multiverse. As a philosopher who apparently adhered to no religion, Russell was using it as a metaphor to state his (again) scepticism of certain metaphysical claims or hopes.

'The Universe is or may be unjust' but Bertrand Russell had for most of

his long life right into his late 90s made tireless efforts for social, political and economic justice and the welfare of humanity. On the occasion of his 150th birthday tributes and recognition are due again to what *Time* magazine in its obituary of Russell in the February 16, 1970 issue described as the 'colossus of 20th-century philosophical thought'.

ဘာထရစ္စ၏်ဆယ့်သို့
ဘာသာပြန်သူ- ဒေါက်တာမြင့်စံ
မူရင်းစာဆို- မမှတ်မိ

ကမ္ဘာတလွှာ၊ ငြိမ်းချမ်းလေအောင်
သစ္စမ်းဆောင်လည်း
ငြိမ်းချမ်းသည်မှာ သုလျှင်သာတည်း
မြေမှာဆိတ်ဆိတ်၊ လျောင်းဆိပ်လျက်တည်း။

A short poem in Burmese (I have forgotten the name of the author) which I recall reading a few months after Russell's death reads in my translation:

To Bertrand Russell

(I forgot the name of the author
who wrote in Burmese)
Translated by Myint Zan

for peace throughout the world
he strived
now he is at peace himself:
silently reposing on the earth

Dr Myint Zan, a retired Professor of Law, taught human rights law, international law and Jurisprudence (legal philosophy) at Multimedia University, Malacca, Malaysia from 2007 to 2016. He has established a Myint Zan Fellowship in Philosophy for early career researchers at one of his alma maters The Australian National University (ANU) for the years 2018 to 2021. Four academics have visited the ANU for Myint Zan Fellowship in Philosophy. He had also established in perpetuity the Myint Zan prize in the Philosophy of Science for undergraduates at the Department of Philosophy at ANU. Three students have been awarded the Myint Zan Philosophy of Science prize between 2018 and 2020.

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of Service Organizations confirmed and appointed

1. The State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as Heads of the Service Organizations shown against each of their names on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) Dr Win Win Than	Rector Myeik University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
(b) Dr Than Than Oo	Rector Dawei University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
(c) U Zaw Zaw	Rector Central Institute of Civil Service (Lower Myanmar) Union Civil Service Board

2. The State Administration Council has appointed Dr Cho Cho Myint, Pro-Rector of Yenangyoung University of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education as Rector of the same university on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 31 May 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea, south Bay, east central Bay and northeast Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 1 June 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Kachin State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, upper Sagaing, Bago Regions and (southern) Shan, Kayah, Kayin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Mon State and isolated heavyfalls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squall with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (30-35) mph. Wave height will be about (8-11) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, northern Shan, Rakhine States.

CURRENT
AFFAIRS

Over 600 Myanmar workers enter South Korea in May

A total of 622 Myanmar workers entered the Republic of Korea in May, according to the statement of the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul.

As the 5th batch, 122 Myanmar workers were sent to the Republic of Korea on 31 May. Of them, 63 were re-entry workers, and 49 new workers will work as production workers.

Within May, 135 workers on 3 May, 128 workers on 10 May, 117 workers on 17 May and 130 workers on 24 May, totalling 622 workers were sent to South Korea. They will work in the agricultural and livestock sector, construction sites, or production of goods.

The minimum wage for South Korea in 2022 is set as 9,160 Won per hour, and the monthly wage is about two million Won, which is increasing the number of workers who want to go to work every year. More than 30,000 Myanmar workers are working in South Korea under the EPS system. — TWA/GNLM



Myanmar workers are pictured leaving for S.Korea.

Action on 530 YBS vehicles suspends business licences for one year

ACTION is being taken against 530 YBS vehicles which violated rules and regulations until their business licenses are suspended for one year, according to the Yangon Region Transport Committee (YRTC).

YBS vehicles which are collecting more fares will be suspended from taking CNG for three months, six months, and a year. The Department will review all passenger complaints and action will be taken if a violation is found.

It is learned that the YBS bus lines operating in Yangon city are currently violating set rules and regulations, such as collecting more fares and giving



YBS buses are seen in downtown Yangon.

improper communication to the passengers. There are 113 YBS bus lines with over 3,000 buses operating for the passengers between 800,000 and 900,000 every day in Yangon. — TWA/GNLM

Nearly 5 million students enrol within 5-day enrolment period

NEARLY five million students enrolled at basic education schools within the five-day enrolment period, according to the statement from the Department of Basic Education.

The enrolment week for the 2022-2023 Academic Year was set from 26 May to 1 June, and a total of 4,894,428 students enrolled at basic education schools, private schools, and monastic schools in respective regions and states.

The current enrolment figures are many times higher than last year.

“If school-age children will not be able to go to school, in time they will end up on the side of the road. For three years now, children have been out of school because of COVID-19 and politics. This year, we decided to enrol them,” said a parent in North Okkalapa Township.

Attitudes are different regarding school enrolment, but for the sake of their children,

they did what they thought was right, the parent added.

There is absolutely no fee for enrolment, and textbooks, notebooks, pencils and one set of school uniforms will be distributed to the students from Kindergarten to Grade-5. In addition, students from Grade-6 to Grade-11 will be provided with textbooks, notebooks, pencils and stationery, the Ministry of Education has announced. — TWA/GNLM

500,000 acres of cotton to be grown across nation in 2022-2023FY

A total of 500,000 acres of cotton will be grown across the nation in the 2022-2023FY, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The cotton plantation areas will be expanded yearly to meet the local demands, for import substitution and export and to promote the incomes of farmers, the MoALI Union minister said during a meeting with departmental officials of the cotton research and technical development farm (Lunkyaw farm) in Kyaukse Township of Mandalay Region on 27 May.

The relevant departments of the ministry will cooperate with seed farmers to produce proper seeds of cotton.

The country grew between 700,000 acres and more than 800,000 acres of cotton yearly between 1995-1996 and 2010-2011. After 2011-2012, the cotton plantation rate remarkably declined and there were only 400,000 acres of cotton in 2019-2020, according to the ministry.

As it produced a kind of cotton that can resist the fruit worms, the production rate became double from 200 visses to 450 visses, but the cotton plantation of farmers shrank. The cotton is used for garments, the edible oil and oil for the industrial sector can be produced from cottonseed and the ground cotton is also useful for animal feed.

There are more than 180,000 acres of cotton plantations in the Mandalay Region and officials cooperate with seed farmers to grow cotton on more than 3,000 acres during the pre-monsoon period and over 3,000 more acres in the late monsoon period.

Myanmar needs more than 350 million viss of cotton for 54 million people to produce cotton clothing. — TWA/GNLM



One killed, nine injured in Yangon bomb blast

PDF terrorists supported financial assistance to launch bombing attacks and committed incitements to the detriment of the peaceful community and administrative officials who are working for the rule of law. They also committed bomb attacks using handmade bombs on public roads, streets, bus terminals and bus stops.

The explosion of a handmade bomb planted by PDF terrorists at a bus stop, 35th street on Anawrahta road of Kyauktada Township, Yangon killed one person and wounded nine people.



The wounded.



The aftermath scene of the blast.

The bomb blast occurred at the bus stop on 35th street of the Anawrahta road in Kyauktada Township at 3:20 pm yesterday.

Nine victims — Ye Htet Naing, Nanda Myo Aung, U Saw Min Shwe, Khant Wai Paing, Moe Zaw Oo, Myint Than Soe, Ko Sai

Aung, Aung Gyi, Aung Naing and one unidentified man (killed) were taken to Yangon General Hospital for medical treatment.

Security forces are investigating to take action against the suspects who planted the bomb at the bus stop. — MNA



The injured victims in the aftermath of the blast in downtown Yangon. One unidentified man was killed in the blast.

PDF terrorists bomb education office Nawnghkio, one killed, injuring 6 education personnel, 1 civil servant

WHILE the State is working hard to open schools on 2 June by designating enrolment week, distributing school uniforms and stationery, and textbooks to the students, the

so-called NUG terrorist and its affiliates, PDF terrorists, bombed a two-storey meeting hall of the Nawnghkio Township Education Office, in Shan State (North), yesterday afternoon, injuring seven education personnel and one civil servant.

The injured were taken to the military hospital in PyinOoLwin for treatment, and

a headmistress died of her injuries. It is reported that security personnel are investigating to identify and take effective action under the law, and the

people are urged to oppose the NUG and PDF terrorist groups and to report any of their movement to the security personnel and relevant authorities. — MNA



The ravages in the aftermath of the bomb blast at the Nawnghkio Township Education Office.

Colombo Plan Staff College for Technician Education (CPSC) launches online in-country programme on developing modern TVET curriculum

THE opening ceremony of In-Country Programme on Developing Modern TVET Curriculum was jointly held by Colombo Plan Staff College for Technician Education (CPSC) in collaboration with the Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training at 9:00 am on 30 May 2022 at the Ministry of Science and Technology via online. Permanent Secretary Dr Sai Kyaw Naing Oo addressed the inaugural address. Then, Director-General of CPSC Prof. G.L.D. Wickramasinghe and U Aung Kyaw Oo, Charge d’Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the



Philippines delivered speeches and videos of the Department and CPSC were presented. The Developing Modern TVET Curriculum is offered in

collaboration with CPSC from (30-5-2022) to (3-6-2022) to the subject team leaders and members from Government Technological Colleges, Government Techni-

cal Institutes and Government Technical High Schools under DTVET to assist in designing curricula. A total of 30 participants attended the course. The

course will include Theme Papers on “Overview of the TVET System in Myanmar”, “Understanding Competency-Based Training”, “Identifying Priority Occupations”, “Identifying Competencies”, and “Designing CBT Programmes and Developing a Curriculum Framework”. Special lectures of programme contents include group work presentations. The expected outcome of the In-country programme is to plan for Post-COVID Issues and Challenges, List of Priority Skills Requirements, DACUM Chart, Program Design, Module Design and Curriculum Framework.— MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, animal foods, fuel oil, vehicles and motorbikes seized in different townships



Officials seize teak logs.

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, effective action is being taken to prevent illegal trade under the law. On 27 May, a combined inspection team conducted inspections under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force and captured six unregistered motorbikes worth K570,000. The action was taken under the Ex-

port/Import law. Similarly, at the Ayeyawady Bridge checkpoint in Pakokku confiscated 2,300 gallons of illegally-carried fuel oil worth K13,340,000 from a truck (approximately K25 million). Police opened a case file under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law. In addition, on 30 May, at the Mayanchaung Permanent

Checkpoint officials captured Double A brand A4 paper packs worth K36 million that were carried more than the stated in the Import Declaration from a truck heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under the Customs Law. On 31 May, the combined inspection on-duty team at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint seized animal foods worth K1,110,000 that showed no official documents from a truck and action was taken under the Customs Law. Moreover, the Forest Department team made inspections and confiscated 5.9728 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K2,763,030 in Yedashe and Ottwin Townships of Toungoo District and action was taken under the Forest Law. Thus, a total of 13 arrests worth approximately K46,390,530 were made on 27, 29, 30 and 31 May, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

K1.275 billion worth of Ketamine seized in Mongpyin Township

A combined inspection team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a Toyota Pajero driven by Hlaing Min Htun near the Nampain Creek stream in Mongpyin Township on 29 May at 9:00 pm according to information. They captured 150 kilogrammes of Ketamine worth K1.275 billion. At 10:00 pm on the same day, according to

examining, Police Force seized Sai Yi, Nan Hon, Sai Ngoh and Sai Lin, who are involved in drug trafficking, with four motorbikes. Trafficker Sai Lon Kyauk in Kengtung Township is on the run and they are prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Myanmar Police Force stated. — MNA

Drugs seized in some townships

A combined team consisting of the Kachin State Police Force searched a house of Ma Khoung Ja (aka) Eaindra in Sitapu Ward of Myitkyina Township at 3:30 pm on 30 May and seized 0.06 kilogramme of heroin and 1,800 stimulant tablets. Similarly, at 6:30 pm on the same day, an anti-drug force examined a motorbike driven by Khaing Zaw Latt (alias) Thar Nge on the Hpa-an-Eindu Road in Hpa-an Township and captured 1,800 stimulant pills. At 6:00 pm on the same day, police searched a house of Ma Yarsmain in Shwezar village of Maungtaung Town-



Two arrestees are seen along with seized drugs. ship and confiscated 9,750 stimulant tablets. In addition, an anti-drug force searched a room of the hotel in Bahan Township according to information and seized 50 Ecstasy pills and 0.003 kilogramme of Ketamine with Naing Lwin and Hein Thu Soe (alias) Shake at 2:45 pm on 25 May.



Kaung Sit is pictured along with seized Ketamine.



Jason is seen along with seized drugs and a Chevrolet car.

According to the examination, police seized Htet Aung Wai (alias) Jason with a Chevrolet car, 4,000 Ecstasy pills, 0.17 kilogramme of Ketamine and 0.49 kilogramme of White/Blue/Yellow colour powder that is considered a psychotropic drug, in Yankin Township at 7:00 pm on the same day. Moreover, Police Force captured Kaung Sit (alias) Ko Sit with 0.0002 kilogramme of Ketamine, one Ecstasy pill and 0.015 kilogramme of gold colour powder in Myawady at 7:00 pm on 26 May. They were prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law respectively. — MNA

Solomon Airlines prepares for int'l border opening from July

THE Solomon Islands' national carrier, Solomon Airlines, has adjusted its domestic schedule to prepare for the future booking demand ahead of the full border reopening from 1 July.

The airline said on Monday that its latest domestic schedule will be effective from 6 June to prepare for inbound connections from the service of Australia's Brisbane to the Solomon Islands' capital Honiara.

The airline will also ensure the ability to add capacity to domestic routes such as Munda, Gizo, Auki and Santa Cruz, where the booking demand

has already increased. Weekly Tuesday flights between Honiara and Fiji's Nadi are also expected to be re-established.

This move came after the Solomon Islands government announced the reopening of the country's borders and easing of COVID-19 travel restrictions. From 1 July, foreign nationals wishing to enter the country no longer have to apply for exemption, although a short quarantine period of three days is "likely" to be retained after the arrival.

"It will enable us to reconfigure our schedule to serve

local demand and prepare for more international visitors," said Solomon Airlines CEO Brett Gebers.

"While the ongoing mandatory quarantine period for international arrivals remains a deterrent to inbound tourism, we understand that these restrictions will be progressively relaxed and believe we will still see enough early international travellers coming to Solomon Islands to sustain our twice-weekly Brisbane-Honiara services until all restrictions are removed in the next few months," he said.—Xinhua



The Solomon Islands' national carrier, Solomon Airlines, has adjusted its domestic schedule to prepare for the future booking demand ahead of the full border reopening from 1 July. **PHOTO: WIKIWAND/XINHUA**

Hitachi eases mask guidelines at workplaces

HITACHI Ltd. said Tuesday its employees can take their face masks off providing they are not conversing and social distancing is practiced at work, easing its mask guidelines in line with the view of the Japanese health ministry.

The move at the country's industrial conglomerate covering around 150,000 employees in some 160 companies under its wing comes after the ministry said earlier this month that people do not have to wear face masks under certain conditions outdoors and indoors.

Hitachi had recommended its employees to wear masks at all times. But the company's new standard does not require masks outdoors even when they are speaking, as long as they maintain a distance of more than 2 metres from each other.

But the company said it "strongly advises the wearing of masks" indoors if employees

cannot maintain a 2-metre distance even when they are not talking.

The relaxing of mask guidelines by the major industrial conglomerate may lead the way for other Japanese firms, as public debate has arisen as to the extent people need to continue wearing face coverings to combat the coronavirus.

While mask requirements are being loosened overseas in

line with progress in vaccinations against COVID-19, a large portion of the public in Japan still comply with government requests to wear masks at work, school and public places.

The Japanese government said recently that wearing masks outdoors is not necessary providing people maintain social distancing, with the approach of summer increasing the risk of heatstroke.—Kyodo



Hitachi Ltd. said Tuesday its employees can take their face masks off providing they are not conversing and social distancing is practiced at work, easing its mask guidelines in line with the view of the Japanese health ministry. **PHOTO: HITACHI/KYODO**

China encourages airlines to launch air routes to Pacific island countries

CHINA encourages and supports airlines to launch air routes and flights between China and Pacific island countries when COVID-19 is effectively under control, according to a position paper issued here Monday after the second China-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

China also pledges to provide anti-COVID-19 assistance Pacific island countries need, and inject additional capital into the China-Pacific Island Countries Anti-COVID-19 Cooperation Fund in 2022, the paper said.

Chinese medical teams will be sent to Pacific island countries including the Solomon Islands and Kiribati, with the total number reaching 200 in the next five years, it said.—Xinhua

Toyota's April global sales fall 11% on chip crunch, COVID lockdown

TOYOTA Motor Corp. said Monday its global sales in April dropped 11.1 per cent from a year earlier to 763,708 vehicles, declining for the eighth straight month, hit by a worldwide semiconductor shortage and a COVID lockdown in Shanghai.

Global production fell 9.1 per cent to 692,259 vehicles in April, slipping below the level a year earlier for the first time in three months, as the world's largest automaker by volume was forced to cut output due to supply constraints, it said.—Kyodo

Starling bank's Anne Boden takes fintech out of London

GAZING out from the new offices of online bank Starling, Anne Boden sees the familiar, modest surroundings of the Welsh capital Cardiff rather than the skyscrapers of London's City financial district.

"We have great universities in Cardiff, and we have great tal-

ents here, we're using that talent to create something that's really special for the customers," say Boden. Boden is the head of Starling, which has just opened the Cardiff site, where about half of its 1,800 employees will be based.

With almost three million customers and eight per cent

of UK business banking market share, Starling has managed to carve out a niche in the hugely competitive world of fintech, and, unlike many competitors, turn a profit.

Born into a modest family 42 miles (67 kilometres) from Cardiff in Swansea where she

also studied, Boden calls the bank she started in 2014 "a force to be reckoned with".

The same description could apply to Boden who regularly describes herself as a "five-foot (1.5-metre) Welsh woman".

In the very masculine world of finance, she defends the posi-

tion of women business leaders and has been put in charge of a government study group on the matter. "I'm not a typical banker," says Boden, who wants to offer her customers an experience different from that of the traditional banks she worked for until 2013.—AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS



Anti-gun demonstrators protest outside the National Rifle Association Annual Meeting at the George R. Brown Convention Centre, on 27 May 2022, in Houston, Texas. **PHOTO: CÉCILE CLOCHERET / AFP**

US faces numerous hurdles enacting stricter gun laws: The Guardian

DESPITE hundreds of mass shootings unfolding in the United States every year, its Congress has repeatedly failed to pass major gun-control legislation, thanks to “numerous and significant” hurdles, The Guardian has reported.

For starters, bills introduced by the Democrats that seek to expand background checks failed to overcome Senate filibuster staged by most Republicans, it reported last week.

Secondly, even though there

is broad support in the United States for certain policies championed by gun-control advocates, opinions are more varied when Americans are asked about their thoughts on stricter gun laws in general, it said, citing a Gallup poll in 2021 which showed only 19 per cent of Americans support a ban on handguns.

Judging from its reaction to the horrific Uvalde shooting that killed 19 children, America’s “depraved and dysfunctional relationship with firearms” is not go-

ing to change anytime soon, The Guardian said in another report.

Some Republicans have put the blame on the parents, suggesting that they take their kids out of public school and put them in a private school, it said.

“If guns made people safer, then the United States would be the safest place in the world,” it said. “How many more children have to die before the right accept that the answer to bad guys with guns is not good guys with guns, it’s getting rid of guns.” —Xinhua

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

French journalist killed during Russian bombardment in Ukraine

A French journalist was killed Monday during a Russian bombardment that struck a vehicle evacuating civilians from eastern Ukraine, French and Ukrainian officials said.

“Frederic Leclerc-Imhoff was in Ukraine to show the reality of war,” French President Emmanuel Macron wrote on Twitter. “Onboard a humanitarian bus with civilians forced to flee to escape Russian bombings, he was mortally wounded.”

Leclerc-Imhoff was working for the BFM television news channel, which said he was 32

years old and on his second Ukraine reporting trip since the war began on 24 February. He was near Severodonetsk, a city in Ukraine’s east that has been pounded by advancing Russian troops in recent weeks, the French and Ukrainian foreign ministries said in separate statements. Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna, who visited Kyiv on Monday, said on Twitter that Leclerc-Imhoff had been killed “by a Russian bombardment of a humanitarian mission while he was carrying out his duty to inform.”—AFP

Putin tells Erdogan Russia ready to work to reopen shipping



The Marshall Islands-flagged Turkish-owned Yasa Jupiter ship, which was hit by a missile off the coast of Ukraine’s port city Odessa, sails on the Bosphorus in Istanbul, Turkey, on 25 February 2022. The Yasa Jupiter is the first confirmed merchant ship casualty of war following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, sustaining slight damages but no injury or human loss were reported. **PHOTO: AKGUL / AFP**

More defence spending needed to face Russia threat: Spain

PRIME Minister Pedro Sanchez on Monday called for increased military spending in light of the security threat posed by Russia as Spain marked 40 years since joining NATO. “The war in Ukraine has opened the eyes of European society, including in Spain,” said Sanchez at a commemorative event at Madrid’s Teatro Real attended by King Felipe VI and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. “Many have understood that

our security is no longer guaranteed,” he added.

“Today, our security is under threat from the regime of (Russian President Vladimir) Putin,” Sanchez said, making it “essential” that “we reinforce our deterrence capabilities”.

That would “require military capabilities that were modern, viable, and deployable, which can only be acquired through increased investment in defence,” he said.—AFP

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin told Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday that Moscow was ready to work with Ankara to free up maritime shipping blocked over the conflict in Ukraine.

“Vladimir Putin noted the readiness of the Russian side to contribute to the unimpeded maritime transit of goods in coordination with Turkish partners. This also applies to grain exports

from Ukrainian ports,” the Kremlin quoted Putin as saying in a readout of a call with Erdogan.

The Kremlin said the two discussed “ensuring safe navigation in the Black and Azov Seas” and “eliminating the threat of mines in their waters”.

Putin also repeated claims that global food shortages were the result of “short-sighted” Western policies, saying Russia was ready to export “significant

volumes of fertilizers and agricultural products if the relevant anti-Russian sanctions are lifted”. Russia’s offensive in Ukraine and Western sanctions have disrupted supplies of wheat and other commodities from the two countries, fuelling concerns about the risk of shortages and hunger around the world.

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

Denmark votes on scrapping EU defence opt-out

AFTER staying out of the European Union's common defence policy for 30 years, Denmark votes Wednesday in a referendum on whether to overturn its opt-out after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

More than 65 per cent of the country's 4.3 million eligible voters are expected to vote in favour of dropping the exemption, the latest opinion poll published on Sunday suggested.

Analysts' predictions have however been cautious, given the low voter turnout expected in a country that has often said "no" to further EU integration,

most recently in 2015.

"We must always cast our ballots when there is a vote", Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen urged Danes in the final televised debate of the campaign on Sunday.

"I believe with all my heart that we have to vote yes. At a time when we need to fight for security in Europe, we need to be more united with our neighbours," she said.

Denmark has been an EU member since 1973, but it put the brakes on transferring more power to Brussels in 1992 when 50.7 per cent of Danes

rejected the Maastricht Treaty, the EU's founding treaty.

It needed to be ratified by all member states to enter into force. In order to persuade Danes to approve the treaty, Copenhagen negotiated a series of exemptions and Danes finally approved it the following year.

Since then, Denmark has remained outside the European single currency, the euro — which it rejected in a 2000 referendum — as well as the bloc's common policies on justice and home affairs, and defence.— AFP



Eleven of Denmark's 14 parties have urged voters to say 'yes' to dropping the opt-out. **PHOTO: RITZAU SCANPIX/AFP/FILE**

Iran's enriched uranium stockpile 18 times over 2015 deal limit: IAEA

THE UN nuclear watchdog said Monday that it estimated Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium had grown to more than 18 times the limit laid down in Tehran's 2015 deal with world powers.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said in its latest report on Iran's nuclear programme that it "estimated that, as of 15 May 2022, Iran's total enriched stockpile was 3,809.3 kilogrammes."

The limit in the 2015 deal was set at 300 kg (660 pounds) of a specific compound, the equivalent of 202.8 kg of uranium.

The report also says that Iran is continuing its enrichment of uranium to levels higher than the 3.67 per cent limit in the deal.

The stockpile of uranium enriched up to 20 per cent is now estimated to be 238.4 kg, up 56.3 kg since the last report in March, while the amount enriched to

60 per cent stands at 43.1 kg, an increase of 9.9 kg.

Enrichment levels of around 90 per cent are required for use in a nuclear weapon.

Iran has always insisted its nuclear programme is peaceful.

A diplomatic source said the

amount of uranium enriched to 60 per cent now exceeded the IAEA's threshold of a "significant quantity", defined by the agency as an approximate amount above which "the possibility of manufacturing a nuclear explosive cannot be excluded".—AFP



An Iranian technician works at the Isfahan Uranium Conversion Facilities (UCF), 420 kms south of Tehran. **PHOTO: AFP/BEHROUZ MEHRI/FILE**

Around 100 dead in clashes between Chad gold miners

AROUND 100 people have died in clashes between gold miners in northern Chad, Defence Minister General Daoud Yaya Brahim said on Monday.

Violence broke out on 23 May at Kouri Bougoudi near the Libyan border, sparked by a "mundane dispute between

two people which degenerated", he said, adding that the toll was "around 100 dead and at least 40 wounded".

The clashes occurred in the rugged Tibesti Mountains in the central Sahara, some 1,000 kilometres (600 miles) from the Chadian capital

N'Djamena.

The discovery of gold there has sparked a rush of miners from across Chad and neighbouring countries, and tensions often run high.

The clashes were between Mauritians and Libyans, the minister said.—AFP

US demands Iran release seized tankers, crew

THE United States joined Athens on Monday in strongly condemning Iran's seizure of two Greek-flagged oil tankers in Gulf waters and demanding their immediate release, calling the abductions a "threat to maritime security".

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias agreed in a call "that Iran must immediately release the seized vessels, their cargoes, and their crews", State Department spokesman Ned Price said in a statement.

"Iran's continued harassment of vessels and interfer-

ence with navigational rights and freedoms are a threat to maritime security and the global economy," Price added.

"The United States stands with Greece, our key NATO Ally and partner in the face of this unjustified seizure."

Iran's Revolutionary Guards seized the Greek tankers in the Gulf Friday, days after Athens confirmed it would deliver to Washington Iranian oil it had seized from a Russian tanker.

Tehran said Saturday the crews of the two tankers were in "good health" and not under arrest.—AFP

Report urges civilian prosecutions of Canada military sexual misconduct

THE Canadian military has failed women in uniform and must hand over all prosecutions for sexual misconduct to civilian courts and rights tribunals, a report said Monday.

The scathing conclusion was among 48 recommendations by Louise Arbour, a former prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal (ICT) tasked with helping clean up a toxic culture within the Canadian military. In December Ottawa apologized to its soldiers and veterans for the lapses.

Defence Minister Anita

Anand told a news conference on Monday that the government would immediately move on 17 of the recommendations, and implement the rest after details on how to do so are worked out.

"If we do not take this moment for what it is and implement the recommendations that identify deep areas of need for change in the Canadian Armed Forces and the defense team broadly, we run the risk of not being a fully effective military domestically and internationally," Anand said.—AFP



Yangon United beat Chinland FC 2-0 in friendly match



YANGON United made a win over Chinland 2-0 at Yangon United Sports Complex in their first friendly match of the 2022 season on 28 May.

The goals for Yangon were scored by Saw Kyaw.

Yangon United started with Phone Thitsa Min (GK), Kyaw Phyto Wai, Min Kyaw Khant, Sithu Moe Khant, Maung Maung Win, Zwe Thet Paing, Zani Htet, Thiha, Kyaw Min Oo, Yan Paing Soe and Saw Kyaw El.

Yangon United could lead the match with a goal of Saw Kyaw Thet went to the left side of the goalkeeper from an assist of Min Kyaw Khant at the 6-minute mark.

Next in 35 minutes, Saw Kyaw El touched the ball into the net with a drive passing through visitor's defenders. Yangon were 2-0 up by half-time with double goals scored by Saw Kyaw.

In the second half, the squad changed a bit and restarted with

Sann Sett Naing (GK), Pyae Phyto Zaw, Kyaw Phyto Wai, Si Thu Moe Khant, Min Kyaw Khant, Kyaw Min Oo, Kyaw Zin Oo, Thiha, Zani Htet, Pyae Moe and Saw Kyaw El.

Two minutes after the restart, Kyaw Min Oo's long kick missed a bit to get a goal for Yangon United. Although the visitor attempted to equalize the result, Yangon United relied on good defence till the match ended and Yangon United took the 2-0 victory. — GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

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

IOC in Sapporo to assess 2030 Winter Games venues

INTERNATIONAL Olympic Committee officials on Tuesday began inspecting competition venues in the northern Japanese city of Sapporo, seen as a front-runner to host the 2030 Winter Games.

On their three-day visit the IOC delegation will also look at road access in and around Sapporo, which was the first Asian city to host a Winter Olympics in 1972.

A city official told AFP that the visit is "part of our continued dialogue" with the IOC and that "we also hope to receive technical advice" from the organisation. The three-member team plans to visit 16 venues in the Hokkaido region, of which Sapporo is the capital.

Sapporo hosted the mara-



Sapporo was the first Asian city to host a Winter Olympics in 1972. PHOTO: CHARLY TRIBALLEAU / AFP

thon and race walk events at Tokyo's Summer Games last year so that athletes could compete in a cooler climate.

Tokyo 2020 went ahead after a year's pandemic delay and faced public opposition in the months before the event, which was held mostly without specta-

tors over Covid-19 fears.

Sapporo is viewed as a leading contender for 2030 but is likely to face rival bids from other previous Olympic hosts such as Salt Lake City and Vancouver.

The IOC is expected to announce the host city at its general meeting in a year's time. — AFP

Messi tips Benzema for 'deserved' Ballon d'Or

REAL Madrid's France star Karim Benzema deserves to win the Ballon d'Or, according to seven-time laureate Lionel Messi.

Benzema was crucial in Madrid's Champions League victory this season, culminating with a 1-0 win over Liverpool in Paris on Saturday.

Although he did not score in the final, Benzema's back-to-back hat-tricks in the knock-out rounds, starting with a 17-minute treble against Messi's Paris Saint-Germain to overturn a 2-0 aggregate deficit, were crucial to generating the momentum that swept the Spaniards to the title.

"There's no doubt, it's very clear that Benzema has had a spectacular year and has ended it by winning the Champions League," Messi told Argentine channel TyC Sports.

"He was crucial from the

last-16 onwards in every match and I think there's no doubt" that Benzema deserves to win the Ballon d'Or.

Messi was speaking a couple of days ahead of a friendly with Italy at Wembley stadium between two continental champions.

The match between the South American Copa America holders and the European champions, where many Argentines trace their roots, is known as the "Finalissima".

But while Argentina stormed to qualification for the Qatar World Cup later this year with several games to spare, Italy astonishingly missed out after losing to minnows North Macedonia in a play-off.

"What happened with Italy is crazy, having won the Euros and not being at the World Cup, given Italy's history at the World Cup," he said. — AFP