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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

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

Peace Talks Team, UWSP continue 2nd-day meeting



The second-day meeting between the government Peace Talks Team and the delegation led by the UWSP Vice-Chair is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 June 2022.

THE second-day meeting of the government 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 Member National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Chairman Union Minister at the 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 meeting, they discussed peace and development-related matters. They also approved and signed the agreements received from the three-day meeting.

Then, Vice-Chairman of the United Wa State Party (UWSP) U Lau Yaku and gov-

ernment Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae made closing remarks and gave the record books marking Diamond Jubilee Union Day and Myanmar Encyclopaedia volume 1 published by the Ministry of Information. — MNA

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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

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The Peace Talks Team Leader and the UWSP Vice-Chair exchange the document.

10th ASEAN Quiz National Level to be broadcast on MRTV-HD Channel



THE 10th ASEAN Quiz will be hosted by Myanmar in December 2022, with three young people representing Myanmar competing.

To select three youths representing Myanmar: the 10th ASEAN Quiz National Level Contest was held with ten students competing at Studio A of the Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) on Pyay Road, Yangon on 1 June.

The competition will be broadcast on MRTV HD Channel at 6 pm from 6 to 8 June with Myanmar subtitles. — MNA

12 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 1 June, total figure rises to 613,348

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,348** after **12** new cases were reported on 1 June 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,308** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 31-5-2022, a total of **31,467,817** people have been vaccinated. Of them, **26,653,854** people have been fully vaccinated and **4,813,963** people have yet to get the second shots and **2,117,702** people have received booster doses.—MNA

Myanmar Motion Picture Organization Statement

1 June 2022

THE Myanmar Motion Picture Organization considers the growing number of educated people in Myanmar very important.

Currently, there are more than 10 million people in Myanmar who have not completed the 10th Grade or graduated. As there are many uneducated people in the country, it is necessary to especially support the education of the next generations.

More than 30 teachers who are working wholeheartedly to meet this need were killed, and schools have been bombed more than 370 times.

Now we have learned that one school headmistress was killed and several others were injured when the Township Education Office in Nawngkhio Township in Shan State (North) was blown up on 31 May 2022.

The Myanmar Motion Picture Organization strongly condemns the terrorist groups who are burning schools and killing teachers.

Myanmar Motion Picture Organization

Myanmar Veterans Organization Statement

3rd Waxing of Nayon 1384 ME
1 June 2022, Wednesday

THE government is planning to open basic education schools on 2 June to ensure that the education of our future generations is not left behind. From 25 May, officials are working to accept enrolment and provide stationery, including textbooks and school uniforms.

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 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 wounded. They were taken to the military hospital in PyinOoLwin for treatment, and a headmistress died of her injuries.

The Myanmar Veterans Organization strongly condemns any organization that disrupts safe and secure education as it is a fundamental foundation for the development of the country and the nation. Any organization that destroys the lives of innocent people is a terrorist organization.

Myanmar Veterans Organization

Myanmar Writers Association Statement

1 June 2022

WHILE parents, teachers and the people are wholeheartedly participating in the enrolment week for the education of future children of the country, we have heard that terrorists are carrying out bombings and shootings in and around schools and township education offices, and looting and burning schoolbooks.

We have learned that one school headmistress was killed and several others were injured when a bomb set up at the Township Education Office in Nawngkhio Township in Shan State (North) was exploded on 31 May 2022.

We strongly condemn this act of vandalism.

Myanmar Writers Association

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma 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

We will have to continue to consolidate the strength of the national unity in the future also

AS for the country which is a heterogeneous society, historical lessons have taught us that only the national unity can ensure the non-disintegration of the Union and the perpetuation of sovereignty. We will have to continue to consolidate the strength of the national unity in the future also.

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

SAC members attend seminar on ethnic solidarity, development and peace

THE Ministry of Ethnic Affairs held a seminar on ethnic solidarity, development and peace for the staff of the ministry yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The seminar was attended by Members of the State Administration Council: Mahn Nyein Maung and Jeng Phang Naw Taung; Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Saw Tun Aung Myint, Deputy Minister U Zaw Aye Maung, the permanent secretary, directors-general, deputy directors-general, History Professor Dr Khin Saw Nwe (retired), Lisu and Kayin ethnic literature and cultural groups, and officials in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the seminar, SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung said that solidarity is important in

a country, and without it, peace can't be built and conflicts make women, children and aged people suffer more. He spoke about the efforts of the successive governments which have worked for peace, the signing of the NCA agreement of the ethnic armed organizations on 15 October 2015, the invitation of the Chairman of the State Administration Council to the peace talks, and the need to discuss political issues openly at the political table.

Jeng Phang Naw Taung, a member of the State Administration Council, spoke about the reasons for broken ethnic solidarity, characteristics of Myanmar ethnic groups, the meaning of the spirit of the Union and true patriotism in the development sector; the definition and opinions of peace in the



The talks on ethnic solidarity, development and peace are in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

socio-economic development and peace sector; types of peace, Myanmar's internal peace process, and ways in which peace can be achieved and factors that undermine peace. — MNA

Implementation committees on ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2025 consultations held

THE meeting among committees on the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2025 was held yesterday at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. The meeting was attended by

U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, the deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, directors-general and representatives from 22 AEC committees.

At the meeting, the Union minister shared the experiences relating to Myanmar's participation in the Special Economic Ministers' Meeting which was held in May 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. He also underscored the

necessity for preparation in response to new emerging trends that coming from regional and international cooperation.

In addition, the Union minister updated the implementation status of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement and the status of the development of the ASEAN Community's post-2025 vision.

The Union minister explained that Myanmar's implementation rate was 70.7 per cent for the AEC Annual Priorities in 2021. He also encouraged the committees to keep the momentum in the implementation of AEC Annual Priorities in 2022 and to comply with the commitments in ASEAN Agreements.

After that, U Than Aung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Eminent Person of the High-Level Task Force on

the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision explained ASEAN's preparation for the development of the ASEAN Community Post 2025 Vision and its core elements.

According to the agenda, Permanent Secretary, Myanmar SEOM Lead, Dr Wah Wah Maung briefed the meeting on the current and future works under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the implementation of Myanmar.

At the meeting, the deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, directors-general and representatives who are chairpersons, secretaries and members of AEC committees reported the status of their ongoing activities, the future programme and the issues that need to be addressed. After hearing their reports, the Union minister provided the necessary guidance. —MNA



The MIFER Union Minister meets the committees on the AEC 2025 implementation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

SAC Information Team holds 15th press conference



SAC Information Team holds the fifteenth press conference in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 June 2022.

THE 15th press conference of the State Administration Council's Information Team was held yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Information keeping in line with COVID-19 rules and regulations.

Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, leader of the Information Team, U Khin Maung Oo, member of the Union Election Commission, members of the Information Team, representatives from various ministries, officials from the Tatmadaw Information Team, invitees and reporters from local and foreign media attended the conference.

First, Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun explained the efforts of Tatmadaw for peace by joining hands with governments in successive eras and ethnic people, facts in NCA, NCA signing of ethnic armed groups, approvals in former peace talks with governments and sectors to be discussed, meeting with

two members of ethnic armed groups including leaders on the invitation of SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, activities of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs regarding with ethnic literature, languages, cultural heritage, traditions, measures of government for job opportunities of ethnic people, literature and culture.

He also highlighted the

preparations and rescue works for cyclones and natural disasters in monsoon, implementation of natural environment conservation and climate change prevention tasks as a national duty, Monkeypox outbreak, infection, symptoms and the need to follow health rules and the measures of government for every citizen not to lose their learning opportunities designating school enrollment week from 26 May to 1 June for the 2022-2023 Academic Year with PowerPoint presentations.

Then, UEC member U Khin Maung Oo clarified the

actions taken against those who participated in the 2020 general election processes, voting fraud and destructive elements with PowerPoint presentations.

Afterwards, the officials answered the questions raised by the media outlets.

The attendees to the event observed the documentary photos of the activities of the government in peace, preparations for cyclones and natural disasters during the rainy season, data related to Monkeypox, fuel cases, the 2022-2023 Academic Year and the findings in inspections on political parties in the 2020 general election.—MNA



Documentary photos are showcased on one panel at the 15th press conference.

10th ASEAN Quiz National Level Competition held in Yangon

THE 10th ASEAN Quiz-National Level Competition was held yesterday morning at the Myanmar Radio and Television in Yangon.

The competition was attended by officials from relevant departments, teachers from basic education schools, parents/guardians of participating students, ten students representing states/regions, and basic education students.

It is reported that the first prize was won by Maung Pyae Sone Chan Thar from BEHS (1) Dagon; the second prize by Maung Hein Lin Htet from BEHS (1) Dagon; the third prize by Ma Hnin Pwint Aung from BEHS (1) pa-an; the fourth prize by Ma May Thae Phyu Ohn from BEHS (8) Aungmyethazan



The officials and participants take the group photo at the event.

(Mandalay); the fifth prize by Ma Shoon Lei Wai from BEHS (1) Dagon. The winners were awarded by Director-General U Ye Naing.

The ASEAN Quiz is being hosted once every two years by the ASEAN countries since 2020, to enhance the ASEAN countries' cultural, political,

economic and social knowledge off the new generation of ASEAN youth and promote friendly relations and understanding between ASEAN countries. The

event was held online in 2020 due to the COVID-19, and this year Myanmar is planning to host the event in person, according to the decision of the ASEAN countries since the COVID-19 outbreak is under control with the vaccination.

To represent Myanmar in the ASEAN Regional Level Competition, a list of 43 students representing regions and states has been submitted to the Ministry of Education.

The Department of Basic Education selected 34 students, of which 5 were shortlisted. They will be trained in a training camp and will be selected three of them to represent the country in the ASEAN Regional Championship. — MNA

Myanmar receives \$3,980 million worth of foreign investments

THE country permitted 70 foreign businesses worth \$3,980 million, creating job opportunities for 56,802 local people, said Deputy Minister for Information Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, during the 15th press conference of the Information Team of the State Administration Council yesterday.

A total of 89 labour offices are opened in districts and townships, and there are also mobile teams in the places that have no labour offices.

“The local agent licences have been granted since 2010. There are 70 licensed agencies in May 2022. The private local agencies make efforts to create jobs. The Department of Labour under the Ministry of Labour communicated with the labour offices in regions/states and carried out labour registration and job opportunities between February and May. 19,954 people were served by the government while 146,153 by private,” he said.

The country earned \$3,980

million from 70 foreign businesses between 1 February and 31 May. A total of \$3,062 million was made in the electricity sector while \$304 million in industry.

It created a total of 56,802 jobs for locals — 48,877 in foreign investments and 7,925 in Myanmar citizens’ investments.

— TWA/GNLM

SAC’s Information Team holds its fifteenth press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Over K2 billion presented to 39th Aung Bar Lay lottery winners



A total of 304,090 lottery tickets were sold for the 39th Aung Bar Lay Lottery, which was 24,292 tickets more compared to the previous month, according to a statement from the Aung Bar Lay Lottery Branch of the Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

As the lottery ticket sales were K3,040.900 million, the lottery prize will be K2,128.630

million which is 70 per cent of the total ticket sales. The prizes include prizes such as one K500 million prize and one K100 million as the special prize, and two K50 million prizes, six K20 million prizes, seven K10 million prizes, ten K5 million prizes, thirteen K2 million prizes, thirteen K1 million prizes and thirty K300,000 prizes, respectively. —TWA/GNLM

Govt reduces tax as much as possible to prevent surging fuel prices

THE government reduces tax rates as much as possible to prevent the rise in local fuel prices, said Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, leader of the Information Team of the State Administration Council during the 15th press conference yesterday.

“The fuel prices are calculated based on the international

prices and the ones in ASEAN countries. The prices are on the rise in the world. Regarding fuel, the government reduces the tax rate to the minimum level. The government does not buy the fuel. It allows the merchants to purchase. If the fuel is bought anywhere, the prices are calculated based on

the MOPE of Singapore and daily basis prices and tax is also added. There is the cost for the distance between Yangon and Mandalay. As global energy prices are not stable, the prices will continue rising in Myanmar. It has fully imported the petrol and diesel as of 16 May. There are delays in local transportation,” he said.

The merchants calculate the prices depending on the daily current prices and tax rates.

“The merchants will not face losses every time. The buying prices are higher and lower than the daily prices. The government maintains that gap is not to be blocked in it. As the prices are based on the global prices, the government reduces the tax to the minimum level and successively controls it,” he added. — TWA/GNLM



Tamarind stockholders expect good prices due to low yields

DUE to the low yields in tamarind this year, tamarind stockholders are expecting the prices to rise, according to tamarind traders in the Bayintnaung sales centre.

From the second week of January, new tamarind began to enter the Yangon market. The wholesale price is K2,000 per viss, and the price dropped to K1,800 in the first week of February, according to U Min, a tamarind trader.

In January, the wholesale price of new tamarind was K2,200 per viss, the price of new

Tamarind fruit was K3,200 per viss, and special grade of tamarind was K3,500 per viss, he explained.

On 30 May 2021, the same period last year, the wholesale price of new tamarind was K1,400-1,500, and the price of new tamarind flesh was K2,000-2,300, according to the wholesale price lists.

A few weeks after the first annual harvest of new tamarind in Pyay (Patigon), the tamarind from Yamethin, Kyaukpadaung, Popa, Mahlaing, and Pakokku, enter the market respectively.

Currently, due to the high stocks of tamarind produced in 2021 in the market, low exports, and high yields of citrus fruits and mangoes, which are used by consumers instead of tamarind in cooking, the price of tamarind is unlikely to rise this year, said U Han, who runs a tamarind sales centre at the Bayintnaung market. Shan tamarind is likely to enter the Yangon market this year due to the lower yields in areas where tamarinds are grown, said Ko Kaka, the owner of a tamarind sales centre. — TWA/GNLM



Tamarind is stored at one Bayintnaung depot.

Upgrading Capacity-Building Refresher Course 2/2022 for Assistant Directors and Staff Officers closed



The Union Auditor-General concludes the Upgrading Capacity-Building Refresher Course 2/2022 for Assistant Directors and Staff Officers in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE closing ceremony of the Upgrading Capacity-Building Refresher Course 2/2022 for Assistant Directors and Staff Officers was held at 2:00 pm yesterday at the Assembly Hall of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, Nay Pyi Taw, in line with COVID-19 rules and regulations.

At the ceremony, Union Auditor-General Prof Dr Kan

Zaw delivered the concluding speech that as the Assistant Directors and Staff Officers are the leaders of the audit parties who communicate with departments and organizations directly; the training aims to conduct the responsibility with confidence in themselves and the office; the trainees need to understand the audit objectives, meet the qualifications of middle-level management and conduct with unity and team spirit to obtain the best results; well understand of the organizational behavior is in order to conduct the audit process with quality; moreover knowing sharing about changes in audit practices to departments and organizations through good relationship with them.

Then, he mentioned that the trainees should try to be good civil servants involved in promoting public financial management honestly, under the laws, rules, and regulations, and always endeavour to strengthen the professional quality and professional ethics.

During the training for three weeks face to face, 21 Assistant Directors and 28 Staff Officers from the Head Office, a total of 49 trainees attended.

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

Myanmar, Bangladesh holds region commander level border coordination meeting

THE meeting of the region commander level border coordination between the Myanmar and Bangladesh border guards was held in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, yesterday.

The event was attended by the Myanmar delegation led by Police Brig-Gen Htet Lwin and the Bangladeshi delegation led by Brig-Gen Najm-Us-Sakib.

The meeting focused on the eradication of the construction site near Myanmar-Bangladesh border lines, exchange of news

regarding activities of terrorists in border areas, covering news of trans-border crimes, prevention of illegal entry into Myanmar from Bangladesh by crossing border fencing, joint patrols of border guards of two countries, exchange of information in the fight against drugs, the establishment of the bilateral relation office (Maungtaw-Teknaf) and other matters including friendship games.

Then, the two border guards exchanged the presents. — MNA



The bilateral meeting between Myanmar and Bangladesh is in progress.

Matriculation results to be released on 12 June



Matriculation students were seen at one BEHS School.

THE results of the matriculation exam for the 2021-2022 Academic Year will be released on 12 June, according to education

officials.

There were 312,424 students registered to sit the exam, and 281,741 of them actually completed the exam, according to the Ministry of Education.

The matriculation exam was held from 31 March to 9 April at 20 foreign examination centres, and 1,238 local exam centres and 90.18 per cent of the students took the exam. The results will be announced at designated schools in respective townships, as well as at <https://www.myanmarexam.org/index.html>. — TWA/GNLM

Daily imports of essential anti-COVID-19 equipment conducted in smooth process

THE Ministry of Commerce supervises the import of essential medical supplies as well as anti-COVID-19 devices critical to COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities through border trade posts, international airports and seaports.

A company imported 50,000 suits of PPEs by two vehicles via the Chinshwehaw border trade camp yesterday.

Officials from relevant departments provided necessary facilities in order to beef up the standard operating procedures-SOP for the import process.

The public can browse the Ministry's Website — www.commerce.gov.mm — for notifications on the importation of medicines and related accessories. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar conveying Seintalone mango to Singapore by air, maritime transport

MYANMAR is exporting Seintalone mango to Singapore employing air and maritime transport, U Kyaw Soe Naing, general secretary of the Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association (Mandalay).

Air cargo is the fastest mode of transportation yet shipping cargo by air is the highest. Maritime transport is cheaper but it takes about a week at least.

In the previous batch, shipping cargo by sea affected the quality and experienced market failure said U Kyaw Soe Naing.

Additionally, mango growers slashed agricultural input costs and caused quality degra-



Workers are pictured (left and right) sorting out the Seintalone mangoes.

dation during this mango season. Therefore, some mangoes had postharvest diseases such as stem-end rot and black spot in the fruit, he continued.

“Myanmar has exported

Seintalone mango for the last four to five years. The market is going well. However, the market has some challenges with maritime trade. A kilogramme of Seintalone mango was earli-



er offered S\$6,” he elaborated.

The prevailing prices of Seintalone are worth up to 140 Yuan per 16-kilogramme basket in cross-border trade with China. For low quality, it fetches

only below 100 Yuan.

Of about 200 mango varieties that originated in Myanmar, Seintalone, Shwehintha, Padamyar Ngamauk, Yinkwe, and Machitsu varieties are primarily grown. The foreign market prefers Seintalone varieties.

Ayeyawady Region possesses the largest mango plantation acres, having about 46,000 acres. Bago Region is the second-largest producer with 43,000 acres and Mandalay has 29,000 acres of mango. There are over 24,000 acres in Kayin State, over 20,400 acres in Shan State and over 20,000 acres in Sagaing Region, according to the association. —NN/GNLM

Pest management research conducted in avocado farms under Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund



The project is implemented on two farms each in PyinOoLwin Township in Mandalay Region, Nawngkhio Township in northern Shan State and Taunggyi Township in southern Shan State.

UNDER the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund, a one-year pest management research project is being undertaken on some avocado farms in Mandalay Region, said U Myo Nyunt, vice-chair of the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association.

This pest management research commenced in cooperation with the experts from the Plant Protection Division under the Department of Agriculture of Myanmar. Insect traps were utilized in avocado farms from the first week

of May. Herbivores and other insects are found.

The project is implemented on two farms each in PyinOoLwin Township in Mandalay Region, Nawngkhio Township in northern Shan State and Taunggyi Township in southern Shan State. Pest monitoring is carried out in those six farms with insect trapping.

“Insect herbivores are mostly caught in traps for now. We will monitor which season attracts more herbivores and which season is vulnerable

to them. We will make research on pest control. We will figure out the pest population with insect trapping throughout the year. Unless there is a destructive fruit disease, the fruit can be exported. We need to remove the insects every 15 days. The trapped insects are sent to the Plant Protection Division (Yangon) for laboratory tests to identify pest type and population. The pest collection is firstly done. Then, we will analyze them for pest control,” he elaborated.

Pest management research will check the pests in avocado farms if they are destructive or not. It will find ways to control and remove them. This plan is crucial for export markets including China’s market. It will help the farm meet international standards as well. Thus, the Department of Agriculture and Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association are working together on it. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Dollar hits over K2,000 at exchanges despite CBM reference rate at K1,850

THE unofficial exchange rate against the US dollar stands at over K2,000 on the over-the-counter market although the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) set the reference exchange rate at K1,850, according to local forex traders.

To strengthen the Kyat value in the local forex market, the CBM set the exchange rate margin within 0.5 per cent of the reference rate for the transaction, selling or buying, according to a notification issued by the CBM on 9 November.

Consequently, financial institutions including the banks and informal money exchanges set a dollar value at K1,781 for buying and K1,786 for selling.

Consequently, financial institutions including the banks and informal money exchanges set a dollar value at K1,850 for buying and K1,855 for selling.

Nevertheless, the dollar was traded only between K2,058 and 2,068 on 1 June in the informal financial market.

The CBM sold US\$95 million at its auction market within three months this year for edible oil, fuel oil and pharmaceutical sectors, to govern the market volatility. A total of \$443.8 million were sold at an auction rate in 2021 as well.

Last 28 September 2021, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K3,000 in the black market and consequently, the pure gold reached a record high of K2.22 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme) in history.

Under the guidance of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, the Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market was formed on 17 December 2021 as gold and currency market stability play a crucial role in the trade facilitation.

The objectives of the committee are inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation, checking if there is compliance with payment rules not in the domestic market, and proceeding against those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere with the free and fair operation of the market under the existing laws, by-laws and regulations in line with the official directives, illegal procurement of foreign currency, illegal trade and taking legal actions against price manipulators.

Furthermore, the officials concerned will crack down on those people involved in charging a percentage for money withdrawals at banks as shadow money. — NN/GNLM

Put investment in education for future generations

THE education sector is top among other sectors for the development of the nation. The development gap between poor and rich countries depends on the education sector. Indeed, education controls the living standard of the people and the development standard of the nation.

Harmonization between short-term and long-term reform processes in the education sector brings remarkable results for all. Some derailment of such a sector can reflect the image of the country. The leaders of the State with farsightedness strive for improvement of the education sector because the politics and future leaders come out of the classrooms.

The number of educated citizens is the reliable strength of the nation in improving all other sectors so as to be wealthy. As such, the poor countries prioritize the development of human resources based on educating citizens about the living standard of the people as well as upgrading the nation.

If a country cannot escape from the poor, it will possess less-educated citizens. Consequently, these fewer educated citizens are unable to upgrade their country. That is why generations to generation will face degradation of the living standards for many years. How terrible it is!

The UNESCO stated that the higher dropout rate of teenage people from the schools would be an index to decline in the living standard of the people, and it would not help the world poverty rate resurge. Hence, all need to make all-out efforts to the improvement of the education

sector without fail.

Lesser chance to pursue education is a barrier to booming the economy. If the education sector does not have progress, no one can successfully reduce poverty. Hence, not only Myanmar but all the global countries need to implement the reform process in the education sector.

According to the statistics of UNESCO, universities of education in Myanmar turn out 2.3 per cent of all graduates for employment in primary, middle and high schools. Meanwhile, the Philippines produces 13 per cent of graduates, Malaysia 13 per cent, Japan 7.2 per cent, the US 9.5 per cent, the Netherlands 12.4 per cent, Austria 16 per cent, Viet Nam 22.6 per cent and Laos 25.2 per cent.

Myanmar needs to implement important educational reforms as quickly as possible and stop the endless trials for education. In so doing, it is important to adopt the proper policies for the education sector to implement the best short-term and long-term education plans for future generations.

A Study of Foreign Language Mislearning Styles

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo’s Song)

A KIND of language is used in speech or writing by most people all over the world every day. Almost everybody speaks at least one language daily all around the globe, which may possibly be their first or second language. Perhaps a language learner will have been studying his second language for several years, but he feels himself that his language is not improving much better than before significantly. Why on earth is it so? Might he have been learning a second language the wrong way? As a language learner, he should try to think all about the best solution to this problem.

First of all, any language learner should know the nature of a language, that is, the features which are generally found in most languages, before he studies this language. The language nature has been described as six aspects in the book ‘Teaching-Learning English as a Language’ by Thi-Ha, also a retired professor of English from the Yangon University of Education. Those aspects are as follows.

- 1) Language is a set of arbitrary symbols.
- 2) Language is a set of arbitrary rules of word order.
- 3) Language may be in one of two forms.
- 4) Language is a system of systems.
- 5) Language is a set of skills.
- 6) Language is a tool for communication.

According to Aspects (1) and (2), languages are arbitrary. That

means languages are usually different in vocabulary usages, onomatopoeic words, and grammatical patterns from one another. By Aspect (3), languages can be in the spoken form, the written form or both. In accordance with Aspect (4), languages mostly consist of the phonological system, the morphological system, the syntactic system, and the semantic system, in which the first system is related to speech sounds, the second to words and their forms, the third to sentences, and the fourth to meanings. As we all know, there are four main language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. However, some have added thinking to these skills as an extra one. Of course, the so-called thinking skill and one of the four skills go hand in hand whenever they are done. As regards Aspect (5), a large number of people have been using some language as a major asset for communication till now. Nevertheless, this could be no more than a communicative skill for others sometimes. Some language learners do not take any notice of these aspects of language, especially Aspects (1) and (2). If so, they will almost certainly speak or write a foreign language just like their native languages incorrectly. In other words, their speaking or writing will be of un-language expressions.

As to the language skills, in addition, they might be kept separate from each other while they are being learnt, yet they are found interrelated and interdependent very often. We can

try to think that we have got language proficiency in our mother tongue whether consciously or unconsciously. Among the skills of language, we have to develop the listening skill first. After this skill comes to the speaking skill. Then, the reading skill goes before the writing skill. Thus, either the listening and speaking skills or the reading and writing skills have become co-skills. Nonetheless, all these skills also rely on themselves conversely one way or another. Most language learners would like to speak or write in another language without a good command of pre-skills, listening and reading. Indeed, they need to listen enough before they speak effectively and efficiently. Only after reading enough must, they start to write accurately and explicitly. In my opinion, writing is the most difficult of language skills for it varies enormously even about the only subject matter depending upon an author’s ideas, choice of words, presentation styles and so on.

In order to get both language acquisition and language learning, language learners should have a learning environment of language. If not, they have to create such a learning environment by listening to music or the radio, watching the news on TV, seeing movies, reading books and something like these ways. This language environment can be created together with their friends, using a language to be still studied as much as possible. Saya Zaw Gyi, a poet laureate and writer of Myanmar, said that every language learner should go to live in the country where the language

is spoken in a few years or so. I totally agree about what he said. Otherwise, the language learner will never be in a real-life situation of language. Unless he can afford it, he will have to make a language learning environment on his own as hard as he could lest he lacks an extrinsic motivation for language study.

Not having adequate language resources is an interesting challenge which some language learners may face. The Internet, computers and books are great resources for all language learners. Those resources must be available, valid and reliable enough for language learners to study as well. It would be better for them to easily get a wide knowledge of language from the Internet and computers. It is best if books are written only in the language they are studying. They should choose the resources from native speakers whenever possible in that they are able to study the very language only. Libraries are a bank of knowledge about different languages too. Furthermore, language learners themselves ought to collect as many resources for study as a researcher does.

There are popular ways arising from language learning such as attending courses, on-line teaching-learning and self-directed learning. Still, language learners do not sometimes find it a significant achievement in learning a language as they expected, even though they have attended a number of courses. That is, in truth, why they still have a little exposure and practice with the language. ‘Little knowledge is dangerous’, as the saying goes.

For instance, anyone will never be a clever translator if he has yet read a lot although he goes to a translation class. For my money, there are no best ways in learning languages. Language learners should not spend too much time just sharing their knowledge of the language. Moreover, they need not follow the learning guidelines of well-known mentors to the letter. Should one learning way fit them to improve their foreign language inch by inch, they must carry on learning this way continuously.

It is natural to meet language barriers for language learners to a certain extent when they begin studying a language. In my experience, nearly all learners who have got to confront language barriers have difficulty in pronunciation of words. For example, there are no final consonant sounds in the Myanmar language, but in the English language. Some Myanmar students who are studying English do not want to enunciate each word of English with care. Even adult learners of language are too shy to utter a final consonant sound. Those who have learned a language a little bit overcome the language barriers with the help of broken language. The main reasons for these may include a strong influence on learners’ first language. To be a language expert, anybody should not be ashamed of his language learning by any means.

Different learners have diverse attitudes towards language learning. Some like to study a language as a subject; others as a language. The ones who are studying a language just as a subject may do well in their lan-

guage exams, but it will be really difficult for them to be an authority on this language. Language is language. Owing to instructors or learners, the language ought not to be in the nature of a subject. The learner had better understand a language only in that language. Using a bilingual method or a translation method of language learning could mean making oneself understood. As a result, the language learner might use one language meaninglessly and ungrammatically. Language learners shall, therefore, get rid of a subject-oriented attitude to learning languages.

To sum up, firstly, all language learners should be fully acquainted with the nature of language. Secondly, they must study enough for receptive skills, listening and reading, before productive skills, speaking and writing. Thirdly, they have to produce a language learning environment all by themselves. Fourthly, they can only use a monolingual dictionary if at all possible. Fifthly, they need to do continuous learning of language. They should even try to study a language for at least one hour a day for six months on end. A language is a thing that we will be using or otherwise losing it. Never stop developing a language proficiency level bit by bit. And don’t be shy about language learning at all. Make sure that learners have their own styles of learning the language. Finally, they will need to have simply a linguistic attitude towards any language in order to have got a mastery of the language.

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

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

Name	Appointment
(1) U Zaw Min Aung Deputy Director-General (Administration, supply, Training) Office of the Supreme Court of the Union Supreme Court of the Union	Director-General Office of the Supreme Court of the Union Supreme Court of the Union
(2) Dr Myat Myat Thaw Pro-Rector Sagaing University of Education Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Sagaing University of Education Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education

Earthquake News

A moderate earthquake of magnitude (5.4) Richter Scale with its epicentre (Myanmar Sea, about (16) miles southwest of Gwa), latitude 17.53°N, longitude 94.34°E, depth (14) kilometres, about (16) miles southwest of Gwa seismological observatory was recorded at (23) hr (13) min (15) sec M.S.T on 1 June 2022.

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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2022

ONLY ONE EARTH

“ONLY ONE EARTH” တစ်ခုတည်းသောကမ္ဘာမြေ

သတင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

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သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နိုင်ငံတကာခံ၍နမ့် ပံ့ပိုးလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

01 860 4530

SOURCE: AFP



The UAE Ministry of Health on Sunday announced that it had detected three new cases of monkeypox in the country, which has recently spread in several countries in the world. A picture shows an Emirates Airlines aeroplane at Dubai International Airport on 1 February, 2021. PHOTO: KARIM SAHIB / AFP

Monkeypox cases could be ‘peak of iceberg’: WHO

THE World Health Organization cautioned on 27 May that some 200 monkeypox cases found in recent weeks outside of countries where the virus usually circulates could be just the beginning.

“We don’t know if we are just seeing the peak of the iceberg,” Sylvie Briand, WHO’s epidemic and pandemic preparedness and prevention chief, acknowledged

in a briefing to countries on the “unusual” spread of the virus.

Since Britain first reported a confirmed monkeypox case on 7 May, nearly 200 cases have been reported to the UN health agency in countries far from the states where the virus is endemic.

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has put the number of such cases at 219.

Endemic in a number of west and central African nations, monkeypox cases have suddenly been detected in more than 20 other countries around the world, including the United States, Australia, the United Arab Emirates and nearly a dozen EU countries.

The Spanish health ministry said Friday that 98 cases had been confirmed there so far, while Britain currently counts 90 verified

infections.

Portugal has meanwhile registered 74 confirmed cases, health authorities said Friday, adding that all the occurrences are in men, mainly aged below 40.

“We are still at the very, very beginning of this event,” Briand told member state representatives attending the World Health Assembly in Geneva.

Statement of the MNHRC on the inspection visits of prisons, jails, detention centres and police lock-ups from January to May 2022

Statement No 3/2022

1. THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) is carrying out its human rights promotion and protection activities in accordance with the duties and powers of the Commission prescribed in Chapter V of its enabling law.
2. In doing so, the MNHRC has planned a schedule for visiting, constantly monitoring and inspecting prisons, jails, detention centres, police lock-ups, judicial lock-ups, and hospital guard-wards in line with Section 43 of the MNHRC law, in order to ensure that persons imprisoned, detained or confined are treated humanely and under international and national human rights laws.
3. While visiting the prison, jail, detention centre and lock-up, the inspection team of MNHRC carried out inspections in line with the Covid-19 pandemic protective instructions by the Ministry of Health.
4. From January to May 2022, the MNHRC teams inspected 8 prisons, 2 jails, 7 labour camps and 10 police lock-ups as follows: -

Sr.	Prison/Jail	Labour Camp	Police Lock-up
1.	Kengtung	Kyauk Phyu Taung	Kengtung Myoma
2.	Myeik	Sin Phyu Shin	Tachileik Myoma
3.	Nay Pyi Taw Jail	Kin-Thar (1)	Myeik Myoma
4.	Maubin	Kin-Thar (2)	Lashio Myoma
5.	Hinthada	Taung Lay Lone	Lashio station
6.	Lashio	Hti-Kham	Myitkyina Myoma
7.	Myitkyina	Ban-Kan	Nyaung-U Myoma
8.	Nyaung-U	-	Bagan station
9.	Nyaungshwe	-	Taunggyi Myoma
10.	Taunggyi Jail	-	Taunggyi station

5. During these visits, the MNHRC inspection team met and interviewed privately 5,348 prisoners and 2,523 detainees in 8 prisons and 2 jails, 1,007 prisoners in 7 labour camps and 419 detainees in 10 police lock-ups. The inspection team also freely inspected every place in the prisons and jails, without any exception including the sleeping quarters of the prisoners, detainees, prison facilities, the availability of personal accessories for each prisoner and detainee, food, and healthcare services, the provision of drinking water.
6. Furthermore, the inspection team met and asked the prisoners, and detainees at their sleeping quarters and worksite to ensure that they are provided with sufficient meals, there is no torture or ill-treatment, and the availability of personal accessories and supplies from their families. The inspection team also privately interviewed the prisoners who wish to meet with the team confidentially.
7. During the inspection, a total of 30 prisoners and detainees including 12 male inmates, 2 female inmates, 13 male detainees and 3 female detainees asked for permission to meet privately with the inspection team and the inspection team privately interviewed them under Sections 43 and 44 of the MNHRC enabling law.
8. The inspection team inspected the prisons, jails and police lock-ups to see if they meet the “United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners”, which was referred to in the procedures on the MNHRC enabling law. The following findings were sent to the respective Union Level institutions: -

Sr.	Matter	Findings and Recommendations
1.	matter relating to meals/food	1
2.	matter relating to the administration	43
3.	matter relating to the health care services	49
4.	matter relating to the building	23
5.	matter relating to education	1
6.	matter relating to cleanliness	5
7.	matter relating to drinking water	2
	Total	124

9. Out of the 124 recommendations sent, the respective institutions made 99 responses to the Commission while 25 are yet to be responded to. Among the 99 responses, 65 cases (65.66 per cent) were fully implemented and 34 cases (34.34 per cent) were still being processed.
10. The Commission is monitoring the status of implementing the recommendations of MNHRC by the respective institutions and if necessary, the Commission will repeat the recommendations after the next inspection visit.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, fuel oil, boats and vehicles seized in different townships



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

A team led by officials of the Taninthayi Naval Region Command Headquarters in Bokpyin Township conducted inspections under the management of the Taninthayi Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force and captured two wooden boats worth K28,500,000 on 29 May. The action was taken under the Myanmar Marine Fisheries Law.

Moreover, on 31 May, the on-duty inspection team made inspections at the Hteedan container checkpoint and confiscated a Nissan Cabstar car that was over the ID period and was left by the owner (approximately K10,740,000). Police opened a case file under the Customs Law.

In addition, on 1 June, Police captured 10,842 gallons of illegal fuel oil worth K72,540,000 and action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law. Similarly, on the same day, Police seized two unregistered vehicles (approximately K4,000,000) and action was taken under the Export/Import Law.

On the same day, the Forest Department team seized 11.8900 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1,737,664 in the Katha Township and action was charged under the Forest Law.

Thus, 14 arrests worth approximately K117,517,664 were made on 29, 31 May and 1 June, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

K131 million worth of drugs seized in Nawnghkio Township



THE Anti-Drug Police Force seized K131 million worth of drugs in Nawnghkio Township on 30 May.

At 5:00 pm, the combined team consisting of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a Toyota Ipsum car driven by Aung Ko Ko (aka) Pauksa with Aung Aung Naing aboard on the Lashio-Mandalay Road in Nawnghkio Township.

They captured 246,000 stimulant tablets and 10 kilograms of opium.

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

Lacquerware makers striving to keep business afloat in monsoon season

COVID-19 situations and global economic instability are drastically affecting the tourism industry and lacquerware businesses in Bagan’s ancient cultural heritage zone which are heavily relying on homegrown visitors and tourists are struggling to keep the business going during the monsoon season.

Lacquer is an aesthetic finest art which has been passed down from the previous generation to generation since the Bagan era. Lacquerware (locally called Yun De) developed with advanced technology without losing its cultural grip is attracting local visitors and tourists.

Lacquerware businesses are displaying more than 80 types of lacquer crafts with over 100 designs and features in Bagan. Lacquerware such as a small token of appreciation at the wedding reception and birthday events, lacquer alms bowl, lacquer tea leaf plate with lid, trays, lacquer alms bowl and food carrier, cups, boxes and containers are selling well. Foreigners fancy buying lacquer wine-cup, mugs, lacquer bowls of small and large sizes, trays, containers, boxes, souvenirs and other decorations.

Lacquer sales dropped due to the COVID-19 impacts. Nonetheless, lacquerware busi-



Lacquerware valued at K1,000 to K3 million is produced. This business is required to keep running and those stockholders in the supply chain are exerting great efforts to keep the business afloat as the majority of them are making a living on it. **PHOTO: KANU**

nesses are attempting to rise out of tough times. The makers are keeping the business afloat and developing new designs and features to keep abreast with the developments of other regional countries.

Visitors enjoy horse-riding, temporary hand-painting, purchasing souvenirs and photographing during their pilgrimage to Bagan. Lacquer businesses with the large investment are facing hardships to keep surviving in the difficult times owing to the low sales.

“We always welcome tourists. Our ancient city is relying on tourists. Bagan is recognized

as World Cultural Heritage Site. Myanmar’s ancient cultural heritage lies in the heart of Bagan. Therefore, preserving tangible cultural heritage, maintaining physical artefacts and temples from generation to generation as the lifeblood of the country and promoting soft power in cultural aspects are national responsibilities. As Bagan and lacquerware businesses are coexisting, protecting the lacquerware business from the verge of extinction can be regarded as preserving the Bagan cultural zone. This being so, keeping lacquerware business alive is of vital importance in Bagan,” said U Aung

Kyaw Tun, secretary of Myanmar Lacquerware Association.

To maintain lacquer arts and crafts, the Lacquerware College has been offering lacquer arts and innovative approach with international technology and original artworks. Those artisans from Bagan city and Myinkaba village are passing this art on to future generations.

If the lacquerware businesses can receive government subsidies just like the micro and small enterprises obtaining loan access under the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan, it will help the business survive in the monsoon season, some lacquerware

businesspersons shared their opinions.

The big challenge in the lacquerware industry is transport costs even the tourists flock to Bagan cultural zone. The soaring shipping cost might possibly affect the domestic handicraft industry. The regional countries like Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand see blooming handicraft businesses in international markets due to the facilitation of shipping by sea.

Bagan’s lacquerware business is relying 30 per cent on homegrown visitors and 70 per cent on tourists. Hotels, motels, restaurants and transportation businesses in Bagan city are depending 60 per cent on tourists and 40 per cent on local travellers. The lacquerware business, in which half of the local population is involved, is heavily relying on foreign tourists. Myinkaba and Phwasaw villages in Bagan are the main producers of lacquerware. Therefore, lacquerware is the backbone of Bagan’s economy. Lacquerware valued at K1,000 to K3 million is produced. This business is required to keep running and those stockholders in the supply chain are exerting great efforts to keep the business afloat as the majority of them are making a living on it. — Nyein Thu(MNA)/GNLM

Thaphanseik Dam receives record inflows against last year

THAPHANSEIK Dam receives water inflows five times higher than last year’s record, said the director of the Sagaing Region Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department.

“Water flowed into the dam starting from January during the early pre-monsoon period. The dam received water of approximately 70,000 acre-feet between January and May last year. This year, it holds over 360,000 acre-feet in the past five months. The

meteorologists predicted heavy rainfall this year. Thaphanseik Dam can provide adequate irrigation to 490,000 acres. Shwebo Pawsan cultivation is likely to be successful in the coming season, said the director.

In 2019, the Thaphanseik Dam could not provide irrigation water to summer paddy and other crops. In 2020, it irrigated 4,074 acres of summer paddy and 37,000 acres of other crops.

“The dam held 3.1 million



Thaphanseik Dam mainly retains water and releases water into the riverbed of Mu. Then, the irrigation is distributed through the Kintat diversion weir to 170,000 sowing acres.

acre-feet in 2021. The water inflow is the highest in the mid and late monsoon season (July-September). About 2.4 million acre-feet are left after monsoon paddy irrigation. It contributed to irrigation water resources for the fields nearby starting from

7 February. The crops are harvested now,” the director elaborated.

Thaphanseik Dam mainly retains water and releases water into the riverbed of Mu. Then, the irrigation is distributed through the Kintat diversion

weir to 170,000 sowing acres. The Karbo Dam provides water to 320,000 acres of other crops and 500,000 acres of paddy in Shwebo, Kanbalu, Sagaing and Monywa districts in the Sagaing Region through Shwebo and YeU main canals. — Lu Lay/GNLM



ECONOMY

WORLD

Over 10,000 food items in Japan to see price hike in 2022: survey

OVER 10,000 food items in Japan will experience price increases of an average 13 per cent this year as a result of rising materials costs and the yen's rapid depreciation, a survey by a credit research firm showed Wednesday.

The Teikoku Databank Ltd. survey found that 105 major food manufacturers had raised prices on 6,285 products by June, with price hikes planned for an additional 4,504 products from July onward.

A growing number of Japanese companies are selling products at higher prices as the coronavirus pandemic and Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine have caused the cost of everything from wheat to crude oil to rise.

The depreciation of the yen has presented further challenges for Japanese companies as it boosts import prices and leads to higher production costs.

In the past, companies have tried to minimize the impact on consumers through "stealth price hikes" — a phenomenon known elsewhere as shrinkflation in which the size of products is reduced but the price is unchanged — or several incremental price revisions, but soaring materials costs have "moved beyond" what they can absorb, Teikoku Databank said. Alcoholic beverages and other drinks will see the largest price hikes at an average of 15 per cent due to rising costs of wheat and plastic bottle packaging, according to the survey.

will have their price increased in July or later:— Kyodo



People wearing face masks for protection against the coronavirus walk in Osaka's Minami area on 28 September 2021. PHOTO: KYODO

French economy shrinks in first quarter



Policemen patrol near Le Printemps shopping center in Paris on 31 January 2021, as big shopping centres are closed as a measure taken to curb the spread of the Covid-19. PHOTO: GEOFFROY VANDER

FRANCE'S economy shrank in the first quarter as households spent even less than previously thought due to rising inflation, the statistics agency said Tuesday, lowering an initial estimate of zero growth.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has sent energy and food prices soaring worldwide, raising concerns that inflationary pressure could derail the economic recovery from the Covid pandemic.

France's worse-than-estimated performance puts an end to the country's strong economic

rebound from the pandemic and poses a challenge to President Emmanuel Macron, who was re-elected last month.

Prior to the war, France's INSEE statistics agency had expected the French economy to grow in the first quarter after rising sharply last year.

Last month it estimated that the economy had flatlined but its new calculations showed that France's gross domestic product contracted by 0.2 per cent in the first three months of the year.

Household spending fell by 1.9 per cent in the same period, worse than initially estimated.

Inflation accelerated again in May, reaching 5.2 per cent — the first time it crossed the five-per-cent threshold since 1985.

Energy prices were higher, as the cost of oil products rose, INSEE said. Food prices rose by 4.2 per cent.— AFP

China to intensify efforts in improving rural transport infrastructure

CHINA is planning to increase its efforts to improve transport infrastructure in rural areas this year, the country's Vice-Minister of Transport Zhao Chongjiu said Tuesday.

China will complete the reconstruction of an extra 30,000 km of rural highways this year, bringing the total annual reconstruction goal to 150,000 km, Zhao told a press conference.

The country will also step up efforts to rebuild 8,000 unsafe bridges in rural areas this year, an increase of 3,000 bridges from the previously announced targets, he said.—Xinhua

Spain partially reopens enclaves to Moroccan workers

SPAIN opened the borders of its North African enclaves Ceuta and Melilla to Moroccan workers on Tuesday, two years after their closure and following the resolution of a drawn-out diplomatic crisis.

The European Union's only borders on African soil had been shuttered in 2020 at the height of the coronavirus pandemic, then later become hostage to a bitter spat over migration and the issue of the disputed Western Sahara.

Before they were closed, some 4,400 Moroccans had regularly made the crossing visa-free to work and trade.—AFP

Data shows Trump trade war hurts American farmers

CONSERVATIVE American economists told Xinhua three years ago that the trade war started by former US President Donald Trump would not work. They were right.

"At the time, it was obvious that the Trump trade war strategy of unilaterally imposing tariffs on imports from China and other countries would blow up in that administration's face,"

said Vincent Smith, a highly regarded conservative agro-economist at the University of Montana.

Smith, renowned in his field and a non-resident senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington DC, told Xinhua Friday that true to most economic predictions, the Trump trade war with China was an economic

disaster.

Trump's approach toward correcting the trade imbalance between the United States and China was "another of several major economic follies pursued by the Trump Administration because of woeful and inexcusable ignorance about how the real world works on the part of the then president and some of his key advisors." —Xinhua



The impact of retaliatory tariffs was particularly significant for agricultural trade with China. Grocery shopping in Rosemead, California on 21 April 2022. PHOTO: FREDERIC J. BROWN / AFP

Sri Lanka to hike tax rates to increase gov't revenue

THE Sri Lankan government announced on Tuesday that it has decided to amend five taxation acts in order to hike tax rates to bring the government revenue back to 2019 levels.

The tax rate hike is expected to involve value added taxes. Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017, Value Added Tax Act, No. 14 of 2002, Telecommunication Levy Act No. 21 of 2011, Betting and Gaming Levy Act, No. 40 of 1988, and Fiscal Management (Responsibility) Act No. 3 of 2003 were relaxed in 2019, leading to an about 25 per cent decrease in the government revenue, said cabinet spokesperson Bandula Gunawardena.—Xinhua

New Apple museum opens in former Warsaw factory

A new museum opening in a former metalworking factory in Warsaw brings together 1,600 exhibits linked to Apple — the result of years of painstaking efforts by a determined Polish collector. “It is the biggest and most complete Apple collection in the world,” boasted Jacek Lupina, a 56-year-old architect, who amassed the collection spanning the entire history of the US tech giant. The museum is housed in Fabryka Norblina, a red-brick factory from the early 19th century in central Warsaw which has been turned into a retail and entertainment space.—AFP

China’s banking sector ratchets up support to boost economy

AS the fallout of COVID-19 continues to weigh on the world’s second-largest economy, China’s banking sector has ratcheted up support measures to boost the economy, channelling funds to where they are needed the most.

In times of increasing downward pressure, financial institutions, as a supporting force for growth, are expected to step in and energize firms while implementing pro-growth measures, analysts said. At a State Council executive meeting earlier this month, China’s policymakers announced a new package of 33 measures to stimulate growth, urging lenders to extend stronger credit support to market entities undergoing great difficulties. China’s market entities, totaling 158 million as of the end of last month and major job creators for the economy, have been under greater strains amid economic pressure at home and mounting challenges abroad.—Xinhua



A visitor interacts with a smart banking robot at the service robots exhibition area of the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services in Beijing, capital of China, 5 September 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA/LU

Japan’s FY 2021 tax revenue to hit record high above 65 tril. yen

JAPAN’S tax revenue in fiscal 2021 is likely to surpass 65 trillion yen (\$502 billion) for a record high as revenues from corporate and other key taxes are expected to expand amid the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, government sources said Wednesday.

While corporate tax revenue for the year that ended March has so far increased 20 per cent from a year earlier, income tax and consumption tax are also forecast to grow and boost the overall revenue to mark a record for the second straight year.

The fiscal 2021 tax revenue is seen to top the government projec-



Japan’s national consumer price index for April 2022 rose 2.1% year on year, reaching the Bank of Japan’s 2% price rise target. PHOTO: KYODO

tion of 63.88 trillion yen estimated late last year, with the surplus expected to be used to finance a possible extra budget to be compiled after the House of Councillors election slated for this summer.—Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (057N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (057N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CHANGING DISTRIBUTOR OF REGISTERED PESTICIDE

This is a notification of the change of distributor of below herbicide, registered by **Bayer AG**, under the Myanma Pesticide Registration Board, from **Myanma Golden Farm Co., Ltd.** to **Charoen Pokphand Produce Myanmar Co., Ltd.** Any objection to this change can notify to Joint Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein, within 14 days.

Trade Name	A.I	Reg. Type	Reg. No.
Tiller Gold 90 OD	Fenoxaprop-p-ethyl 6.9% + Ethoxysulfuron 2.1% OD	Full	FF2021-748

Bayer Thai Co., Ltd. (Myanmar Branch)
PH : 01-8382710 (Ext. 40600)

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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09 454 237 515

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MAC DALIAN

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MAC DALIAN VOY.NO. (3088)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORSE SAVANNA

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORSE SAVANNA VOY.NO. (01L)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

According to the report will allow for the automatic removal of gun licences from people who commit domestic violence or engage in criminal harassment. Toronto Police investigate the scene of a shooting from the night before in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on 23 July 2018. **PHOTO: USMAN KHAN / AFP/FILE**

Canada introduces new firearm-control bill to freeze handguns

THE Canadian ruling party has tabled a new firearm-control bill which features a national freeze on importing, buying, selling or otherwise transferring handguns, reported Xinhua, quoting local media on Tuesday.

CTV News reported that the measure does not ban handguns outright, allowing current owners to continue to possess and use them, but seeks to cap

the number in the country.

The number of registered handguns in Canada increased 71 per cent between 2010 and 2020, reaching approximately 1.1 million, according to federal statistics. Handguns were the most serious weapon present in the majority of firearm-related violent crimes between 2009 and 2020, CTV News reported.

According to the report, the bill, readied by the federal

Liberals, will allow for the automatic removal of gun licences from people who commit domestic violence or engage in criminal harassment, such as stalking.

The Liberals plan to fight gun smuggling and trafficking by increasing criminal penalties, providing more tools to investigate firearm crimes and strengthening border measures.—Xinhua

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

First cargo ship sails from Mariupol since fall to Russia: separatists

A cargo ship carrying metal has left Mariupol and headed to Russia, a pro-Moscow separatist leader said on Tuesday, the first time a vessel had sailed from the Ukrainian port since it fell to Russian forces.

"Today 2,500 tonnes of sheet metal rolls left the port of Mariupol, the ship is heading to Rostov," Denis Pushilin, the pro-Kremlin separatist leader in Donetsk, wrote on Telegram.

"This transport hub is very important for Donbas.

This is the largest port on the Sea of Azov and the only one where all types of cargo can be handled, including in winter," he said. The port of Mariupol was Ukraine's second-busiest, after Odessa on the Black Sea, before Russia launched its offensive on 24 February.

Russia said last week the port was reopening after the military demined an area of 1.5 million square metres in the port, with sappers working in the docks and on ships moored there.—AFP

Russians control 'half' of Severodonetsk in east: Ukraine

RUSSIAN forces control half of the east Ukraine city of Severodonetsk, a Ukrainian military official said Tuesday, as Moscow's army continues an unrelenting push deeper into the Donbas region.

"Unfortunately, the front line divides the city in half. But the city is still defending itself, the city is still Ukrainian, our soldiers are defending it," said Oleksandr Stryuk, head of the city's military and civil administration, said in a live broadcast.

After failing to capture the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, in the early stages of the war, Russia has shifted its focus to the eastern Donbas region and is attempting to consolidate areas under its control. Lugansk re-



The destroyed bridge connecting the city of Lysychansk with the city of Severodonetsk in the eastern Ukrainian region of Donbas, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine, 22 May 2022. **PHOTO: ARIS MESSINIS/ AFP**

gional governor Sergiy Gaiday earlier described the situation in Severodonetsk as "extreme-

ly complicated" conceding that parts of the city were controlled by Russian forces.—AFP

High-tech race to map Ukraine's damaged historic buildings

MANY of Ukraine's historic monuments have been destroyed in the three months since Russia invaded, but cultural experts are working to conserve their memory using cutting-edge technology and 3D scans.

One of them is volunteer French engineer Emmanuel Durand, a specialist in 3D data acquisition, who is assisting a bevy of architects, engineers, historic building experts and a museum director to record

buildings in Kyiv, Lviv, Chernigiv and Kharkiv.

Durand steps over a jumbled pile of beams and crunches over the rubble that was once Kharkiv's 19th-century fire station.

He plants his laser scanner, a sort of tripod with a pivoting head, in a strategic corner of the severely damaged building.

The redbrick fire station and its watchtower, built in 1887, are a monument to Kharkiv's industrial revolution.—AFP

Ukraine calls for Macron visit before French EU presidency ends

UKRAINE'S Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba on Tuesday called on French President Emmanuel Macron to visit his country before the end of France's EU presidency on 30 June.

"It would be good that Macron came during the French EU presidency, and the best thing would be that he comes with more weapons deliveries for Ukraine," he told French news

channel LCI.

"That's the most precious aid we can receive from France."

Macron travelled to Moscow and Kyiv shortly before Russia's invasion on 24 February and has not returned to Ukraine since the outbreak of the war.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Canadian leader Justin Trudeau and high-ranking European officials have visited

Kyiv since Russia withdrew its forces from the Ukrainian capital to refocus its attention on the east. New French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna visited Kyiv on Monday, the first such trip by a French official since the start of the war. But the newly re-elected French head of state on Tuesday repeated his wish to go to Kyiv "in good time, in the right conditions".—AFP

UN Security Council urges action on Gulf of Guinea piracy

THE UN Security Council on Tuesday urged greater action to stop piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, which has become by far the world's riskiest waters for maritime kidnappings.

A Security Council resolution — approved unanimously despite high tensions between veto-wielding Russia and the West — said it “strongly condemns” the spike of piracy in the West African waters.

The Council “urges member states in the region of the Gulf of Guinea to take prompt action, at national and regional levels, with the support of the international community, when requested by the state concerned”.

It called on all nations in the region to develop their own plans and to criminalize piracy in domestic laws.

According to a UN report, 27 of the world's 28 recorded kidnappings at sea in 2020 took place in the Gulf of Guinea.

Stretching for 5,700 kilometres (3,500 miles) from Senegal to Angola, the Gulf of Guinea is rich in hydrocarbons and fisheries and borders some 20 countries, including ones with



Special forces of the Nigerian navy sail to apprehend pirates in a mock operation during joint exercises with France in Nigerian waters in October 2019. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

limited naval and coast guard capacities.

The resolution was co-sponsored by Ghana and Norway, which both said that piracy posed international risks.

Harold Agyeman, Ghana's ambassador to the United Nations, said that piracy constituted “one of the foremost security concerns on the African continent”.

Piracy “risks compounding

multifaceted challenges facing the region including a surge in terrorism, a return of coup d'etats, a deepening of climate change as well as the worsening impact of the Covid-19 pandemic”.

A study by the Stable Seas research institute found that pirate groups, mostly in the Niger Delta, can earn around \$5 million per year through theft and hostage-taking.— AFP

Salvaged Hokkaido tourist boat craned from barge ahead of inspection

A tourist boat that was salvaged after it sank in waters off Hokkaido was lifted on Wednesday from the barge that carried it to port and transported for further investigation into the accident that killed 14 and left another 12 missing.

After being craned off the barge at Abashiri Port, the 19-ton Kazu I was loaded on a large truck and taken to a facility several hundred meters away.

Later in the day, families of those killed or lost in the accident off Japan's northernmost main island will be given the chance to see the vessel and place flowers for their loved ones.

The boat, which sank in bad weather during a sightseeing cruise off the Shiretoko Peninsula on 23 April, the first day of the touring season, was positioned

on the deck of the barge on Friday after being brought to the surface by Nippon Salvage Co.

The Japan Coast Guard will

now examine the boat's underside in hopes of making progress in determining the cause of the accident.— Kyodo



Salvaged tourist boat Kazu I is craned onto a large truck at a port in Abashiri, Hokkaido, on 1 June 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

New Yorkers celebrate Memorial Day marking start of summer

NEW Yorkers celebrated Memorial Day on Monday with parades and other activities, which resembled the celebrations in the time before the COVID pandemic.

In New York City alone, around 10 parades and public education programmes were scheduled for Monday, according to the city's website.

Hundreds of soldiers, veterans, elected officials, military leaders as well as the public attended a traditional commemoration event on Monday at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in Manhattan, after an interruption of two years amid the pandemic.

The ceremony included

speeches, laying of wreaths, unfurling of a big-size American flag, and a flyover by US Navy fighters.

New York State Governor Kathy Hochul vowed her support to veterans on education, job, housing and healing from wars.

The landmarks across the state would be lit red, white and blue in recognition of Memorial Day on Monday night, according to Hochul.

“This is our first year here together. I wanted to share the tradition,” said Cheyenne, a New Yorker from Queens who brought her four-month-old son and other family members to the ceremony.—AFP



US Navy sailors leave the venue after the conclusion of an event marking Memorial Day at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York, the United States, on 30 May 2022. New Yorkers celebrated Memorial Day on Monday with parades and other activities, which resembled the celebrations in the time before the COVID pandemic. **PHOTO: XINHUA/LIU YANAN**

S. Korea's voting gets under way for local elections, by-elections

SOUTH Korea's voting for local elections and by-elections for parliamentary seats kicked off on Wednesday, with its results closely watched following President Yoon Suk Yeol's victory in one of the most hotly contested presidential races in the country just over two months ago. Through Wednesday's election, 17 metropolitan mayors and provincial governors will be decided as well as seven National Assembly lawmakers. The voting started at 6 am and will last for 12 hours, while those who were infected with the coronavirus will be voting from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm to prevent the further spread of the virus. Out of total eligible voters, 20.62 per cent have already cast their ballots during two-day early voting held Friday and Saturday, marking the highest turnout for any local elections in history and reflecting high public interest less than a month after Yoon's term started.— Kyodo



SPORT

Finalists of Myanmar squad to be released within few days

MYANMAR national team head coach Antoine Hey will announce the final list of the Myanmar men's national football team in the coming days for the 2023 Asian Cup third round Qualifiers.

The Myanmar national team is taking training in Thailand in preparation for the third round of the Asian Cup and will leave for Kyrgyzstan on 3 June for the third round of the Asian Cup Qualifiers.

The Myanmar team has been taking training in Thailand since 22 May in preparation for the Asian Cup Qualifiers and has played two international friendlies with one draw and one loss.

Myanmar drew 0-0 with Hong Kong in a friendly on 24 May and lost 2-0 to Bahrain in further a friendly on 27 May.

The Myanmar team played very responsively in the match against Bahrain and only lost due to two goals conceded near the end of the match.



Myanmar National Team players are taking training ahead of the 2023 Asian Cup third round Qualifiers. PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar national team head coach Antoine Hey has selected 27 preliminary players and only a few players will be reduced.

Goalkeepers Kyaw Zin Phyto, Pyae Phyto Thu, Tun Nanda Oo, Defenders Kyaw Zin Lwin, Win Moe Kyaw, Soe Moe Kyaw, Nyein Chan, Ye Min Thu, David Htan, Hein Phyto Win, Aung Wunna Soe, Zaw

Ye Tun, Midfielders Hlaing Bo Bo, Yan Naing Oo, Aung Naing Oo, Lwin Moe Aung, Maung Maung Lwin, Suam Lam Mang, Myat Kaung Khant, Hein Htet Aung, Htet Phyto Wai, Yan Kyaw Soe, Zaw Win Thein, Aung Myo Khant, Strikers Aung Kaung Marn, Than Paing, and Win Naing Tun are included in the preliminary list. — Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Tottenham sign Perisic on free transfer from Inter



Tottenham Hotspur have signed Croatia international Ivan Perisic on a free transfer, the Premier League club announced Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

TOTTENHAM Hotspur have signed Croatia international Ivan Perisic on a free transfer, the Premier League club announced Tuesday.

The 33-year-old will join the north London side when his contract at Inter Milan expires at the end of June after agreeing a two-year deal.

"We are delighted to announce the transfer of Ivan Perisic," said a Spurs state-

ment.

"The vastly experienced Croatia international will join the club on 1 July following the expiration of his contract at Internazionale and has agreed a deal that will run until 2024."

Perisic worked with Tottenham manager Antonio Conte in Italy, with the duo winning the 2020/21 Serie A title together at Inter.—AFP

Nadal downs Djokovic in late-night epic to reach 15th French Open semi-final

RAFAEL Nadal edged a late-night classic against old rival Novak Djokovic in the early hours of Wednesday in four sets to reach his 15th French Open semi-final.

The 13-time Roland Garros champion won the pair's 59th career meeting 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) after a four-hour-and-12-minute quarter-final on a raucous Court Philippe Chatrier.

Nadal sealed his eighth victory in 10 French Open matches against last year's winner Djokovic at 1:16 am local time (2316 GMT Tuesday) to set up a last-four clash with third seed Alexander Zverev on Friday.

"I'm very emotional. For me it's incredible to play here," said Nadal.

"Playing against him is always an amazing challenge... To win against Novak, there



Rafael Nadal edged a late-night classic against old rival Novak Djokovic in the early hours of Wednesday in four sets to reach his 15th French Open semi-final. PHOTO: AFP

is only one way, to play your best from the first point until the last."

The 35-year-old has lost just three of his 113 matches on the Paris clay since his 2005 title-winning debut and now only trails Djokovic 30-29 in their career head-to-head. The Spaniard, seeded fifth, remains on course for a record-extending 22nd Grand Slam title after lifting this year's Australian Open, which Djokovic missed

after being deported from the country over his Covid vaccination status.

Djokovic overturned a double-break deficit to take an 88-minute second set and missed two set points when serving for the fourth to force a decider.

The world number one will rue those missed chances while he waits until Wimbledon for his next opportunity to take his Slam tally to 21.—AFP