

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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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.

Announcement for armed resistance organizations' members including PDF who want to enter legal fold

LESSONS have already been learnt from the past that unity can only assure non-disintegration of the Union and perpetuation of sovereignty for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar where various ethnic peoples are living in. In the future, it must work for the unity and solidarity of ethnic brethren. Due to political adversaries and disagreements in ethnic affairs, internal armed conflicts occurred and it has hampered the development of the country.

Those who were persuaded by terrorist groups CRPH and NUG to commit acts of terrorism leading to the total destruction of the country and launch armed resistance under various names of groups including PDF. Such doings can affect the stability of the State and occur delay in ways to democracy.

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Myanmar to export 2 mln metric tons of rice this FY

MYANMAR exports about 200,000 tonnes of rice per month and expects to export two million metric tons during this financial year by cooperating with partner organizations, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The value-added rice is mainly exported to the European market. Although there is no impact on foreign exchange, it affects the rice export to a little extent and so officials make arrangements to overcome certain challenges. Myanmar exports rice to the EU, China, some ASEAN countries and Bangladesh.

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Workers are pictured stacking the bags of export rice at one rice depot.



Pyin Oo Lwin

NAN MYAING

Pure Arabica Coffee

Sales Department - PH: 085 2021740, 09 30529111
 YANGON-PH: 09 263147385, 09 671443555
 MANDALAY-PH: 09 661702244, 09 661702255
 NAY PYI TAW-PH: 09 685119077, 09 690711077

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 14-6-2022.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Announcement for armed resistance organizations' members including PDF who want to enter legal fold

FROM PAGE-1

As the strength of the country lies on its own, the entire people should cooperate in establishing a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system as per the five-point roadmap of the State Administration Council, “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 according to democratic standards, and the people participation can enhance these undertakings in line with “the strength of the country lies within” and “one of the objectives on political affairs to build a Union based on democracy and federalism through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just”.

Therefore, it is here announced that the organizations including PDF are welcomed if they enter the legal fold for their normal civilian lives by surrendering their weapons following rules and regulations to participate in future work plans of the country.

Information Team
State Administration Council

Myanmar to export 2 mln metric tons of rice this FY



merchants carried out arrangements regarding trade flows, maintaining a balance between the areas that have the surplus and where are in need and leftover rice in regions to achieve stable rice and broken rice market in July and August. As the local rice price was high at K30,000 per bag for high fertilizer prices, transport charges and a decline in rice mill operations. The prices of broken rice and sticky rice were also on the rise and so the officials made arrangements to gain a stable rice market in the monsoon.

The MRF is making efforts to ensure rice and broken rice export, local consumption and a stable market and expects to export two million metric tons this financial year, according to the federation. — Nyein Thu/GNLM

FROM PAGE-1

There is broken rice demand for export, and the bran and broken rice are provided for the local livestock industry and breweries. Myanmar’s broken is exported to the EU and China most and also to Bangladesh. It still needs to maintain the local demand and export volume.

In 2021, the country faced difficulties in currency circulation but this year the situation is better than last year and it hits the rice and farming development sector. The MRF and rice

13 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 11 June, total figure rises to 613,440

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 613,440 after 13 new cases were reported on 11 June 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 592,423 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 19,434 without more casualties.—MNA

Further invitation to remaining groups to hold talks

DEMOCRACY as well as federalism requires equal rights. Talks will continue with the ethnic armed organizations to restore peace. Good results came out from the talks with EAOs. Efforts will continue to restore peace by holding better talks. Some EAOs cannot participate in the talks for various reasons. In line with the firm implementation of two political visions, the government further invites remaining groups to hold talks.

(The excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with ministers of Yangon Region government on 9 June 2022.)

Collaborative efforts needed to render best services for electricity needs of the people: MoEP & MoE Union Minister

OUR ministry is a public service department and it is necessary to work together with good intentions as much as possible to meet the electricity needs of the people and provide the best service, said Union Minister U Thaung Han of the Ministry of Electric Power and Ministry of Energy. The Union minister met township electrical managers and township electrical engineers and officials from the Yangon Electric Supply Corporation, district electricity managers and district electrical engineers at the Conference Hall (Head Office) of the Yangon City Electricity Corporation yesterday morning.

The Ministry of Electric Power is working on it to meet the electricity demand and to get renewable energy in power generation and develop in a variety of ways, as Yangon Region's electricity consumption is increasing.

In addition, electricians are supervising the expansion of the power transmission section, voltage, and distribution sections.

The Union minister urged officials to use the stage budget systematically for the development of the electricity sector.

The main goal of our ministry is to minimize the loss of electricity to the public and maintain the stable voltage distribution in a timely manner. The Union minister suggested officials cooperate in the electricity billing and security processes. —MNA



Union Minister U Thaung Han of the Ministry of Electric Power and Ministry of Energy discusses with township and district electrical managers and electrical engineers and officials from the Yangon Electric Supply Corporation in Yangon yesterday.

Work Coordination Meeting 2/2022 of Union Auditor-General and Directors from Region/State Audit Offices held

THE work coordination meeting 2/2022 of the Union Auditor-General and directors from Region and State Audit Offices and the pre-meeting of the first quarter of the 2022-2023 Financial Year (FY) regarding real-time audit were held at 9 am on 10 June at the Assembly Hall of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw via a videoconference system.

At the meeting, Prof Dr Kan Zaw, the Union Auditor-General, delivered an opening address, saying that this meeting is being held for the effective and successful implementation of real-time audits because the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union will start real-time audits in the 2022-2023 Financial Year in addition to regular audits; as the state investment projects implemented with public funds are for the public, therefore, the real-time audit will be con-



The work coordination meeting 2/2022 of the Union Auditor-General and the directors of the state/ region audit offices is in progress.

ducted for concurrent control over the projects, whether they are effectively and efficiently implemented within the specified period, to be able to obtain the benefits of these projects

for the public.

Therefore, he emphasized that the directors from the Region and State Audit Offices should try to learn the real-time audit systematically

and conduct their work with effort.

Then, the directors from the Region and State Auditor-General's Offices presented and discussed the ac-

complishment of audit works, the remaining works and the activities for real-time audit.

The director-general of the Audit Department gave a wide-ranging discussion on the real-time audit process.

After that, the permanent Secretary explained the raised questions from the directors of the Region and the State Auditor-General's Offices.

Then, the Union Auditor-General coordinated the necessary matters and delivered the closing address.

The meeting was attended by the permanent secretary, the director-general (Audit Department), the deputy permanent secretary, deputy directors-general, directors, and deputy directors of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union at the Assembly Hall and by the directors from the Region and State Auditor-General's Offices virtually. — MNA

MoNREC Union Minister inspects Yangon's forest reserve, training schools, waste-to-power plant



UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi inspected Block 8 of the Hline Yoma mountain forest reserve in Taikgyi Township of Yangon Region yesterday.

During the visit, the Union minister instructed the need to develop forest coverage in Yangon Region, conserve forest reserve, expand the forest reserve area and protected land area, establish mangrove plantations and conserve the natural forest and biodiversity. Then, he also viewed the 50-type wood plantation including teak, ironwood, Mahogany and Thingan.

Then, the Union minister went to the AFoCO Regional Education and Training Centre in Hmawby Township and instructed the necessary things. He also checked the classrooms, labs, sports hall, dormitories, meeting hall, Orchid tissue culture laboratory and teak culture laboratory of the Central Forestry Development Training Centre.

At noon, the Union minister arrived at the waste-to-energy plant in Hlawga in Shwepyitha Township. The plant burns 60 tonnes of garbage per day to generate 760 kW. Among the production rate, 400 kW is used for the plant and the remaining 300 kW is transmitted per day.—MNA

First working committee meeting of Thai-Myanmar police chief level on cooperation in combatting transnational crimes held in Bangkok

MYANMAR delegation led by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet attended the first working committee meeting of the two countries' police chief level on cooperation in combatting transnational crimes between the Myanmar Police Force and the Royal Thai Police Force in Bangkok on 7 June.

The Myanmar delegation arrived at Bangkok Police Centre on 6 June and the Centre in charge explained the security affairs and monitoring system for traffic jams in Bangkok and the Deputy Minister gave presents.

At noon, the deputy minister and party visited the Royal Thai Police Academy and were welcomed by the academy principal with the Guard of Honour of the Royal Thai Police.

Myanmar delegation led by Police Brig-Gen Aung Htay Myint joined the pre-coordination meeting of a high-level meeting with top police officials held at Anantara Siam Hotel on 6 June evening.



MoHA Deputy Minister Chief of Police Force Maj-Gen Zin Min Htet and Royal Thai Police General Suwat Jangyodsuk ink the meeting minutes of the first working committee.

During the meeting, the officials discussed the prevention of cross-border crimes and transnational crimes and proper systems to exchange information, capacity-strengthening cooperation and MoU for the cooperation of two countries' police forces.

In the evening, Senator Police General (Retired) Tritot Ronnaritvichai Police General (Retired) Thammasak Vicharaya, Police General and the Royal Thai Police delegation called on the MoHA Deputy Minister Chief of Police Force and discussed bilateral cooperation with the Myanmar Police Force.

On 7 June, the first working committee meeting of the two countries' police chief level on cooperation in combating transnational crime between the Myanmar Police Force and the Royal Thai Police Force was held.

During the meeting, the Deputy Minister discussed border area security and rule

of law, eradication of terrorist acts, drugs, human trafficking, cyber-crimes, promotion of bilateral relations for border areas in the fight against transnational smuggling and cooperation works of two countries' police forces to uncover the armed groups and terrorists who are hiding in Myanmar-Thai border areas.

Then, the Deputy Minister and Suwat Jangyodsuk, Commissioner-General of the Royal Thai Police Force signed in the first working committee meeting record and exchanged the gifts. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed the cooperation works of the two countries' police, especially for arms and ammunition smuggling, transnational crimes, protection of lives and prosperity of people living in border areas, human resource development, training courses for police and MoU between two police forces and also signed six agreements for further cooperation works. — MNA

Maha Samaya Day to be celebrated at Shwedagon Pagoda on Nayon full moon day

THE Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees will celebrate Maha Samaya Day on the full moon day of Nayon on 13 June and will ring the bells on the pagoda platform at the same time marking the peace.

The board of trustees will donate early alms to the Shwedagon Pagoda and Sayadaws during the ceremony.

The Sayadaws will deliver

sermons regarding the emergence of Maha Samaya Day at the guest pavilion of the southern stairway and share merits, and religious organizations and pagoda staff will go around the pagoda by a clockwise procession in two groups.

Then, the Maha Samaya Day ceremony will be held at Chanthagyi Tazaung at the Yahu corner. — TWA/GNL



The Maha Samaya Day was held in 2021 (left photo) at the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Travellers from 27 countries enter Myanmar on tourist visa grants



ACCORDING to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, tourists from 27 countries were allowed to enter Myanmar on tourist visas.

Commercial flights started at Yangon International Airport on 17 April 2022, and tourists were allowed to visit with a Tourist Visa from 20 May beginning their tours on 24 May.

The Ministry of Immigration and Population said on 20 May that the number of e-Visa (Tourist) applications had been increased intending to develop the tourism sector and balance tourism with neighbouring

countries.

From 24 May to 9 June 2022, visitors from 27 countries visited Myanmar with eight international airlines flying daily.

The online e-Visa (Business) application process was resumed on 1 April 2022 for the convenience of business owners with the supervision of the Ministry of Immigration and Population. The state has allowed international flights to resume following the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 health regulations, and foreign tourists are now flocking to Myanmar, said officials. —TWA/GNLM

29 illegal Bengalis, 7 smugglers arrested in Kyangin Township

A total of 29 illegal Bengalis and seven smugglers were arrested in Kyangin Township, according to the police.

At around 12:30 pm on 10 June, two vehicles passing by at the joint checkpoint in Kyangin Township were stopped by security forces but the drivers did not stop the cars and drove them away.

According to the investigation, driver Ye Win Aung, 32-year-old, a resident of Hline Township, and Aung Kyaw Tun, 25-year-old, were arrested at the Ootpone checkpoint in Oakshikpin, Padaung Township during the inspection of the Dyna (white) vehicle.

Twenty-eight male Bengalis and one female Bengali were found in the vehicle, which was covered with straw bags.

A Probox car and another Honda Insight car were found ahead of the vehicle and assistance was asked from the Myinwataung police station on the Pathein-Monywa Road.

Two vehicles were seized by the police, seven Myanmar nationals were arrested and handed over to the Kyangin Myoma Police Station.

The Immigration and National Registration Department is taking action against the detainees.

Bengalis have been forced to flee the refugee camps and migrate to work in Ayeyawady

Region via sea route and by road from Rakhine State. Due to unemployment in the camps, they sought employment in Ayeyawady Region.

In the last week of May, 17 suspected Bengalis' bodies were found after a boat capsized off Wethay Beach in Shwethaungyan town, and 30 of them were reportedly found alive. —TWA/GNLM



Picture shows the arrested Bengalis on 10 June.

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions



DOCTORS and nurses from public hospitals, Tatmadaw medical teams, healthcare workers and volunteers are working hard to give COVID-19 vaccines in different states and regions as the vaccination programme is one of the most important activities

A local from Buthidaung Township in Rakhine State gets jabbed against COVID-19.

in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease. COVID-19 vaccine is administered daily to target groups regardless of race or religion, including Buddhist monks and nuns, local people over the age of 40, students, religious leaders, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively. On 11 June, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 12,705 people from 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region, 2,577 people from seven townships in Rakhine and Chin states and 7,656 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively. Similarly, healthcare officials inoculated 27,833 students from 26 townships in Ayeyawady Region and 12,385 students from six townships in Rakhine State yesterday. It is reported that officials from the respective Military Commands visited the site and coordinated the necessary work. — MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, utensils and vehicles seized

SUPERVISED by the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee, effective action is being taken to prevent illegal trade under the law. On 8 June in Shan State, a team led by Acting Tactical Operations Commander of the Eastern Command Lt-Col Myat Thu, under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, inspected three trucks driving from Kengtung to Taunggyi in Hopong Township. Duty-free food and consumer goods (estimated value of K35,363,000) and three trucks carrying these goods (estimated at K85,000,000), and a net value of K120,363,000 were seized and the action was taken in accordance with the Customs Procedures. Next, officials conducted inspections at the Wetheik Village Checkpoint, Dahatkan Village-Tract, Magway Region, under the management of the

Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force. An unregistered Honda Odyssey (estimated value of K3,500,000) was seized during the investigation. On 9 June, officials inspected and seized an unregistered Toyota Hijet vehicle (estimated value of K3,000,000) at the checkpoint in Thayet Township, totalling K6,500,000. The action was taken under the Import and Export Law. On 10 June, a joint inspection team under the management of the Customs Department conducted a joint inspection at the Mayanchaung Permanent Inspection Station and seized the duty-free cooking oil and soft drinks (approximately K3,885,000) from two passenger vehicles driving from Myawady to Yangon. In addition, under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, inspection teams led by the Myanmar

Police conducted inspections in Sagaing Region on 11 June. One Ciz 125 motorcycle without a licence (estimated value of K150,000) in Monywa Township, one Menglong 125 motorcycle without a licence in Shwebo Township (estimated at K250,000) and an unregistered Toyota Mark II car in Sagaing Township (approximately K3,500,000) were seized. The action was taken under the Import and Export Law. In addition, a joint inspection team led by the Region Forest Department inspected the area and seized 0.524 tonne of illegal teak and timbers (estimated at K278,000) and the action was taken under the Forest Law. Therefore, 14 arrests (approximately K134,926,000), were made on three consecutive days, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee.—MNA

Drugs seized in Meiktila and Mawlaymying townships



An arrestee is seen along with seized stimulant pills.

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a motorbike driven by Thein Soe Oo on the Yangon–Mandalay highway in Meiktila township and captured 5,000 stimulant tablets at 1:30 pm on 10 June. Similarly, at 6:30 pm on the same day, Police Force examined suspected Ma Naw Ei Ei Phyo in Mawlamyine township and seized 6,000 stimulant tablets. The suspects are being prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, stated the Myanmar Police Force. — MNA



Seized commodities at the Mayanchaung checkpoint (left) and in Shan State (right).

သတင်းစာ မှာယူလိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

09 454 237 515

သတင်းစာ ဂျာနယ် စာစောင်များကို နှိုင်းစာကားခံချိန်စီ ပုံနှိပ်လိုပါက ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါတယ်

01 860 4530

MoC Deputy Minister inspects repairs on Pyidaungsu Hall

DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Win Pe inspected the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway (Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon section) on Friday. Then, he went to the Pyidaungsu Hall where the National Convention was convened to draw the Constitution (2008) near Nyaunghnapin Village of Hlegu Township in the Yangon Region and officials reported on maintenance works.

He instructed the need to make plans to ensure the sustainability of the historic building in its original design and cooperate for proper security system including fire safety.

He then viewed round the Pyidaungsu Hall and Anawrahta Yeiktha and gave instructions to officials regarding the repairs on entry and exit ways to the Pyidaungsu Hall. — MNA



MoC Deputy Minister U Win Pe and party inspects the repair work of the Pyidaungsu Hall on 10 June.



IPRD trainees pay study tours in the broadcasting studio of MRTV, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

IPRD trainees visit Nay Pyi Taw MRTV

A total of 52 trainees from the Information and Public Relations Department observed the broadcasting on Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) and the Diamond Jubilee Museum of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon yesterday morning.

The trainees observed equipment used for generations of television broadcasts on display at the Diamond Jubilee Museum of the MRTV, Live broadcast vehicles, reporting formats, documentary photos of those who have participated in the broadcasts for generations, musical instruments, news studios, antique records and other accessories used in the radio programme.

In addition to the exhibits in a total of 40 galleries, the trainees toured the television broadcasting facilities inside the main building with officials' explanations.

The trainees from the Information and Public Relations Department joined the Officer Capacity Strengthening Training (2/2022) from 6 to 17 June with 22 deputy directors and assistant directors.

A total of 30 trainees attended the E-Library Management System Software Usage Training (2/2022) from 6 to 10 June.

Before returning to their respective areas, they visited the Myanma Radio and Television and studied the broadcasting programmes. —MNA

Reference wholesale prices for Union territory, Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay and reference retail prices for cities of regions and states

12-6-2022

Kyat/Litre

Fuel (Retail Price)	Yangon	Mandalay	Nay Pyi Taw	Bago	Magway	Dawei	Monywa	Patheingyi	Myittha	Sittoung	Hpa-an	Mawlaikine	Lashio	Taungtha	Loile	Haka	Kengtung
92 Ron	2,305	2,350	2,345	2,315	2,350	2,370	2,360	2,355	2,430	2,445	2,345	2,350	2,385	2,385	2,390	2,610	2,760
95 Ron	2,370	2,415	2,415	2,380	2,415	2,440	2,425	2,400	2,495	2,510	2,410	2,425	2,450	2,450	2,455	2,675	2,815
HSD (500 ppm)	2,610	2,655	2,650	2,620	2,655	2,680	2,675	2,640	2,755	2,750	2,650	2,655	2,690	2,690	2,695	2,915	2,955
HSD (50 ppm)	2,640	2,685	2,680	2,645	2,685	2,705	2,700	2,670	2,785	2,780	2,675	2,685	2,720	2,720	2,725	2,940	2,985
HSD (10 ppm)	2,640	2,685	2,680	2,645	2,685	2,705	2,700	2,670	2,785	2,780	2,675	2,685	2,720	2,720	2,725	2,940	2,985

Fuel (Wholesale Price)	Yangon	Mandalay
92 Ron	2,198	2,275
95 Ron	2,261	2,340
HSD (500 ppm)	2,494	2,573
HSD (50 ppm)	2,522	2,602
HSD (10 ppm)	2,522	2,602

Remarks:

(1)

It's calculation is based on MOPS price.

(2)

If people are not satisfied with purchase of fuel, they may safely send complaints to telephone numbers of the committee as follows: -

067-409881 and 09-699611116, 067-411129, 09-440433533

Fuel Import, Storage and Distribution Supervisory Committee

OPINION

Responsibility
and accountability –
the highest morality
in society

IN ALL issues, all doers need to take responsibility for the good deeds and wrongdoings they ordered. In fact, cause and effect based on the issues they arranged are concerned with their acts and arrangements. Likewise, all doers should take accountability for doing everything by showing their faithfulness to all superiors in dutifully serving the assignments.

Every issue must be implemented. So, the authorities need to order subordinates to implement such an issue. But it is not enough for giving just orders to subordinates. Those authorities are responsible for the success or the loss

In society, able and clever persons move back in implementing various issues behind the persons with proudness and unskillfulness. They pretend to be skilful although they do not have any capabilities. A saying goes: bare seed paddy ears are tall up. So, a few numbers of humble people can be found in the society.

If so, although those authorities themselves do not implement the issue, they will be absolutely concerned with the success and loss of the issue. If the subordinates successfully implement the issue, the authorities will thumb up for success. Otherwise, they should take responsibility for the bad results of the issue with loss.

On the other hand, accountability is also of great importance in society. Primarily, the subordinates need to hold up faithfulness for their issues. In short, they need to take accountability for the win and losses in the implementation of the issue assigned by the authorities. Indeed, it is not easy for those subordinates to be loyal to the authorities.

As a nature of today’s society, most of the persons are ready to take advantage of the success but easy to condemn the loss. But it is a humane act. Only when the subordinates are humane, will they express their mistakes that trigger to cause the loss in implementing the issue and refuse to turn a blind eye to the bad result of the issue.

In society, able and clever persons move back in implementing various issues behind the persons with proudness and unskillfulness. They pretend to be skilful although they do not have any capabilities. A saying goes: bare seed paddy ears are tall up. So, a few numbers of humble people can be found in the society.

The society is formed with all participant people. Among them, only then, will a few numbers of people be able to deeply understand the advantages and disadvantages of responsibility and accountably which can benefit the society.

Nayon: The Month of the Festival of Religious Examinations

By Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
(Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Sithu)

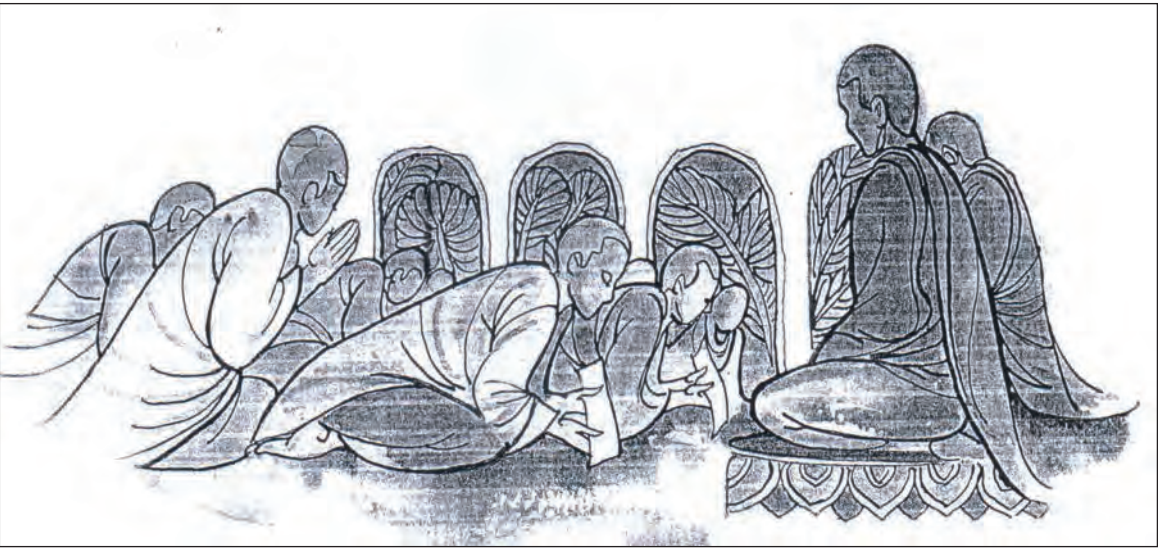
NAYON is the third month in the lunar calendar of Myanmar People. It approximates June, and it is the last month of summer. The peak of summer is Kason or May when the sun mercilessly burns up everything on earth reducing the country to a parched land. In Nayon the solar heat begins to decline as the monsoon arrives from the southwest direction bringing rain-bearing clouds, and releasing showers everywhere. Skeletons of trees which have stripped off all their year-worn yellow foliage begin to put on new emerald green garments.

Green carpet
The hard parched land has now become soft and fresh with

rain water and in no time it turns into a green carpet of grass. There is a Myanmar saying “နုလှန့်မိုးသေး မြက်သားမွေး” “Little showers of Nayon nurture tender grass”.

The word “Nayon” had been spelt differently in different periods of Myanmar history. In the Bagan Period, it was spelt as “Nan Yon” or “Na Yon” whereas in the Innwa Period it was spelt to sound “Nan Yon”.

The astrological name of Nayon is May Htone (မေထွန်း) or Mithuna (Gemini). May Htone is derived from the Pali word “မိထုန” (mi htu na) and woman. The astrological symbol of Nayon is a couple of man and woman holding a long rood and a harp. Sometimes a pair of Kein-



nara and Keinnari (Male and female mythical birds with human heads) is presented to symbolize this month. In Nayon the Moon and Jehta star together and the Sun and Migathi star together reach noon time. The flower of the month is jasmine, star-like pure white bloom with a pleasant fragrance.

Three counts
Nayon is important in Myanmar culture on three counts. Firstly, it is the month during which Myanmar farmers begin ploughing their fields. It is the first month of wet cultivation. In the time of Myanmar Kings, Le Htun Mingala (လယ်ထွန်းမင်္ဂလာ) or royal ploughing ceremony

was held in this month so that there would be good rain and good harvest. Secondly, it was on the full moon day of Nayon that the Lord Buddha delivered the famous Maha Thamaya Day which Myanmar Buddhists celebrate by reciting the said Sutta and doing good works. Thirdly it is in the month of Nayon that

religious examinations are held for the Buddhist monks.

Three Sasanas
There are three Sasanas (Teachings of the Buddha) in Buddhism, namely Pariyatti Sasana which means the acquisition of sound knowledge of the Dhamma the Law, and all religious literature and scriptures through intensive and extensive learning, Patipatti Sasana which means the being accomplished in knowledge and Priveda Sasana which means the acting according to knowledge communicated and acquired. Pariyatti or learning of the Dhamma is primarily important.

Diligent study
Monks are encouraged to devote themselves to the diligent study of all religious literature, Thpitakas. Tipitaka literally means three baskets

– (1) Vinaya (2) Sutta and (3) Abhidhamma. All Buddhist monks including novices must learn them and pass the examinations held annually in the month of Nayon.

Laity’s support
Buddhist laity of all walks of life-form royalty to the commoners see to the needs of the examiner and examinee monks. Cash donations and other contributions in kind are collected to support the holding of the religious examinations. Nayon is the month in which the learning period of the whole year comes to an end. So Examinations are held to test the academic progress of monk scholars. A festal atmosphere is imported to this function by offering food and priestly utensils to the monks at the Examination centres.

Earliest mention

The earliest mention of religious examinations being held was found in volume three of the Myanmar Chronicle called Hman-nan Yazawun Tawgyi i.e. The Glass Palace Chronicle. On page 239 we find the following paragraph:

“In the year 1000 ME (AD 1638) the monk teachers examined the student novices on the subjects they had learnt. Hundred and eight novices passed the examinations. Seven of them were ordained at noon, on Sunday the 14th waxing moon of Kason.

“So it is commonly assumed that the Festival of religious examinations originated in the reign of King Thalun (AD 1629-1648). But the month mentioned in the paragraph was Kason, not Nayon.

SEE PAGE-10 >>

Book Title	-	Bagan Travelogue
Author	-	Shwekaingtha
Publishing House	-	Ludu Kyipwayay Publishing
Publication Date	-	April 2022 (2 nd Edition)
Price	-	K 5,500

Bagan Travelogue

MYANMAR and Bagan are inseparable. Bagan lies in the heart of Myanmar. There’s a saying that you have arrived in Bagan if you are really Myanmar nationals. Bagan is the most important historical site and the pride of Myanmar. After three ancient cities of Pyu Kingdom (Hanlin, Beikthano and Sri Kestra) were listed on

UNESCO World Heritage Sites, all 21 state parties of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee approved Bagan to be inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2019 without objection. Prior to that, Bagan has already drawn the attention of tourists. Nevertheless, do you have in-depth knowledge of Bagan? This book is a key to know-

ing more about Bagan. The author Shwekaingtha put his detailed analysis and study in his writing. As he also served at Bagan Stone Inscription Section, he can clarify Bagan with a detailed view. It is a collection of articles from Ludu Journal so they have a solid accuracy based on a research approach in the late

century. The book is neither kind of thesis nor research while describing temples, buildings, awe-inspiring sceneries, villages, stone inscriptions and ancient artefacts. It is like a narrative genre which can intelligibly and clearly give knowledge to the readers. The book has 24 chapters which include the comprehensive knowledge of Bagan that should be known. Saya Nyi Say Min, an organizer, entitled ‘ဖဝါးခြေထိုင် ခြေရာကပ်ကာ’ (repeated visitation) with documentary photos, adding more information of some newly-found temples and the local community. Furthermore, Bagan’s travel memoirs with photos are synchronically organized. The enchanting view of Bagan at twilight is a mystery. How many visitors studied this mystery and dreamland like the author? Whatever it is, thousands of homegrown visitors and tourists will undoubtedly flock to this ancient cultural site, Saya Nyi Say Min concluded Bagan Travelogue.

Book Title	-	Oh! My ravishing memories of philanthropic travel
Author	-	Maung Yin Hline (Hinthada)
Publishing House	-	Ko Latt Sarpay (09 453395442)
Publication Date	-	June 2022 (1 st Edition)
Price	-	K5,000

Oh! My ravishing memories of philanthropic travel

TRAVELOGUES are essential for readers who enjoy non-fictional matters. “Travel books will give knowledge and historical and cultural information of the place. It will take you places without spending money and time. Travel memoirs and documentaries give you the vicarious experiences of the places you have never been. Travel memoir has many benefits to the readers.” Sayagyi Theikpan Maung Wa who is a famous author in the travel genre remarked. The book that we recommended this week is not just an ordinary travel genre. It

presents philanthropic travel. As the author actively participated in volunteering, he vividly described his experiences in philanthropic activity. The books will reflect the colour of his volunteer life filled with sweet and bitter flavours. Poet Aung Zin Min stated in the preamble that a book entitled “Oh my, ravishing memories of philanthropic travel” by Maung Yin Hline (Hinthada) gave you food for thought with strong enthusiasm to develop literacy skills and explore the root of knowledge through history and classic. Saya Nwe Oo Hlaing also noted that it

is worth publishing if readers can feel the empathy and goodwill of volunteers. Volunteering is a noble and selfless act indeed. Volunteering makes you happier through spreading generosity and bringing joy to others. The book has 250 pages and contains 31 articles on philanthropic travel along with colourful photos. In addition to the histories of Pathein Mawtinsun Pagoda, Kyaiktiyo Pagoda, Kyaikhne mid-water pagoda and historic Kyaikti stupa on Hainggyi Island, MraukU Sayadaw’s birthday celebration and donation event is included in the book as well.

Nayon: The Month of the Festival of Religious Examinations

>> FROM PAGE-9

In the Lawka Byu Har (လောက ဗျူဟာ) or commonly known as Inyone Sardan (အင်ရှ်စာတမ်း) which is a treatise on “Court Ceremonies and Festivals of 29 Kings of Innwa and Nyaung Yan dynasties” compiled by Thiri Uzana the Inyone Minister, we find references to holding of religious examinations in the month of Nayon under the royal patronage of Innwa kings who far proceeded King Thalun. Holding of religious examinations in Nayon and ordination of successful candidates in the subsequent month Waso are in natural sequence. The academic terms of religious education come to an end in Nayon and the new academic year commences in the first month of Buddhist Lent that is Waso. So it is appropriate to hold a religious examination in Nayon and to start again teaching in Waso. Another historical and literary evidence indicates Nayon as the month of the Festival of religious examinations.

On page 376 of the Glass Palace Chronicle, Volume three it is mentioned that:

His Majesty took occupancy of the Palace “Kyaw Aung San Nan” (ကျော်အောင်စံနန်း) and then at Innwa he built a monastery which was dedicated to the Most Venerable Baddanta Nyana Wara who stood first in the religious examinations. This learned monk received the title “Pahtama Kyaw” (ပထမကျော်) and later he came to be known as “Kyaw Aung San Hta Sayadaw” (ကျော်အောင်စံထားဆရာတော်).

Time of Examinations

Although the festival of religious examinations in Nayon was not recorded yearly, there is no doubt that they were held

regularly throughout Myanmar history. Examinations took place in the Thudhamma zayats built by the King. Preparations were made in advance such as gilding the zayats and renovating and decorating the surroundings. Pavilions were constructed in which the monks were fed daily and were presented with offertories. A special “min lan” (မင်းလမ်း) or royal road was made lined on either side with yazamat fences (ရာဇမတ်ကွက်) (Diamond-shaped design of lattice fences) and flower pots. The surface of the royal road was covered with fine white sand. At the end of the road was built a richly decorated Pavilion for Their Majesties and the court from where they watched the examinations proceeding and paid homage to the monks. Naturally, festivities took place where royalty appeared in public.

One whole month

According to the Maha Yazawun or the Great Chronicle, religious examinations in the Konbaung dynasty took one whole month, beginning on the 8th Waxing of Waso. But normally examinations lasted two to three weeks, depending upon the number of candidates and the subjects examined varied from time to time. As religious examinations held by the Kind were very arduous, demanding too much physical and mental energy, monk candidates were asked to change to become laymen during the examination period so that they could partake of the evening meal to replenish their strength. Examinations were both oral and written. Candidates had to recite passages from the prescribed texts by heart and give correct answers to the questions without hesitation. During the time of King Bodawpaya (AD 1782-1819),

a royal order was issued in 1153 ME (AD 1791) prescribing the texts for examination. This order remained in force till the reign of King Bagan (AD 1846-1853).

Peak of progress and perfection

During the reign of King Mindon (AD 1853-1878) religious examinations reached the peak of progress and perfection. He was a devout Buddhist King who promoted Buddhism by supporting Sanghas (Assembly of monks) as best he could. He convened the 5th Buddhist Council in 1871 which revised and edited the Tipitaka or the Buddhist Canon. The authorized version of Tipitakas was then inscribed on 729 white alabaster slabs, Vinaya on 111 slabs, Suttas on 410 slabs, and Abhidhamma on 208 slabs. These slabs on housed in cave-like brick buildings set up in the precincts of Maha Loka Marazein Pagoda at Mandalay. In 1873 he invited all learned head monks from the four corners of his Capital to his Palace and put up his supplication requesting the Most Venerables to train novices and young monks so that they could recite not only Vinaya but the whole Tipitaka by heart. So from the only Vinaya but the whole Tipitaka by heart. So from the year 1873 onwards, religious examinations were held to select the most learned and brilliant candidate called “Pahtama Kyaw” (ပထမကျော်). The King built a big Pahtan zayat (ပဋ္ဌာနိဇရပ်) and 33 examination halls called “Thudhamma zayats” of teak, varnished with red vermilion and finely gilt. Some of them still stand in good condition at the foot of Mandalay Hill.

Four grades

There were four grades of examination viz. (i) Pahtama

Nge (ပထမငယ်) or Lower Grade (ii) Pahtama Lat (ပထမလတ်) or Middle Grade (iii) Pahtamagyi (ပထမကြီး) or Higher Grade and (iv) Pahtama Kyaw (ပထမကျော်) or Highest Grade.

His son and successor King Thibaw was a successful candidate in the first three grades. When he became King he passed the Religious Examination Law, which was the first of its kind in Myanmar history. It was published in book form by the Hluttaw Press in 1883. By this law, there were only three grades, Lower grade, Higher grade and Highest grade.

Three forms of examination

The examination took three forms (i) oral examination and (iii) written examination. Success or failure was decided on the merits scored in all forms of examination. Among the successful candidates, the one who scored the highest total marks was selected “First” and the rest were classified under the lists, List I and List II according to their merits.

Lavish reward

Successful candidates were lavishly rewarded by the King. A big Pujas (ပူဇော်) or honouring ceremony was held in the courtyard where richly decorated pavilions were set up. The Pahtama Kyaw candidate was carried on a gilt palanquin borne by 40 men with gold umbrellas shading him. The other candidates wearing rich attire with gold salve on their breasts followed either riding horses or being carried on the sedan chair according to their positions in the examination results. A royal musical Ensemble called “Sain Waing Tawgyi” played music of welcome and honour. Their Majesties and

the Court appeared in the state on the podium of the Hluttaw (Council of Ministers in the time of Myanmar Kings) and poured lustral water from the gold libation ever as the successful candidates in line approached him to receive the rewards from him. Kyats 1,000 in pure silver for the higher grade and Kyats 2,500 in pure silver for the Highest grade were presented. In addition, the privilege of tax immunities was granted to their parents and nearest relatives.

Privileges

The Pahtama Kyaw was adopted by the King and should he choose a career he would be appointed clerk with the prospect of promotion to Wungyi (Minister) one day. If not, he could remain a monk, well supported by the King who would build a monastery for him and might raise him to be “raja guru” or King’s Teacher.

Well Preserved

Although Myanmar fell under British rule for 117 years this tradition of holding religious examinations was well preserved. Even during the Second World War when Myanmar was under the Japanese occupation, an attempt to revive this tradition was made in 1943 by the then Adipadi Government. It was called Vinaya (Code then Adipadi Government. It was called the Vinaya (Code of conduct) Examination of Burma. There were four grades and only treatises on Vinaya were prescribed for the examination.

Today this tradition of holding religious examinations is kept alive by the Government and the public in cooperation.

Italy’s Pompeii tests new guard dog — a robot named Spot

UNDER the amused gaze of many tourists, a robot dog wanders the ancient stone alleys of Pompeii’s famous archaeological park. Meet Spot, a friendly, yellow-and-black remote-controlled creature with a gangly gait who looks like a dog crossed with an insect — all wrapped up in a ro-

bot’s body. Spot’s current mission at Pompeii is to inspect hard-to-access areas of the sprawling ruins, to collect data and alert his handlers to safety and structural problems. “Particularly underground structures where safety conditions won’t allow (staff) to enter, such as in the park’s many

very narrow and dangerous tunnels,” Pompeii’s general director, Gabriel Zuchtriegel, told AFP.— AFP

Spot’s current mission at Pompeii is to monitor hard-to-access areas of the sprawling ruins. **PHOTO: AFP**



PANDEMIC
WORLD

Omicron subvariants driving 5th COVID-19 wave in Mexico, expert says

THE subvariants BA.12.1, BA.4 and BA.5 of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 are driving the fifth wave of infections in Mexico, Mexican epidemiologist Alfonso Vallejos Paras told Xinhua recently.

The expert, a member of the Department of Public Health of the Faculty of Medicine of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, said in an interview that these subvariants are mainly striking

people who are not vaccinated against COVID-19.

“This uptick in cases is due to the Omicron subvariants as the virus mutates,” he said, explaining that this “makes it more contagious” while there are still “susceptible” people.

“It is true that there is an increase in cases, but it hasn’t reached the levels of previous waves. The number of deaths is expected to be lower due to the vaccination progress,” Vallejos

Paras added.

The specialist recommended returning to the protective health measures that were in place when the virus first appeared in Mexico in order to contain the new wave.

“We have to go back to wearing face masks, washing our hands frequently, social distancing, using ventilated spaces and continuing vaccination to avoid mutations,” he said.—Xinhua



Researchers at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) have created a facemask using silver and copper nanolayers that neutralizes SARS-CoV-2. PHOTO: JAM MEDIA/GETTY/XINHUA

German doctors criticize lack of data on COVID-19

GERMAN doctors on Thursday said that the collection and evaluation of data on COVID-19 should be ramped up to better assess the pandemic situation in the country.

“We have seen a real data blindness in the last two and a half years, which has not been a good basis for rational decision making,” Klaus Reinhardt, president of the German Medical Association (GMA), told Funke Mediengruppe, Germany’s third largest newspaper and magazine publisher.

Pandemic data must include infection dynamics, disease severity, as well as the burden on the country’s healthcare system, according to Reinhardt.

Germany’s COVID-19 expert council supports the call for a data collection scheme. It has warned of a worst-case scenario, in which a new virus variant could necessitate the reintroduction of a general face

mask mandate and distancing next autumn and winter.

Currently, only the so-called basic protection measures still apply in Germany. The wearing of face masks is only mandatory on public transport, in airplanes and healthcare institutions (hospitals and care facilities). Some of the latter

might also require additional testing.

Better data on COVID-19 could also prove the efficiency of the COVID-19 measures of recent months, Reinhardt said. “The population will only accept renewed restrictions if they are proven to be necessary and effective.”—Xinhua



Doctor Johannes Loehr waits at the door of a vaccination booth in a vaccination centre in Nuremberg, southern Germany, on 18 March 2021, amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. PHOTO: CHRISTOF STACHE / AFP

China-Europe freight trains busier as COVID-19 epidemic wanes

FREIGHT trains running between east China’s Shandong Province and countries in Central Asia and Europe are growing busier as production in many regions resumes due to the improved COVID-19 epidemic situation. “With the resumption of work and production and growing export demand, the volume of

China-Europe freight trains has increased recently,” said Liang Jihe of China Railway Jinan Group Co., Ltd. Liang said that the number of “Qilu” trains departing for Europe and Central Asia has rebounded strongly following a year-on-year decrease in April. The “Qilu” trains now reach 54 cities in 23 countries along the

Belt and Road. In the first five months of this year, “Qilu” trains made 751 trips between Jinan, the provincial capital of Shandong, and their overseas destinations, up 3.6 per cent year on year, according to Ma Chunbo, deputy general manager of Shandong Hi-Speed Qilu Eurasia Railway Logistics Co., Ltd.—Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan restarts accepting some foreign tourists amid steps to fully reopen borders

JAPAN reopened its borders to some foreign tourists for the first time in around two years on Friday as it continues to take steps to increase inbound tourism to support the economy as concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic ease.

The Japanese government initially opened its borders to tourists from 98 countries and regions on guided tours, with the countries and regions deemed eligible owing to their low risk of COVID-19.

Such countries include the United States, Britain, China, South Korea, Indonesia and Thailand.

Foreign visitors from this group are exempt from COVID-19 testing upon arrival in Japan and do not need to quarantine for any period of time.

This applies to travelers even if they are unvaccinated against the virus. The cap, however, is for 20,000 foreign visitors to be allowed into the country per day.

Towards the end of June, the government has said that it expects full-scale tourism to resume, although it remains concerned about a possible spike in infections as more foreign guests arrive from overseas.—Xinhua

US panel of experts recommend Novavax Covid-19 vaccine

A panel of experts convened by the US drug regulator on 8 June recommended the Novavax Covid-19 shot, a late runner in the fight against the virus that could nonetheless play a role in overcoming vaccine hesitancy.

Three vaccines are currently approved in the United States: Pfizer and Moderna, which are based on messenger RNA, and Johnson and Johnson, which recently received a recommendation against broad use because of links to a serious form of clotting.

Experts voted 21 in favour of the Novavax vaccine, with none against, and one abstention, despite some concerns it may be linked to rare cases of heart inflammation.

The Food and Drug Administration, which called the meeting, is expected to issue an emergency use authorization soon. Then another agency, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, will weigh in with guidance on how it should best be used.

Maryland-based Novavax was an early frontrunner in the global vaccine race, but fell behind after being hit by manufacturing and regulatory delays.—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Vatican sets up investment committee after London property scandal



The Vatican has been rocked by a scandal centred around the costly purchase of a prestigious building in London as part of the Holy See's investment activities. A general view shows Pope Francis leading a canonisation mass at St. Peter's Square in The Vatican on 15 May 2022. **PHOTO: VINCENZO PINTO / AFP**

VATICAN investments will from now on be scrutinized by an in-house committee on the orders of Pope Francis, following a scandal over the controversial purchase of a luxury London property.

The committee will be headed by Irish-American cardinal Kevin Joseph Farrell and be made up of four "high-profile professionals" appointed for a five-year term, the Vatican's press office said Tuesday.

Francis laid down the terms for the committee's creation in a new constitution which came into effect on Sunday in a much-anticipated shake-up of the Vatican's powerful governing body, the Curia. The members are directors or specialists at investment companies in Britain, Germany and Norway, as well as at a higher education college in the United States.

According to the constitu-

tion, they will have to "ensure the ethical nature of the Holy See's equity investments, in accordance with the Church's social doctrine and according to the criteria of profitability, suitability, and moderate riskiness".

The Vatican has been rocked by a scandal centred around the costly purchase of a prestigious building in London as part of the Holy See's investment activities.—AFP

Germany's central bank lowers 2022 GDP growth forecast to 1.9 pct

THE Deutsche Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, on Friday lowered its growth forecast for the country's gross domestic product (GDP) to 1.9 per cent in 2022 from its previous projection of 4.2 per cent growth back in December last year.

Economic recovery is likely to continue but at a "considerably more subdued pace" than previously projected, the bank said in a statement. Uncertainty about future economic developments was "exceptionally high" due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

In the first quarter of 2022, Germany's economy barely grew by 0.2 per cent quarter-on-quarter, according to the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis). GDP



Construction workers stand in the scaffolded construction site of a house, where several layers of concrete have already been applied by a 3D printer, and the next printing stage is already underway, in Beckum, western Germany, on 26 November 2020. **PHOTO: INA FASSBENDER / AFP**

growth was still 0.9 percent below the pre-COVID-19 pandemic level. "Despite difficult framework conditions in the

global economy, the German economy started 2022 with a slight growth," Destatis President Georg Thiel said.—Xinhua

NEWS IN Brief

UN warns Sri Lanka could face 'full-blown humanitarian emergency'

THE United Nations warned Friday that cash-strapped Sri Lanka's unprecedented economic crisis could develop into a dire humanitarian crisis, with millions already in need of aid.

"We are concerned that this could develop into a full-blown humanitarian emergency, and we are taking action to address that concern," Jens Laerke, spokesman for the UN humanitarian agency OCHA, told reporters.

The UN and its partners are appealing for \$47 million to address the immediate needs of the 1.7 million of the most vulnerable people and those most affected by the crisis, he said.

Months of daily blackouts, long queues for petrol and record inflation have made daily life a misery in the South Asian island nation of 22 million people.—AFP

Oil prices drop as US dollar jumps

OIL prices fell on Friday amid strength in the US dollar.

The West Texas Intermediate for July delivery lost 84 cents, or 0.7 per cent, to settle at 120.67 US dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude for August delivery decreased 1.06 dollars, or 0.9 per cent, to close at 122.01 dollars a barrel on the London ICE Futures Exchange.

Oil prices came under pressure as the greenback jumped after data showed US consumer inflation came in hotter than expected in May.—Xinhua

Japan gov't, BOJ express concern about rapid yen depreciation

THE Japanese government and the Bank of Japan said Friday they are concerned about the recent rapid weakening of the yen against the US dollar. "The government and the Bank of Japan will co-operate closely and monitor developments on the currency market and its impact to the economy and commodity prices with even more vigilance," they said in a joint statement issued also with the Financial Services Agency as their officials held a meeting. The expression of concern came after the yen briefly sank to a 20-year low against the US dollar in the mid-134 yen range on Thursday. It is the first time they issued a statement after a joint meeting, according to the Finance Ministry.

The dollar briefly weakened to a lower 133 yen level shortly after the meeting. At 5 pm, the US currency traded at 133.59-62 yen in Tokyo.



ATMs in Japan are found indoors rather than on an external wall. They're located in banks, in many post offices, almost all convenience stores. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Asked about the possibility of market intervention by the government and the BOJ, Masato Kanda, vice-finance minister for international affairs, told reporters that "every option" will be considered. —Kyodo

High grain prices prompt Japan farmers to grow wheat rather than rice



Rice songs: Women take part in a rice-planting festival in Hiroshima.
PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

MORE Japanese farmers are planning to lower their rice production and switch to wheat and soybean this year amid rising grain prices caused by Russia’s war in Ukraine, according to a government survey.

Among Japan’s 47 prefectures, 37 said as of the end of April that they will reduce cooking rice acreage from a year earlier, up from the 22 prefectures that responded the same way in the previous January survey, said the Ministry of Agriculture,

Forestry and Fisheries. “An increasing number of farmers are switching to wheat and soybean productions as their global prices are surging,” a ministry official said, adding that demand for such crops produced in Japan has already been strong. Currently, 80 per cent of the wheat and 90 per cent of the soybean used and consumed in Japan is imported, and their prices have increased sharply as Russia and Ukraine are their major producers.

In contrast, the con-

sumption and price of rice in Japan are on a downward trend since fiscal 1962 as dietary lifestyles diversify and the population decreases. The coronavirus pandemic has further slashed consumption due to the low demand from restaurants, whose operating hours were restricted.

Among the 47 prefectures, none had plans to expand the production of cooking rice, while 10 said they will produce around the same level as the previous year.—Kyodo

US expands safety probe into Tesla Autopilot

US regulators expanded a probe into Tesla’s “Autopilot” system, moving the investigation closer to a potential recall of a controversial feature in Elon Musk’s electric vehicles.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is investigating whether “Autopilot and associated Tesla systems may exacerbate human factors or behavioural safety risks by undermining the effectiveness of the driver’s supervision,” according to a summary statement.

The agency now considers the probe an “engineering analysis”—which in NHTSA parlance upgrades the status from a “preliminary evaluation”—to determine “whether

a safety recall should be initiated or the investigation should be closed”.

Tesla did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

NHTSA opened the probe in August 2021 after identifying 11 crashes involving a first responder vehicle and a Tesla in which Autopilot or Traffic Aware Cruise Control was engaged, and five additional cases were later found that fit into this group.

Additional forensic data on 11 of the incidents showed the drivers took no action to avert a crash between two and five seconds prior to impact, although they had their hands on the steering wheel.—AFP



The Tesla Model S P85D won the highest rating Consumer Reports has ever awarded. PHOTO: JOHANNES EISELE/AFP

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Doppelherz

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The Archaeological Park of Kato Pafos (Paphos) is one of the most important archaeological sites of Cyprus . The Kato Pafos Archaeological Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1980, includes sites and monuments from the prehistoric era to the Middle Ages, the most important being those of the Roman era. Among these are five Roman villas (the house of Theseus among them). **PHOTO: GIERTH/ULLSTEIN BILD/XINHUA /FILE**

Excavations of ancient city in Cyprus point to wealthy society with int’l contacts

EXCAVATIONS of an ancient city next to Larnaca airport point to a wealthy Cypriot society as old as 3,600 years, which had established contacts with cultures all over the Mediterranean and beyond, the Cypriot Department of Antiquities said Friday.

In a statement, it said that a Swedish archaeological mission, which just completed the excavation of ancient tombs at Dromoloxia-Vyzakia next to Larnaca airport, unearthed exquisite burial gifts which came mainly from Mycenae and the

Minoan cities in Greece, and to a lesser extent from Anatolia, Syropalestine and Egypt.

Among the articles unearthed were alabaster pots from Egypt which mimicked Cypriot ceramic and were very popular during the dynasty of Pharaoh Thutmosis III in the 15th century BC, scarabs and ivory objects. Some of the scarabs have inscriptions with hieroglyphs, which will be deciphered, the statement said.

“In short, the kind of the objects found point to a wealthy

Cypriot society, which had established contacts with cultures all over the Mediterranean and beyond,” the statement said.

It added that the wealth of the society under archaeological scrutiny came from the production of copper and its trading in the form of bronze over long distances. The Antiquities Department said the findings were discovered in two “family tombs” excavated by a mission headed by Professor Peter Fischer from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.—Xinhua

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Putin compares his actions to Peter the Great’s conquests

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Thursday compared his current actions to Peter the Great’s conquest of the Baltic coast during his 18th-century war against Sweden.

After visiting an exhibition in Moscow dedicated to the 350th birthday of tsar Peter the Great, Putin told a group of young entrepreneurs that “you get the impression that by fighting Sweden he was grabbing something. He wasn’t taking anything, he was taking it back”. When Peter the Great founded Saint Petersburg and declared it the Russian capital “none of the countries in Europe recognized this territory as belonging to Russia,” Putin said.

“Everyone considered it to be part of Sweden. But from time immemorial, Slavs had lived there alongside Finno-Ugric peoples,” the Russian leader added.

“It is our responsibility also to take back and strengthen,”

Putin said, in an apparent reference to Russia’s offensive in Ukraine.

“Yes, there have been times in our country’s history when we have been forced to retreat, but only to regain our strength and

move forward,” he said.

The defeat of Sweden in the Great Northern War (1700-1721) made Russia the leading power in the Baltic Sea and an important player in European affairs.—AFP



Peter the Great, who ruled Russia from 1682 to 1725, founded Saint Petersburg as the country’s ‘window to Europe’. **PHOTO: OLGA MALTSEVA /AFP**

Russia-Ukraine conflict could push 11-19 mln into hunger worldwide: FAO

THE fighting in Ukraine has a significant impact on the global food markets and could leave an additional 11 to 19 million people with chronic hunger, the Food and Agricultural Or-

ganization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) warned on Friday.

FAO spokesperson Boubaker Ben Belhassen told a press briefing here that both countries involved in the Rus-

sia-Ukraine conflict were major producers of agricultural commodities in the world, with a combined share of around 30 per cent of global wheat exports.—Xinhua

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Ukraine war sparks debate over Finland’s ‘Achilles heel’

SPRAYED between Sweden and Finland, the autonomous Åland Islands are a picturesque archipelago once part of Russia and demilitarized since 1856.

But the region’s unique status is the object of intense debate since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine rattled neighbouring Finland into applying for NATO membership in May.

Under international treaties signed after the Crimean War, no troops or fortifications can be placed on the strategic Baltic Sea islands.

“It is the Achilles’ heel of Finland’s defence,” Alpo Rusi, a professor and former presidential advisor, told AFP.

Home to about 30,000 mostly Swedish-speaking Finns, the area is characterized by rocky islands, lush green forests, old stone churches and wooden architecture -- all under the watchful eye of a Russian consulate.

In June, a poll showed 58 per cent of Finns would approve of a military presence on Åland, which celebrated the 100th anniversary of its autonomy on Thursday.—AFP

Zelensky wants Russia expelled from UN agriculture agency

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky on Thursday called for Russia to be expelled from the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization, blaming Moscow for spurring the global grain crisis by invading his country.

“There can’t be any discussion on prolonging Russia’s membership in the FAO,” Zelensky told delegates at a Paris meeting of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) by video link.

Active in 130 countries worldwide, the FAO’s mission is to “achieve food security for all”.

“What is there for Russia to do (in the FAO) if they are causing hunger for at least 400 million, or potentially more than a billion people?” Zelensky added. Ukraine’s Black Sea ports usually export millions of tonnes of grain each year but have been blocked since Moscow’s late February invasion. Along with western sanctions on Russia, which prevent Moscow selling much of its grain abroad, the blockade has sent food prices soaring and triggered warnings of famine in the Middle East and Africa.— AFP



A police vehicle drives past the venue of the Shangri-La Dialogue summit in Singapore on Friday. The summit is a forum for the world's top military officials, diplomats and weapons firms. **PHOTO: AFP**

China, US defence ministers hold talks in Singapore

THE US and Chinese defence ministers held their first face-to-face talks in Singapore on Friday, as the superpowers lock horns over security disputes.

The relationship between the two countries has deteriorated due to myriad issues in recent years. US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin met his Chinese counterpart Wei Fenghe on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Di-

alogue summit, which brings together security officials from around the world, for around an hour. Austin is the latest senior US official to visit Asia as Washington seeks to shift its foreign policy focus back to the region from the Ukraine war.

Wei told reporters the talks were “honest and sincere” and went “smoothly”. Austin tweeted they had “discussed (US-China)

defence relations, as well as global and regional security issues”.

The pair had previously only held discussions on the phone in April.

Further details on the talks were not released. But a major issue on the agenda may have been Chinese Taipei, a self-ruled, democratic island that lives under the constant threat of invasion by China.— AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Italy to kill 1,000 pigs in swine fever outbreak

A thousand pigs will be slaughtered after two cases of swine fever were detected on a farm in Rome's Lazio region, officials said Friday, spurring fears of a blow to the country's pork industry.

“We have to slaughter all the pigs in the contaminated area very quickly,” Angelo Ferrari, tasked with managing the crisis, told AGI news agency.

The local health agency estimated 1,000 pigs would have to be culled to stem the spread, he said.

Italy, with about 8.9 million pigs, is the seventh biggest pork producer in the European Union, representing an eight-billion-euro (\$9.1 billion) industry, according to the agricultural association Confagricoltura.—AFP

N Korea makes diplomat Choe its 1st female foreign minister

NORTH Korea named Choe Son Hui as the nation's first female foreign minister, state-run media reported Saturday, amid speculation the country may soon carry out its seventh nuclear test.

Choe, a senior diplomat and close aide to leader Kim Jong Un, has long handled nuclear weapons issues and North Korea's negotiations with the United States. Direct talks on

denuclearization and sanctions relief between the two nations have been at a standstill for more than two years.

The appointment was made at an enlarged plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, chaired by Kim. The gathering was held for two days through Friday, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

In 2020, Ri Son Gwon, a former military officer and head of the government's Committee for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, became foreign minister, replacing Ri Yong Ho.

Ri Son Gwon, who had served as a representative to inter-Korean military talks since the mid-2000s, is known as a hard-liner on United States policy matters.—Kyodo

Bolivia's Jeanine Anez: From president to prisoner

CONSERVATIVE senator Jeanine Anez was unknown to many Bolivians before she stepped out onto the balcony of the government palace in November 2019, Bible in hand.

A longtime critic of her leftist predecessor Evo Morales, she stepped into the presidential vacuum left when he resigned and fled the country during violent post-election protests.

On Friday, no longer president and having spent more than a year in pre-trial detention, Anez was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Her crime: an alleged plot – dismissed as fictional by many – to oust Morales.

The accusations came despite Anez having overseen fresh elections and relinquishing the presidency a year later to Luis Arce of Morales's MAS

party, which romped to power in voting in October of 2020.

“I congratulate the winners and ask them to govern with Bolivia and democracy in mind,” she said at the time.

In March of 2021, with Morales back in the country and his MAS party in control, Anez was arrested on charges of sedition and terrorism over what the government claims was a coup attempt against him.

In pre-trial detention, she went on hunger strike more than once. Her trial began in mid-February.

Friday's sentence of 10 years in a La Paz women's prison stemmed from crimes “contrary to the Constitution and a breach of duties” over accusations pertaining to when she was a senator, before becoming president.— AFP

Australia agrees payout, ending France submarine spat

AUSTRALIA unveiled a substantial compensation deal with French submarine maker Naval Group Saturday, ending a contract dispute that soured relations between Canberra and Paris for almost a year.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the French firm had agreed to a “fair and an equitable settlement” of 555 million euros (US\$584 million) for Australia ending a decade-old multi-billion-dollar submarine contract.

The agreement drew a line under a spat that caused leader-level recriminations and threatened to torpedo talks on an EU-Australia trade agreement.

“It permits us to turn a page in our bilateral relations with Australia and look to the future,” said French Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu.

Albanese said he would travel to France soon to “reset”



This file photo taken on 2 May 2018 shows French President Emmanuel Macron (2nd left) and then-Australian PM Malcolm Turnbull (3rd left) standing on the deck of HMAS Waller, a Collins-class submarine operated by the Royal Australian Navy, at Garden Island in Sydney. **PHOTO: LUDOVIC MARIN / POOL / AFP**

a relationship beset by “pretty obvious” tensions.

The tussle began in September 2021, when Australia's then-prime minister Scott

Morrison abruptly ripped up a long-standing contact with the French state-backed Naval to build a dozen diesel-powered submarines.—AFP

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Excavations of ancient city in Cyprus point to wealthy society with int'l contacts

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SPORT

ASEAN U-16 Football Championship to be held in Indonesia

THE 2022 ASEAN U-16 Football Championship will be held in Indonesia, according to the ASEAN Football body.

The tournament will be held from 31 July to 13 August and will feature all 12 members of the ASEAN Football Federation.

Therefore, the ASEAN Football Federation will hold the tournament in three groups, with the Myanmar team being in Group C.

According to the drawing-lots, Viet Nam, Indonesia, the Philippines and Singapore

are placed in Group A, while Thailand, Timor Leste, Laos and Brunei are in Group B. Myanmar is included in Group C with Malaysia, Australia and Cambodia.

The ASEAN Football Federation has 12 teams competing in three groups. The Myanmar U-16 national team is training for this year's international competitions, including this one, with U Aung Zaw Myo acting as the head coach.

The ASEAN U-16 Championship was launched in 2002,

with the last time in 2019, and was postponed in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the last 14 championships, Thailand and Viet Nam have won three matches each with Myanmar, Australia and Malaysia twice and Indonesia and Japan had won one at a time.

The ASEAN Football Federation has invited some teams from the Asian region to some competitions, and the Japanese team has won the previous championship. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

McIlroy charges but Clark clings to Canadian Open lead

RORY McIlroy charged into contention but American Wyndham Clark fired a level par 70 to maintain a one-stroke lead after Friday's second round of the US PGA Tour's Canadian Open. World number 293 Clark, who led by one stroke after day one, made bogeys on two of the last four holes to stand on seven-under 133 after 36 holes at St George's Golf and Country Club in suburban Toronto.

"Overall I played really good. I felt really confident with my game," Clark said. "I had some little

mishaps coming in, but other than that I played some great golf for 36 holes. If I do that again, I'll have a great chance come Sunday."

Northern Ireland's eighth-ranked McIlroy — the 2019 winner and defending champion after Covid-19 caused a two-year hiatus — birdied two of the last four holes to shoot 68 and share second on 134 with England's Matthew Fitzpatrick and Americans Keith Mitchell, Jim Knous and Alex Smalley. — AFP

Ferreira scores four as USA thrash Grenada in Nations League

JESUS Ferreira shook off early frustration to score four goals as the United States launched their CONCACAF Nations League title defence with a 5-0 rout of Grenada on Friday.

The 21-year-old FC Dallas striker, trying to stake a claim to a spot in Gregg Berhalter's World Cup side, took awhile to heat up in the steamy conditions at Q2 Stadium in Austin, Texas, where the American-dominated possession session against the 170th-ranked Grenada but were unable to capitalize on a stream of first-half chances.

After firing wide in the 28th minute and seeing his left-footed shot saved by Grenada keeper Jason Belfon in the 33rd, Ferreira finally broke through in the 43rd minute.

He collected a deflected cross from Dallas teammate Paul Arriola and delivered a left-footed shot from the center of the box inside the far post.

It was the first of three goals in a 13-minute span.

Ferreira doubled the score in the 54th and just two minutes later curled in a beautiful right-footed shot from a corner to make it 3-0.

Arriola made it 4-0 in the 62nd minute with a angled shot from a precision pass from Luca de la Torre.

Ferreira then punctuated his night with a 78th-minute strike.—AFP



Jesus Ferreira of the United States scored four goals in a 5-0 victory over Grenada in the CONCACAF Nations Cup. PHOTO: AFP

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs
- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
 - (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
 - (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.
2. Economic affairs
- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
 - (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
 - (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.
3. Social affairs
- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
 - (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
 - (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Ecuador still in World Cup as FIFA rejects Chile complaint

ECUADOR kept their place in the Qatar World Cup after football governing body FIFA on Friday closed an inquiry sought by non-qualifying Chile into the eligibility of a key player.

The FIFA disciplinary committee said in a statement it had decided to "close the proceedings" against the Ecuador Football Federation (FEF) after Chile disputed the nationality of full-back Byron Castillo.

If Chile had been successful, they would have leapfrogged Ecuador into direct World Cup qualification.

The Chilean football federation (FFCh) said it would appeal the decision all the way to the Court of Arbitration for Sport if need be.—AFP



Ecuador kept their place in the Qatar World Cup after football governing body FIFA on Friday closed an inquiry sought by non-qualifying Chile into the eligibility of a key player. PHOTO: AFP