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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.

All must strive to build a peaceful Union based on Union spirit, stresses Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives the peace delegation led by Arakan Liberation Party-ALP Vice-Chair Daw Saw Mra Raza Linn in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 June 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a peace delegation led by Vice-Chair of the Arakan Liberation Party-ALP Daw Saw Mra Raza

Linn at the meeting hall of the Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning to talk about peace issues.

The talks were also attended by Council members General Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae. The

ALP Vice-Chair was accompanied by Central Executive Committee members Khaing Soe Mra and Khaing Paw Lin.

The Senior General explained that **Arakan Liberation Party-ALP issued the press release at first to hold talks**

with the willingness to serve the interests of the Union and the region as the invitation was extended to talk about peace issues. He also discussed administrative forms of the country in successive eras and strong and weak points, efforts of the

Tatmadaw to pave the way for the people to implement the multiparty democracy, and plans to discuss all things which should be done in conformity with the actual situations of the nation, demands of ethnic armed

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Order No 41/2022
15th Waxing of Nayon 1384 ME
13 June 2022

Termination from the duties of Minister for Economy of
Yangon Region Government

THE State Administration Council has terminated Minister U Aung Than Oo from the duties of Minister for Economy of the Yangon Region Government from 10-6-2022 in accord with the Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Government of the Republic of the
Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education
Announcement

Announcement on enrolment for first, second, and
third-year courses of University of Distance Education
in 2022 Academic Year

THE enrolment for the 2022 Academic Year distance education courses of the first year (2019 pass), the second year and the third-year students and the first year (2020 pass) at the universities, degree colleges and colleges under the Higher Education Department of the Ministry of Education can be made starting 13-6-2022.

Department of Higher Education
Ministry of Education

Informants to be rewarded
deservingly

WITH an ulterior motive for weakening the administrative mechanism of the government, PDF groups organized by CRPH and NUG terrorist groups are committing serious crimes of killing ward and village administrators, 100-household leaders and 10-household leaders and civil servants. They are also threatening or slaying teachers, planting and detonating bombs at schools so that students do not dare to go to school. Moreover, to strike terror into the public, they are murdering innocent and peace-loving people as well as Buddhist monks.

Buddhism is a religion most of the people in Myanmar profess and it is also a religion that commands high respect of people all over the world. In Myanmar, the overwhelmingly Buddhist nation, slaughtering Buddhist monks, who are following noble practices and living a moral life, makes the image of the country and the people very ugly.

This being the case, people are urged to take an active part in exposing suspects so that effective action can be taken against them and those who give information leading to their arrest will be rewarded deservingly.

Central Committee on Counter-Terrorism

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

Wharf to be constructed at Union National Races Village

THE Union National Races Village near Thanlyin bridge in Thakayta Township of Yangon Region is crowded with people. If the construction of the wharf at the Union National Races Village completes, the sea route will be more transparent and it can lure the visitors more.

The recreation place located near the Bago River can be reached via road and the visitors can get there by riding the Star City water bus that operates from Pansodan Jetty. Moreover, the foreign travellers as well as local visitors can get there by cruise



An undated picture shows an aerial view of the wharf- construction site. **PHOTO: KANU**

ship from the Pansodan jetty of Yangon.

The wharf will be constructed near the MV-705 shipyard on the side of the Bago River and officials invite the tender, and it is

expected to be completed during this year.

“If the wharf completes, we will cooperate with hotels and tourism and expand the water bus station for foreigners. Moreover, we will operate the Star City water bus to dock for local travellers. The staff will provide healthcare services for the public. The people can take a rest by paying K500 for the entrance fee and we invite the public to relax,” said Director U Myo Win of the Union National Races Village (Yangon).

The 186-foot-long wharf will be constructed by the tender-win-

ning company during this fiscal year and the new services will be also provided for local/foreign travellers by River Cruise.

The Village hosts visitors between 400 and 500 per day on weekdays and about 2,000 on weekends. It also provides traditional dance performances of ethnic people daily.

If the wharf on 117 acres wide National Races Village is completed, the services will be provided so that foreigners can cook the traditional food of ethnic people by themselves. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

9 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 13 June, total figure rises to 613,452

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 613,452 after nine new cases were reported on 13 June 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 592,432 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll stands at 19,434 without more casualties.—MNA

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)

All must strive to build a peaceful Union based on Union ...

FROM PAGE-1
organizations and possibilities at the peace talks in detail. NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations which have not joined the peace talks yet and NCA non-signatory EAOs need to observe the interests of the State and respective regions. If they have wishes to join the peace talks, a further invitation will be extended to them. The discussions also focused on exercising the multiparty democracy in conformity with the people's desire, building the Union based on democracy and federalism, solving the politically different opinions through peaceful ways along the route of a multiparty democratic system, and situation for striving to build the peaceful Union based on Union spirit for the interests of the nation.

The ALP Vice-Chair and party also discussed ALP's acceptance of the invitation of the Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services to the peace talks for the sake of the nation and the people, further plans to ensure peace and stability and development in Rakhine State, and similar



The Senior General and the delegation led by ALP Vice-Chair exchange the presents at the event yesterday.



attitudes for exercising the multiparty democracy and building the Union based on democracy and federalism and reported on regional development. They exchanged views on peace is-

ssues and measures for regional development. After the meeting, the Senior General presented gifts to the ALP Vice-Chair and party who returned domestic gifts.

They then posed for documentary photos. The delegation led by the Vice-Chair of the Arakan Liberation Party-ALP will hold peace talks with the Peace Talks Team

and the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee with the participation of Council members formed by the State Administration Council. — MNA

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 utter devastation of the country and launch armed resistance under various names of groups including PDF. Such doings can affect the stability of the State and ensue delay in ways to democracy. 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 in line with "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

Tatmadaw gives training to Tatmadaw members to have military capabilities to keep abreast of international armed forces: Vice-Senior General



SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets Tatmadaw members and families in Sittway Station yesterday.

THE budget of the State is allotted to gradually upgrade the Tatmadaw (Navy) in order to defend the coasts and territorial waters, said Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win in separate meetings with Tatmadaw members and families at respective station halls and Ye-iktha in Sittway and Buthidaung stations yesterday.

Speaking at the meetings, the Vice-Senior General said that the Tatmadaw members from the military command are discharging the important duties of defending the coastal lines and Myanmar territorial waters. The budget of the State is allotted to

gradually upgrade the Tatmadaw (Navy) in order to defend the coasts and territorial waters, he added. He pointed out that armed conflicts in Rakhine State caused terrible loss to local people in social and economic sectors. So, it is necessary to sustain the situation not to cause such events happen again. With regard to the offer of the Head of State for talking about peace issues, leaders of five ethnic armed organizations and representatives understand the wish of the people who aspire to have peace and held meetings with the Head of State in Nay Pyi Taw. The Prime Minister discussed two basic factors on a multiparty democratic system the entire people aspire to and building the Union based on democracy and

federalism. They planned to hold further discussions on amendments to the Constitution (2008).

The Vice-Senior General continued to say that the Tatmadaw members were assigned the 24-hour duties needed to discharge security duty for defending the State. The military corps must also have the capacity for accomplishing the primary missions and duties.

Moreover, he noted that some Tatmadaw members who missed the chance to learn before joining the Tatmadaw were taught for some years. Only when they have completed learning will they have the capacity to thoroughly use the modern arms and equipment.

The Vice-Senior General underscored that Tatmadaw members must be healthy and fit for fully serving their duties. Medical battalions and hospitals are formed in the area to provide health care services to those Tatmadaw members. During monsoon, they have to take preventive measures against monsoon-borne diseases.

The Vice-Senior General stressed that the Tatmadaw gives training to Tatmadaw members to have military capabilities to keep abreast of international armed forces. The whole Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) needs to abide by the rules of engage-



The Vice-Senior General gives foodstuffs to Tatmadaw members and families in Sittway Station.

ment (ROE). The military code of conduct mentions measures of humanitarian, human rights, and facts about ROE. Officials need to manage to fulfil the basic needs, education and health sectors of officers, other ranks and families for fostering the family spirit in the military units, the Vice-Senior General said. Then, the Vice-Senior General fulfilled the needs of officers, other ranks and families.

The Vice-Senior General presented foodstuffs to Tatmadaw members and families from respective military stations through

officials.

After the meetings, the Vice-Senior General cordially greeted Tatmadaw members and families.

Yesterday afternoon, the Vice-Senior General and party viewed teaching the children at the basic education primary school of the local battalion in Buthidaung station and fulfilled the needs of teachers. Likewise, the Vice-Senior General visited the housings of families at the local battalion in Kyauktaw station and cordially greeted them. — MNA



The Vice-Senior General presents foodstuffs to family members at Buthidaung Station.

The remaining EAOs will be received to hold talks for restoration of perpetual peace: Vice-Senior General

AS restrictions of COVID-19 have been eased to some extent, it is necessary to prepare the ancient MraukU city and the Ngapali beach to attract the attention of the travellers, said Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win in meeting with Rakhine State government and departmental officials at the hall of state government in Sittway yesterday.

In his address, the Vice-Senior General said the work process depends on short- and long-term plans. The long-term plans must be implemented in respective sections under the systematic arrangements. The short-term plans must be implemented with might and main to have a quick win. The fishery sector is the livelihood for the people of Rakhine State. Instead of traditional ways, businesspersons need to operate fish, shrimp and soft-shell crab farms with the technical assistance from relevant experts in order to upgrade their businesses, grasp the business opportunities and create job opportunities to contribute to the regional development.

The Vice-Senior General also urged businesspersons to make preparations for the im-



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets Rakhine State government and departmental officials in Sittway yesterday.



provement of the tourism industry. As restrictions of COVID-19 have been eased to some extent, it is necessary to prepare the ancient MraukU city and the Ngapali beach to catch the attention of the travellers.

The Vice-Senior General highlighted that Rakhine State is a disaster-prone area as it is a coastal area. Local people need to raise their awareness of climatic conditions. At a time when they have information about weather forecasts, they need to take care of warning levels for seeking shelters or safer places if necessary. Local authorities and people must make preparations to have readiness in accordance

with the natural disaster prevention plan if a storm hits. After the storms, they have to undertake relief and rehabilitation under the action plan.

A citizenship scrutiny card is of great importance for each eligible voter to cast votes. Plans are underway to scrutinize the CSCs in regions and states. Hence, departmental heads must join the work process of scrutinizing the CSCs in their respective sectors.

The Vice-Senior General urged those present to train athletes to turn out the outstanding ones in the state. Their sports training results must break the records of sports at different levels including the Southeast Asian

level and the international level. It is necessary to uplift sports standards which can bring honour to the State.

So far, the Vice-Senior General continued to say that the peace talks have been held with five ethnic armed organizations which understand the genuine desires of the citizens wishing to live peacefully. The Head of State held talks with ALP transported from Rakhine State to Nay Pyi Taw by a special flight and then, further talks were held between ALP and the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee. The Vice-Senior General noted that the remaining EAOs will be received to hold

talks for the restoration of perpetual peace.

It can be seen that number of students and faculty members at the university level in the education sector in Rakhine State is larger than in other regions and states due to proper peace and tranquillity. Hence, the state government, departmental officials, personnel and local people should sustain such a good condition. The Rakhine state government needs to give service to the people at the grassroots level in a correct way while assisting in undertaking the economic, social, health and education sectors, the Vice-Senior General said. — MNA

Private companies need to be invited to work together on high-rise housing projects



The MoC deputy minister and party view the miniature version of the Ayawun-Yadana High-Rise Housing Project.

THE MoC deputy minister said that ways should be found to invite private companies to

cooperate on high-rise housing projects.

He made the remarks yes-

terday morning at the Yadana Hninzi Housing sales hall of the Ayawun-Yadana High-Rise

Housing Project on the Ayawun road and Yadana road in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon Region.

He called on the Department of Urban and Housing Development and national entrepreneurs to work together to achieve success of projects and promote urban standards of Yangon based on the State's support.

In addition, he added the need for transparency in carrying out activities, considering the operation of state-invested funds due to suspended activities to analyze the completion status of work, resale, and ways to resell on a regular basis for the remaining apartments for sale.

The officials of Ayawun-Yadana High-Rise Housing Project announced that anyone could

freely buy apartments in instalments, and application forms are sold at K 1,500 per copy as of 16 March 2016.

The deputy minister also said that a housing administration committee should be formed to address the need of the residents such as the garbage disposal system, and urged the department to focus on what should be provided.

Then, the deputy minister and party visited the Snow Garden Mixed Used Development Project at the corner of the Pon-nami Road and Shweli Road in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township. He also visited the Star City project of Yangon Land Co Ltd at the confluence of the Yangon River and Bago River near the Thanlyin Bridge in the evening. — MNA

SAC members attend final match of Inter-state/region Chinlone, award-giving ceremony

THE final match of the 43rd Inter-State/Region Chinlone Competition and award-giving ceremony were organized at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium B in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Members of the State Administration Council Mahn Nyein Maung, U Khin Maung Swe, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U Moungh Har, U Sai Lone Saing and Dr Banyar Aung Moe, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, U Ko Ko, U Tin Htut Oo, U Hla Moe, U Min Thein Zan, U Shwe Lay and Dr Htay Aung, the deputy ministers, directors-general, officials of the Ministry of Sports and Youths Affairs, the Myanmar Traditional Chinlone Federation, region/state coaches and athletes attended to enjoy the match.

During the final match, Yangon Region made a win over Mandalay Region.

Then, the award-giving ceremony was held and the officials presented the most progres-



The SAC members and dignitaries watch the final match of the Inter-State–Region Chinlone in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

sive awards to the Nay Pyi Taw Council and Ayeyawady Region teams in the women's competition, to Bago Region and Nay Pyi Taw Council teams in the men's competition, the fourth award to Rakhine State and rising star awards to the athletes including certificates of honour and cash awards. They also awarded K100,000 cash award

each to fourth award winners Ayeyawady Region and Nay Pyi Taw Council teams.

SAC member Dr Banyar Aung Moe then presented K1.5 million to the first prize winner Mandalay Region in the women's four-player category, K1 million to the second winner Yangon Region and K700,000 to the third prize winner Bago

Region.

Another SAC member U Sai Lone Saing gave K1.5 million to the first prize winner Mandalay Region in the men's six-player category, K1 million to the second winner Yangon Region and K700,000 to the third prize winner Magway Region.

Then, SAC members Jeng Phang Naw Taung and U Moungh Har gave the K100,000 cash prize each to the best female player award to Aye Aye Than (Mandalay Region) and the best male player award to Zaw Win Maung (Yangon Region), while Mahn Nyein Maung and U Khin Maung Swe presented championship trophies to the Mandalay Region team that won Men's and Women's competitions. — MNA

Management Course No 9 of Civil Service Academy (Upper Myanmar) for Executive-Level Officials—By Executive-9 Group



The trainees of the Management Course No 9 for Executive-Level Officials are pictured at the Civil Service Academy (Upper Myanmar).

THE Civil Service Academy, Upper Myanmar (CSA-UM), which is located near Zeebingyi village, PyinOoLwin Township of Mandalay Region, is a great learning opportunity for the staff who are working in Government services. The Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) manages the CSA-UM. The CSA-UM offers a level-wise training programme including the Management course for executive-level officials. The CSA-UM has been set up to include man-

agement aspects of the teachings of administration and governance. The CSA training courses have also developed, through successive generations, in line with Government Servants' conduct—Rules of Myanmar. The CSA-UM provides courses promoting the trainees to become good service personnel with patriotic spirits, who dutifully perform their tasks in administrative, economic and social matters of the country.

We, altogether 22 partici-

pants from different ministries are attending the Management Course No 9 for Executive-Level Officials at the CSA-UM from 25 April to 17 June 2022.

The CSA-UM has been providing interesting modules such as Information and Communication Technology, Management Studies, Economics, English, Law, Political Science, Social Science, and other valuable topics from ministries as well as knowledgeable topics from visiting ex-

perienced lecturers to trainees and produced qualified staff. To promote the quality of staff, the CSA-UM is working with different ministries, retired officials, and visiting knowledgeable lecturers and advisors from respective areas. The CSA-UM has been making efforts to improve the quality of executive levels, by encouraging experienced and learned teachers, and online teachings. The CSA-UM has encouraged the executive-level officials to develop organizational development and to identify ways and means for effective administration, as well as good governance, research, creative working environment, attitudes and practices of the staff, e-library, documents and record keeping. As a part of support to implement the above activities, the CSA-UM is promoting critical thinking skills. The Rector of CSA-UM gave necessary suggestions for holistic perspectives of Administration and Management. During the training period, as an innovative idea, we submitted Strategic Power Thinking in the context of Myanmar for the National Development in the 21st Century: Integrated Ideal Power.

A new concept – Integrated Ideal Power (IIP) – is the combination of four powers which include soft power, hard power, smart power and just power. In this set of combinations, smart power plus just power is the special issue of IIP. Smart Power consists of Soft Power and Hard Power. The concept of just power holds that State power needs to be employed in accordance with basic principles of justice at all times. This needs to be done not necessarily for moral reasons, but because it is the only sustainable way to promote national interests and achieve national security.

We can apply these four powers as an Integrated Ideal Power in the context of Myanmar for the National Development in the 21st century in line with the policies of the State Administrative Council.

In conclusion, the Management Course No 9 for Executive-Level Officials of the CSA-UM was an auspicious training for executive-level officials and acknowledged and appreciated all teachers who actively participated in our course No 9 and energetically contributed to the progress of the CSA-UM.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Export price of Seintalone mango to China plunges

EXPORT prices of the Seintalone mango to China dropped to about 130 yuan per 16-kilogramme basket at maximum and 60 yuan at minimum, said Sai Khin Maung from the Khwanyo fruit wholesale centre.

The price of Seintalone mangoes touched a high of 160 yuan per basket at the beginning of the season.

“Those Seintalone mangoes from Yaksawk, Pinphyit, Pindaya, Taungtalone and Taungni Pa-O areas in southern Shan State fetched high price this year. The price hit the maximum of 160 yuan at the beginning of the harvest season. The price went down to the maximum rate of 130 yuan and the minimum of 60-70 yuan per basket,” he said.

At present, Seintalone from Katha and Htigyaing areas are

increasingly flowing into the market. Yet, transport delays and weak points in handling perishable commodities make some mangoes spoil and rot faster. This way, the price plummeted, he elaborated.

Only a small volume of Shwehintha mango variety is left to be shipped for now. The price is around 100 yuan and below.

Additionally, China’s Seintalone mango will enter the market in the last week of June. It is hard for Myanmar mango to acquire market share. Therefore, the traders are advised to observe the market thoroughly before shipment, Sai Khin Maung expressed his opinion. “Market share for Myanmar’s mango will shrink owing to the entry of China’s Seintalone mango at the end of June. Traders have to



Seintalone mangoes are seen at one outlet.

closely observe the market condition. Quality and weight evaluate the price. If fresh mango meets quality criteria, they will be offered high price in China’s market,” he added.

Mango growers slashed ag-

ricultural input costs and caused quality degradation during this mango season. Therefore, some mango had postharvest diseases such as stem-end rot and black spot in the fruit.

Consequently, Seintalone

mango received a lower price in China due to poor quality, and some traders cannot cover the general cost.

Although there are about 200 mango varieties in Myanmar, Seintalone, Shwehintha, Padamyar Ngamauk, Yinkwe and Machitsu varieties are primarily and 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

Tomato from Ywangan area fetching good prices

THE Thiri Marlar green grocery wholesale market in Mandalay city sees bustling trade in tomatoes supplied by the Ywangan area. The price shows an uptick as well, according to the tomato depots.

About seven to eight 12-wheel truckloads of tomatoes from the Ywangan area are daily flowing into the Thiri Marlar market, said U Aung Moe Nang from the Aung commodity centre in Mandalay city.

“Tomatoes from Ywangan area are sent to Mandalay market. Last month, the Nawnghkio area also supplied tomatoes. At present, the Ywangan area is a single source of supply. The tomatoes are in short supply so the market sees price spike,” he elaborated.

In May, the price of toma-



About seven to eight 12-wheel truckloads of tomatoes from the Ywangan area are daily flowing into the Thiri Marlar market

atoes stood at K11,000-13,000 per 18-viss box, but it has now risen to K22,000-24,000.

“The growers are delighted with tomato price. Tomatoes from Inlay will be harvested soon,” he continued.

Tomatoes are traded in

the Mandalay market at a high price. In addition to tomatoes, other vegetables such as cabbage, broccoli, mustard, eggplant, chayote, potato and onions are also selling well. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Soft-shell crab business becomes brisk in Ayeyawady Region

SOFT-SHELL crab businesses from Ayeyawady Region are doing a roaring trade on account of the robust foreign demand, said livestock businesspersons.

The soft-shell crabs are shipped to China, Taipei, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia and some European countries. The price stands at US\$10-15 per kilogramme. The soft-shell crab culture has expanded to meet the market demand, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Earlier, there were about 37 local businesspersons doing soft-shell crab farming. In May, the number of farmers increased to 55. There are about 20 to 30 workers in each farming lake.

A businessperson manages one to five crab farming lakes. The local consumption of soft-shell crabs is pretty low. The industry is mainly relying on foreign markets.

Over 600 tonnes of soft-shell crabs are exported to foreign markets every year. Moreover, Rakhine State Fisheries Department is implementing research on soft-shell crab hatcheries like fish and shrimp culture. After 45 days of farming, the crabs are sent to processing and cold-storage plants in Thandwe, Rakhine State and Hlinethaya Industrial Zone, Yangon Region when the crabs shed their shell. Then, they are shipped to external markets in cold chain shipping. — KK/GNLM



Tachilek trade camp earns \$2.590m in export in last week of May

THE Tachilek trade camp on the Myanmar-Thai border earned \$5.476 million in trade exporting \$2.590 million worth of products and importing \$2.886 million worth of products between 21 and 27 May, according to the data of the Ministry of Commerce.

The figures showed a decrease of \$0.296 million in ex-

ports and \$0.153 million in imports compared to the previous week and the trade volume dropped about \$0.143 million.

The export volume declines in the coffee bean, rubber, tea leaf, dried ginger and other products and the import volume of finished metal products, construction materials, electricity

supplies, oil and gas, iron sheet, tire and inner tube are high.

The country earned more \$2.386 million in exports and \$1.910 million in imports when compared to the same period of the previous year and the trade volume rose to \$4.296 million, according to the Tachilek trade camp. — TWA/GNLM

Honour great and noble blood donors

THE 14th of June of this year is designated as World Blood Donor Day. Every country holds a ceremony to mark the blood donor day in their honour. As they are great at fostering the great spirit.

Everybody loves their life in comparison with others. It is because humans don't dare to die without reasons of their own accord. After all, they love their life to be longevity. Despite the lack of daring to die for reasonless, most of them are keen to donate blood for saving the life of others in emergency cases.

Persons with a philanthropic spirit are keen to happily donate their blood to the patients who need blood urgently. If they know their blood is useful to save the life of others, it will be a good result which cannot be composed and exchanged in letters. They cannot exchange their happiness with any others

If so, the blood donors are great persons upholding their noble minds. Such a mind leads them to happily donate blood. Those great and noble blood donors are building the society with compassion, empathy, sympathy, consideration and love-kindness to be peaceful and prosperous for all.

others. It is a great donation to society.

If so, the blood donors are great persons upholding their noble minds. Such a mind leads them to happily donate blood. Those great and noble blood donors are building the society with compassion, empathy, sympathy, consideration and love-kindness to be peaceful and prosperous for all.

China capable of coordinating dynamic COVID control, economic growth

Administrative areas are classified into regions of high, medium and low risk to enable the utmost mobility while containing the virus. Work and life could soon restore in areas of low and medium risk. Detailed policies and standards are in place to ensure the operation of the mechanism.

CHINA has adjusted epidemic control measures in Beijing and Shanghai after the latest round of COVID-19 resurgence was brought under control. This, however, cannot be simply deemed as restriction lift as the country is still pursuing a dynamic approach to ensure both epidemic control and social and economic development.

For China, anti-epidemic efforts and economic growth are not an either-or choice. While prioritizing lives and health in line with a people-centred development philosophy, the country has always stressed the importance of coordinating epidemic control with economic and social development.

To this end, China has continued to fine-tune its anti-virus approach, making it ever more scientifically sound, precise and effective, so as to minimize the impact of the epidemic on economic and social development.

A differentiated approach
Among other measures, the

country introduced a differentiated approach, which features dynamic adjustment of epidemic response in light of the situation on the ground.

Administrative areas are classified into regions of high, medium and low risk to enable the utmost mobility while containing the virus. Work and life could soon restore in areas of low and medium risk. Detailed policies and standards are in place to ensure the operation of the mechanism.

When community transmission is cut off, cities would further adjust their anti-epidemic measures and gradually return to normalcy. Take Beijing for example. Dine-in services at restaurants became available this week after one month of suspension, campuses were gradually reopened, and libraries, museums, cinemas and gyms resumed operations in most districts.

But vigilance remains. To guard against any resurgence that might erase previous progress in the fight against the virus, cities

adopt a routine epidemic control mode, which requires body-temperature checking, health code scanning, and a negative nucleic acid test report, among others.

Thanks to the robust defence built with all the sophisticated strategies mentioned above, China has managed to prevent infections as much as possible, while its industries have largely remained unscathed in waves of outbreaks. This could greatly explain how the world's second-largest economy was able to log an 8.1-per-cent rise in GDP in 2021 and expand another 4.8 per cent in the first quarter of 2022.

Latest variant of COVID-19

Omicron, the latest variant of COVID-19, is much more contagious and evasive compared to its predecessors. It has weighed on the economy since its appearance in China late last year, but the country faces the challenges squarely and honestly.

A package of 33 measures was unveiled in May, covering fiscal, fi-

nancial, investment, consumption and many other policies to stabilize the economy. Efforts will be made to boost port efficiency and ensure the summer grain harvest. China also reaffirmed its commitment to opening up and pledged more measures to stabilize foreign trade and investment.

Positive signs have already come. The purchasing managers' index — a key gauge of manufacturing activity — came in at 49.6 in May, up from 47.4 in April. And a mid-year shopping bonanza is roaring on the way. Online retailers including JD.com have reported strong sales volume from the beginning of this month, an indication of a comeback in consumption.

In the just-concluded annual college entrance exam in China, a record 11.93 million people sit the examination safely and smoothly, an increase of 1.15 million from 2021. This, once again, proves that China is capable of curbing the virus while ensuring social and economic development.

SOURCE: XINHUA



People shop at a mall in Fengtai District, Beijing, capital of China, 9 June 2022. Fengtai District started implementing regular epidemic control measures on Thursday. PHOTO: XINHUA/LI XIN

Moderna vaccine effective for children under five: US FDA

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which independently analyzed data from clinical trials conducted by Moderna, said vaccine efficacy against symptomatic cases of Covid-19 was 51% in babies aged six months to less than two years old, and 37% in children aged two to five years.



Boxes containing the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine are prepared to be shipped at the McKesson distribution centre in Olive Branch, Mississippi, on 20 December 2020. PHOTO: PAUL SANCYA/POOL/AFP / FILE

UNITED States health authorities confirmed yesterday that data provided by drug-maker Moderna on the efficacy of its Covid-19 vaccine among very young children was accurate, ahead of a decision next week on whether to authorise two inoculations against the virus in kids aged six months to five years.

Data from clinical trials

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which independently analyzed data from clinical trials conducted by Moderna, said vaccine efficacy against symptomatic cases of Covid-19 was 51% in babies aged six months to less than two years old, and 37% in children aged two to five years.

The figures are lower than those recorded during clinical trials on adults, but that is only because the trials for the very young

children were conducted during a wave linked to the Omicron variant, according to the FDA.

"Although the VE (vaccine efficacy) ... in children six months to five years is lower than that observed in the pivotal adult or older paediatric studies, it is highly consistent with real-world vaccine effectiveness observed against Omicron in adults," the FDA said in a statement.

Even though Moderna's vaccine has proven less effective against the Omicron variant, it remains very good at protecting against severe cases of the disease, the FDA pointed out.

That is why the FDA concluded that the Moderna data "support the administration" of the vaccine in two doses of 100 mg each in adolescents aged 12 to 17, 50 mg for six to 11-year-olds, and 25 mg in children aged six months to five

years.

In the US, Moderna's vaccine is currently only authorized for people aged 18 and older.

Published by the US agency

The latest document, stretching to more than 100 pages and published by the US agency, will serve as a basis for the authorization discussions next week.

An advisory committee of experts must meet over two days to study the request for authorization of the vaccine, as well as that of Pfizer, and make its recommendation. The FDA is expected to publish its independent analysis of data from Pfizer early next week.

Pfizer has filed an application for authorisation for children aged six months to four years, although its vaccine will be administered in three doses.

SOURCE: AFP



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 13 June 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 14 June 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Taninthayi Region and Northern Shan, Chin and Kayah states, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, (Southern and Eastern)Shan and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Yangon, and Ayeawady regions and Mon State. Degree of certainty is (100%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (6-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 June 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 June 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

CURRENT
AFFAIRS

Insured workers in City Mart Holding Co Ltd receive over K150 million in social security allowance

AS a social security allowance, over K150 million were provided for insured workers from the City Mart Holding Co Ltd.

Financial benefits related to illness and maternity of insured workers and 40 per cent of social security allowance for the workers, who have been insured at the Township Social Security Branch (8) under the 2012 Social Security Law, a total of K151,693,281 was handed over to a departmental official.

It is also learned that more than K67,912 million were also provided for 1.6 million insured workers at the factories and workplaces which were temporarily closed during the COVID-19 period.

In implementing the social security project, the Social Security Board is providing healthcare and benefits for about 1.34 million insured workers in 116 townships with three workers' hospitals, 78 branches, 96 township clinics, 58 departmental clinics, eight free service payment clinics with a PPS system, ten capitation payment clinics with a PPS system, one traditional medicine clinic and two mobile clinics. — TWA/GNLM



MSF receives 138 complaints, 103 resolved, 15 pending



THERE have been 138 complaints filed at the Myanmar Seafarers' Federation in 2020-2022, and 103 cases were resolved, with 15 pending, according to the federation.

The complaints included asking for salaries and allowances, death and loss while on board, health issues, and compensation for injuries and benefits for services, said Chairman Captain Soe Min Aung of the Federation at the sixth Plenary Session held on 9 January.

The federation worked together with the Ministry of Health from 20 May 2022 to 30 April 2022 in conducting COVID-19 medical check-ups and issuance of medical certificates for a total of 17,590 Myanmar seafarers.

Between July 2020 and January 2022, the federation provided the offshore seamen sign-on and sign-off services off the coast of Kawthoung for 1,025 Myanmar sailors to work on board and 1,028 sailors to sign off from 96 vessels. In addition, the federation arranged special charter flights for the return of Myanmar seafarers.

The federation also provided rice and cooking oil worth K3,765,300 for seafarers without pensions and handed over cash assistance donated by the Elderly Seafarers' Health Care Working Committee. Although there are 1,160 members currently at the Myanmar Seafarers' Federation (MSF), the federation also provides necessary assistance to non-members depending on the financial situation. — TWA/GNLM

(Above) A seafarer gets jabbed against COVID-19. (Left) Death compensation is given to the family.

Reference palm oil price remains at K 5,645 per viss as last week

THE reference palm oil price was set at K 5,645 per viss between 13 and 19 June, the last week, according to the statement of the supervisory committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The price is unchanged from last week because of the stable price in the world's palm oil-exporting countries. The basic reference rate is set based on the FOB prices of Malaysia and Indonesia by calculating the transport charges, bank rate and taxes.

If the people are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Essential Supplies and Services Act. — TWA/GNLM

China-produced rotten potato sale on the rise

THE Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre received six 12-wheeled trucks carrying China-produced potatoes on Sunday and it included rotten potatoes, said the workers.

"The potato bags contain rotten potatoes. They cannot be sold in the market and so they (wholesalers) hire daily-wage workers and separate the good ones and bad ones," said worker Ko Thant Zin Tun.

The operation starts at 7 am and ends at 4 pm. A female worker gets only K6,500/7,000. A potato wholesale centre has about 200 bags of fine potatoes and they resell a 15-viss bag of rotten potatoes at K2,500/3,000, said Ma Aye Min, potato dealer from Hlinethaya Township.

"A 15-viss bag of rotten potatoes is priced at K2,500/2,000. We clean and peel the rotten potatoes and sell them at morning and evening markets. Most of the people living from hand to mouth buy them," she said.

In the market, the price of potatoes is between K1,300 and K1,500. The people can get the purified rotten potatoes at cheap prices but it is not nutritious enough, said health worker Ko Aung Myo.

"In 2000, the potatoes from Hsinbyukyun got rotten at Bayintnaung jetty and were thrown into the water," said purchaser Ko Pyae.

The Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre receives about 50,000 tonnes of potatoes per day recently and 60,000 tonnes just on Sunday. In May, the China-produced potato (fom sandy land) entered the Yangon market and the Aungban potato and China potato with red colour entered in June second week.

"We clean the rotten potatoes and blow out with the fan. The colour changes into scarlet/brown. We reduce the prices and sell to resellers. Although we do not face losses at all, we see only a few profits," said potato wholesale centre staff Ko Tun Tun.

On 13 June, the prices of potatoes in the Yangon market were K1,300 per viss of China potato and K1,450-1,500 per viss of Heho Shan black potato, said potato purchaser Ko Aung Lin.

On 13 June 2020, the price of China potato was K700 per viss and Shan potato was priced at K550-570-520-550. On 12 June 2021, the Shan potato price was only K330-480-400-430.

The price of potato is highest on 13 June this year compared to the same period of three successive years. — TWA/GNLM



Bags of potatoes at the Bayintnaung depot.

MoC oversees importation of essential anti-COVID-19 equipment

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

A total of 155 tonnes of masks were imported by a company and two vehicles through the Chinshwehaw Border Trade Camp yesterday.

Officials from relevant departments provided necessary facilities 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

A lorry is seen transporting anti-Covid supplies in Chinshwehaw.



CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, electronics, vehicles and fuel oil seized



Seized goods.

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

Under the instructions of the Chairman of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force, combined

inspection teams made inspections in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region on 10 June and seized 803 bags of cement without payment for Customs duties at an estimated value of K35,485,000 and effective action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, inspections were carried out at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint under the management of the Customs Department on 11 June.

A port on-duty inspection team seized 80 cartons of edible oil without official documents at an estimated value of K1,760,000 from a passenger bus heading from Myawady to Yangon.

On the same day, 100 rice cookers worth K1 million, which were not mentioned in the import declaration ID, from a truck heading from Myawady to Yangon at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Checkpoint. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, the on-duty team from the 16th-Mile checkpoint under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections on 12 June.

A total of 2.8596 tonnes of illegal teak and ironwood timber (approximately K2,387,680) from two vehicles worth K46 million were seized and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, a combined



Confiscated commodities.

team led by the Forest Department conducted inspections under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force in the Bago Region.

A total of 2.8014 tonnes of illegal timbers estimated at K267,582 were seized in Toungoo District on 12 June and 4.7906 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1,873,486 in Toungoo, Pyay and Thayawady Districts on 13 June. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, three unregistered vehicles estimated at K9 million were seized under the management of the Anti-Trafficking Task Force in Sagaing Township on 13 June and the action was prosecuted under the Import and Export Law.

Afterwards, 801 gallons of fuel oil estimated at K8,766,000 were confiscated in Kalay township and the action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

The patrol on-duty team captured 90 cartons of the made-in-China beers that showed no official documents at approximately K1,080,000 at the Yepu Permanent Checkpoint in Shan State. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Therefore, 15 arrests estimated at K107,619,748, were made on four consecutive days from 10 to 13 June, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Heroin, stimulant tablets worth over K1.6 billion seized in Myitnge, Amarapura township

MORE than K1.6 billion worth of stimulant tablets and heroin were confiscated in Myitnge, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region according to the Myanmar Police Force.

At 10:30 am on 11 June, the combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a Fuso Fighter six-wheel container truck driven by Bo Myaing along with Aung Min Zaw according to information and seized 40.7 kilogrammes of heroin and 400,000 stimulant tablets (estimated value of more than K1.6 billion.

After the investigation, the

driver admitted that the seized drugs were to be carried from Shan State (North) to Sagaing Region. Police are investigating and the suspects are being prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Myanmar Police Force stated. — MNA



Two arrestees are pictured along with seized drugs and vehicle.

Stimulant tablets worth K145.8 million confiscated in Mogok Township

STIMULANT tablets worth K145.8 million were confiscated in Mogok Township, Mandalay Region, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

On 12 June, 97,200 stimulant tablets hiding in the trunk were seized from a Surf car at Lelgyi Village combined Checkpoint near Kyauktalon Village-tract,

Mogok Township, by the combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force at 10:30 am.

Therefore, driver Mg Aung Myat, 37, was prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, stated by the Myanmar Police Force. —MNA

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Yen hits over 23-yr low vs dollar in 135 range, stocks plunge

THE yen slipped Monday to its lowest level against the US dollar in over 23 years, while stocks plunged in Tokyo as high inflation in the United States last month fuelled expectations of aggressive monetary tightening by the Federal Reserve.

The Japanese currency briefly accelerated its decline to trade around 135.20, its weakest level since October 1998, on anticipation of a further widening of the interest rate gap between Japan and the United States.

At 3 pm, the dollar fetched 134.90-93 yen compared with 134.35-45 yen in New York and 133.59-62 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm Friday.

The euro was quoted at \$1.0485-0489 and 141.44-53 yen against \$1.0504-0514 and 141.27-37 yen in New York and \$1.0625-0626 and 141.95-99 yen in Tokyo



A financial data screen in Tokyo shows the US dollar approaching the 135 yen level on 13 June 2022. PHOTO: KYODO

late Friday afternoon.

On the stock market, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended down 836.85 points, or 3.01 per cent, from Friday at 26,987.44. The broader Topix index finished 42.03 points, or

2.16 per cent, lower at 1,901.06.

On the top-tier Prime Market, decliners were led by machinery, electric appliance and transportation equipment issues.

The yen's renewed drop

came after the US consumer price index for May, released Friday, failed to show inflation peaking in the country, heightening expectations that the Fed may push for more aggressive rate hikes.

The data showed prices rising 8.6 per cent from the same month a year earlier, the steepest inflation in over 40 years, up from an 8.3 per cent inflation rate recorded in April and higher than the 8.3 per cent rate expected in the market consensus.

"Monetary policies in the United States and Japan currently face opposite directions, with the yen's fall unlikely to stop unless they start to see the same way," said Yuji Saito, head of the foreign exchange department at Credit Agricole Corporate & Investment Bank in Tokyo.

The inflation data have raised concerns among some participants that the Fed may increase its rate hike to 0.75 percentage point, compared with the 0.50 percentage point rise in its last hike in early May, dealers said.

Market participants have been buying the dollar in recent months on the back of contrasting approaches by the Bank of Japan and the Fed, with the latter deciding in March to raise key interest rates for the first time since 2018 to tame inflation.

In contrast, the Japanese central bank has maintained its powerful monetary easing, with BOJ Governor Haruhiko Kuroda reiterating last week that the bank will stay the course to attain its 2 per cent inflation goal in a sustainable way.— Kyodo

Markets track Wall St plunge on inflation woes, dollar rallies

MARKETS tumbled in Asia on Monday to extend a global rout while the dollar soared after a forecast-beating US inflation print ramped up bets on a more aggressive campaign of Federal Reserve interest rate hikes.

Fresh Covid outbreaks in Shanghai and Beijing have also seen authorities reimpose containment measures soon after lifting them, leading to fears about the world's number two economy.

The possibility of more restrictions in China's biggest cities also weighed on oil prices, with concerns about a possible US recession and the stronger dollar adding to downward pressure on the black gold.

Investors were left surprised Friday when data showed US inflation jumped 8.6 per cent in May, the fastest pace since December 1981, as the Ukraine war and China's lockdowns pushed energy and food prices.

The reading has led to fervent speculation that the Fed will now be contemplating a 75 basis point lift in interest rates

at some point, though it is still expected to stick to a flagged half-point hike when it meets this week.

With the central bank forced to be more aggressive, there is a concern that the US economy could be sent into recession next year.

"For the last few weeks, there has been a cautious calm in markets — rates not pricing anything unforeseen, and equities able to make small gains," said SPI Asset Management's Stephen Innes.

"But the strength of (US consumer prices) completely upended that apple cart.

"The market is now thinking much more about the Fed driving rates sharply higher to get on top of inflation and then having to cut back as growth drops." And Bank of Singapore chief economist Mansoor Mohi-uddin added that officials would likely lift borrowing costs 50 basis points for the next four meetings and eventually push the overall rate to 4.0 per cent in 2023. — AFP

Indian rupee hits record low on Fed rate hike worries



An Indian customer buys a wallet decorated with an image of the new Indian Rupee 2000 note, at a gift shop in Amritsar on 24 March 2017. PHOTO: AFP

THE Indian rupee plunged to a record low against the dollar on Monday, ahead of an expected US interest rate hike this week aimed at fighting surging

inflation.

The rupee hit 78.2825 per dollar for the first time as a forecast-beating US inflation report on Friday heightened prospects

for a further tightening of monetary policy by the Federal Reserve. The benchmark Sensex Index slid as much as 2.1 per cent as foreigners took out about \$24 billion from local stocks, Bloomberg News reported.

The Indian currency has been weighed down by rising oil prices, a more aggressive Fed and by capital outflows in emerging markets as foreign investors turn risk-averse.

Central banks have adopted more hawkish policies in recent months, including in India, with the Reserve Bank hiking borrowing costs by 50 basis points last week for the second time in as many months. — AFP

Lao gov't targets 4.4 pct GDP growth for 2nd half of 2022

THE Lao government will aim for gross domestic product (GDP) growth of at least 4.4 per cent for the second half 2022 in line with the target of 192,145 billion kips (some 12 billion US dollars).

According to local daily Vientiane Times report on Monday, the figure was reported by Lao Minister of Planning and Investment Khamjane Vongphosy at a meeting on Friday, chaired by Vice-President of the National Assembly Sommad Pholsena.

According to the report on socio-economic

development in the first half of this year and the plan for the remaining six months, GDP growth was recorded at 4.3 per cent or 95,213 billion kips (some 6 billion US dollars), equal to 49.6 per cent of the plan. "It is a big challenge for the government to achieve set targets given the overall situation and the uncertainties of domestic and external factors, but several sectors have provided significant contributions to growth, including agriculture, construction, wholesale and retail, energy and mining, and other sectors," Khamjane said.— Xinhua

Honda venture to sell three-wheel electric scooters in Japan in 2022



Photo shows the three-wheel electric scooter Striemo in Saitama Prefecture on 13 June 2022. PHOTO: KYODO

HONDA Motor Co said Monday a startup founded by its engineers will start selling a new three-wheel electric scooter domestically this year that allows riders to maintain their balance even at very low speeds.

The Striemo is designed to handle bumpy roads or slopes and prevent some of the accidents that have plagued other types of stand-up scooter, the automaker said.

Striemo Inc., a Tokyo-based startup established by Honda's engineers, designed the scooter and plans to commence sales in Europe in 2023. The scooter was named Striemo after the

company.

The venture began accepting applications for sales by lottery from Monday and will initially sell 300 units, with each priced at 260,000 yen (\$1,940).

The Striemo, which can travel up to 30 kilometres on a single charge and has a maximum speed of 25 kph, will be classified as a motorcycle, meaning a driver's license is required to operate it and it must be used on vehicle lanes in principle. The venture will also be developing a new model to comply with the revised road traffic law that allows vehicles to travel on sidewalks as long as they have a maximum speed of 6 kph.—Kyodo

Amazon Japan delivery drivers form union, claiming overwork

A group of 10 people working as freelance delivery drivers for Amazon.com Inc.'s Japan unit have unionized and handed over a letter to the online shopping giant's Tokyo headquarters demanding that their poor working conditions be corrected, union members said Monday.

The union claimed that, despite working as freelance drivers, Amazon Japan G.K. effectively controls their work hours by sending delivery instructions via smartphones and that outsourcing of delivery operations is a way to avoid signing labour contracts.

Lawyers and support-

ers of the group said this is the first time Amazon delivery drivers have unionized in Japan.

The members, who make deliveries in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, said in a press conference in Tokyo they have been made to work excessively long hours, especially after the company last year switched to artificial intelligence to decide the number of packages to deliver and each driver's area of coverage.

An Amazon official said the company has "received the letter and is scrutinizing the content of their requests."—Kyodo

Analyst sees Malaysia's crude palm oil price to fall on higher supply

MALAYSIAN research house CGS CIMB said Monday it projected Malaysia's palm oil stock to rise by 5 per cent by end-June 2022 and crude palm oil (CPO) price to trend lower in the second half of 2022 due to improved edible oil supplies.

The research house analyst Ivy Ng Lee Fang said in a note that she projected Malaysia's palm oil stock to rise by 5.1 per cent month on month to 1.6 million tonnes by end-June 2022, on higher output by 5.3 per cent and lower exports by 5 per cent month-on-month.

She believes CPO prices could trade in the range of 5,500 ringgit to 6,500 ringgit (1,246 US dollars to 1,472 US dollars) per tonne in June due to the uncertain export supply of sunflower oil from Ukraine and lower-than-usual palm oil export supply from Indonesia, as the Indonesian government tweaks its export pol-

icies on palm oil to secure domestic cooking oil supply. She maintained her average CPO price forecasts for 2022 and 2023 at 5,600 ringgit and 3,800 ringgit per tonne respectively. According to the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB), Malaysia's palm oil stock fell 7 per cent month on month and 3 per cent year on year to 1.52 million tonnes in May on higher exports.

The stock level was 0.6 per cent below CGS CIMB forecast of 1.53 million tonnes. According to Ng, the palm oil inventory in Malaysia remained tight as of end-May, at 19 per cent below its historical 10-year average May stock level of 1.88 million tonnes. Meanwhile, Malaysia's CPO output fell 0.1 per cent month on month and 7 per cent year on year to 1.46 million tonnes in May, as workers' productivity was impacted by the foreign workers shortage and fewer harvesting days.—Xinhua

Australians cut back spending amid cost-of-living pressures: survey

A new report from the National Australia Bank showed that Australians are beginning to cut corners on their budgets to deal with growing cost-of-living pressures.

The survey report published on Sunday showed that Australians, of 2,000 surveyed, had recently cut their spending in a number of key areas

to make their money go further.

Half of all respondents reported having switched to cheaper brands of alternatives, 28 per cent reported having cut back on subscriptions to apps and news services, and 22 per cent cut back on outsourcing home services like house cleaning and lawn mowing.

"We can see the impact of inflation starting to show with prices moving up and we know many Australian households are already feeling cost-of-living pressures," said NAB Group Executive of Personal Banking Rachel Slade.

Costs have increased across the board with inflation passing 5.1 per

cent in the most recent Consumer Price Index announcement from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Furthermore, back-to-back interest rate increases mean that many Australians have seen their monthly mortgage payments increase by hundreds of dollars each month.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (252N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (252N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V YANGZE VENUS VOY.NO. (HY.2022)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V YANGZE VENUS VOY.NO. (HY.2022)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AIPT** 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 WILHELMSSEN PROT SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

World headed for new era of nuclear rearmament: SIPRI

THE number of nuclear weapons in the world is set to rise in the coming decade after 35 years of decline as global tensions flare amid Russia's war in Ukraine, researchers said Monday.

The nine nuclear powers — Britain, China, France, India, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, the United States and Russia — had 12,705 nuclear warheads in early 2022, or 375 fewer than in early 2021, according to estimates by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The number has come down from a high of more than 70,000 in 1986, as the US and Russia have gradually reduced their massive arsenals built up during the Cold War.

But this era of disarmament appears to be coming to an end and the risk of a nuclear escalation is now at its highest point in the post-Cold War period, SIPRI researchers said.

"Soon, we're going to get to the point where, for the first time



(FILES) In this file grab made from a handout video footage released by the Russian Defence Ministry on 20 April 2022 shows the launching of the Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile at Plesetsk testing field, Russia. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / RUSSIAN DEFENCE MINISTRY / AFP**

since the end of the Cold War, the global number of nuclear weapons in the world could start increasing for the first time", Matt Korda, one of the co-authors of the report, told AFP.

"That is really kind of dangerous territory."

After a "marginal" decrease seen last year, "nuclear arsenals are expected to grow over the coming decade", SIPRI said.

During the war in Ukraine,

Russian President Vladimir Putin has on several occasions made reference to the use of nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile several countries, including China and Britain, are either officially or unofficially modernizing or ramping up their arsenals, the research institute said.

"It's going to be very difficult to make progress on disarmament over the coming years

because of this war, and because of how Putin is talking about his nuclear weapons", Korda said.

These worrying statements are pushing "a lot of other nuclear armed states to think about their own nuclear strategies", he added.

'Nuclear war can't be won'

Despite the entry into force in early 2021 of the UN nuclear weapon ban treaty and a five-year extension of the US-Russian "New START" treaty, the situation has been deteriorating for some time, according to SIPRI.

Iran's nuclear programme and the development of increasingly advanced hypersonic missiles have, among other things, raised concern.

The drop in the overall number of weapons is due to the US and Russia "dismantling retired warheads", SIPRI noted, while the number of operational weapons remains "relatively stable".

Moscow and Washington alone account for 90 per cent of the world's nuclear arsenal.

Russia remains the biggest nuclear power, with 5,977 warheads in early 2022, down by 280 from a year ago, either deployed, in stock or waiting to be dismantled, according to the institute.

More than 1,600 of its warheads are believed to be immediately operational, SIPRI said.

The United States meanwhile has 5,428 warheads, 120 fewer than last year, but it has more deployed than Russia, at 1,750.

In terms of overall numbers, China comes third with 350, followed by France with 290, Britain with 225, Pakistan with 165, India with 160 and Israel with 90.

Israel is the only one of the nine that does not officially acknowledge having nuclear weapons.

As for North Korea, SIPRI said for the first time that Kim Jong-Un's Communist regime now has 20 nuclear warheads.

Pyeongyang is believed to have enough material to produce around 50.—AFP

India's opposition party leader summoned for alleged money laundering

SENIOR leader of India's main opposition Congress party Rahul Gandhi was summoned for questioning at the office of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday over alleged money laundering, officials said.

Before Gandhi reached the ED office, the opposition leaders assembled at party headquarters to begin a protest in support of him.

Gandhi was accompanied by his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, several senior Congress party leaders and dozens of workers shouting slogans against the government.

Chaotic scenes were witnessed in the streets. The protesters were stopped at barricades of party headquarters and many were detained.

Delhi Traffic Police on

Monday issued an advisory for residents of the national capital asking them to avoid certain roads in the wake of the protest.

Congress party chief Sonia Gandhi has also been summoned by the probe agency in this case. She sought more time after she tested positive for COVID-19 positive. The agency then issued her a fresh summons for 23 June.—Xinhua

Israel urges nationals to leave Turkey over Iran attack threat

ISRAEL'S Foreign Minister Yair Lapid on Monday urged citizens in Turkey to leave "as soon as possible" over threats that Iranian operatives are actively planning attacks on Israelis in Istanbul.

"It's a real and immediate danger," Lapid told a meeting of lawmakers from his Yesh Atid party, citing "several Iranian attempts at carrying out terror attacks against Israelis on holi-

day in Istanbul".

"If you are already in Istanbul, return to Israel as soon as possible," Lapid said. "If you have planned a flight to Istanbul — cancel. No vacation is worth your life," he added.

"Do not fly to Turkey at all," unless such travel is "essential," the foreign minister added.

Iran and Israel are arch rivals and Tehran has accused

the Jewish state of carrying out a series of assassinations targeting senior Iranian nuclear and military personnel.

Most recently, Iran claimed that Israel was responsible for the killing of Revolutionary Guards Colonel Sayyad Khodai, who was shot dead outside his Tehran home on 22 May.

Lapid made no reference to any alleged Israeli operations inside Iran.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia strikes hit north Ukraine, villages evacuated



Local residents stand outside their building, partially destroyed as a result of a night airstrike, in the town of Bakhmut, Donetsk Oblast, on 13 June 2022, amid Russia's military invasion launched on Ukraine. **PHOTO: AFP**

RUSSIAN strikes hit a town in northern Ukraine on Monday, with several villages evacuated due to the fire risk following the attacks, local authorities said.

"The enemy hit Pryluky with rocket strikes," Vyacheslav Chaus, governor of the northern Chernigiv region, said on Telegram.

"Information on the destruction is being clarified," he said.

He did not say what in-

frastructure was targeted nor whether there were any casualties.

Pryluky, which lies about 150 kilometres (90 miles) east of Kyiv, has a military airfield.

Following the strikes, the authorities ordered the evacuation of four nearby villages, Sergiy Boldyrev told local news outlet Suspilne.

"After the missile strikes, there's a risk of fire spreading," he said.—AFP

Tunnel drilling for Manila’s 1st subway set to begin with Japanese aid

THE Philippines unveiled Sunday a tunnel drilling machine to start the underground construction of the country’s first-ever subway being undertaken with Japanese financial support to ease road congestion in overcrowded Manila.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who is stepping down 30 June after a single six-year term as president, led the event that coincided with the Philippines’ 124th commemoration of declaring independence from Spain.

The Philippines also came under Japanese occupation from 1942 to 1945 during World War II.

“Past is past. But until now, Japan has continued to help us to the extent that (we are) being

treated as almost a part of Japan that should be developed in due time,” Duterte said. He said the subway is a “gift from the Japanese people to the people of the Philippines.”

The 33-kilometre subway is meant to cut by half the one-hour travel time between Manila’s major airport and the northern portion of the metropolis. It is funded by a 357.8 billion yen (\$2.66 billion) loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

The project has been contracted out to Japanese companies and the drilling machine was brought in from Japan.

There were proposals for a subway as early as 1973, but it was only in 2017 that the project

finally took shape. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, stalled the initial construction and has pushed back the start of the train operation to 2025.

Also Sunday, Duterte led the commissioning of the second 97-metre patrol vessel the Philippines acquired through a Japanese yen-denominated loan. The ship, meant to beef up the Philippine Coast Guard’s capability, is identical to an earlier patrol vessel modelled after the Japan Coast Guard’s Kunigami-class vessels.— Kyodo

A cutting part of a tunnel drilling machine is unveiled in Manila on 12 June 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**



North Korea fires suspected artillery: Seoul



This picture taken on 12 June 2022 and released from North Korea’s official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on 13 June shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attending a meeting of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea (WPK) at the office building of the Central Committee of the WPK in Pyongyang. **PHOTO: STR / KCNA VIA KNS / AFP**

NORTH Korea fired a series of artillery shots over the weekend, Seoul’s military said, days after leader Kim Jong Un vowed to use “power for power” to defend the

country’s sovereignty.

The South Korean military detected “several flight trajectories” that are understood to be shots from North Korean artillery,

Seoul’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said late Sunday.

The suspected shots were fired between 8:07 am (2307 GMT) to 11:03 am Sunday morning, the JCS said, stressing Seoul maintains a firm military readiness in collaboration with treaty ally United States. Pyongyang’s official Korean Central News Agency — which typically reports on successful weapons tests 24 hours after the fact — has not released information on Sunday’s shots, nor on other recent missile launches.

The nuclear-armed North has carried out a blitz of sanctions-busting weapons tests this year, including firing an intercontinental ballistic missile at full range for the first time since 2017.— AFP

Residents of Fukushima village allowed to move back in after 11 years

RESIDENTS from part of Katsurao village in Fukushima Prefecture can move back into their homes again more than a decade on from the March 2011 nuclear disaster, after evacuation orders were lifted Sunday morning.

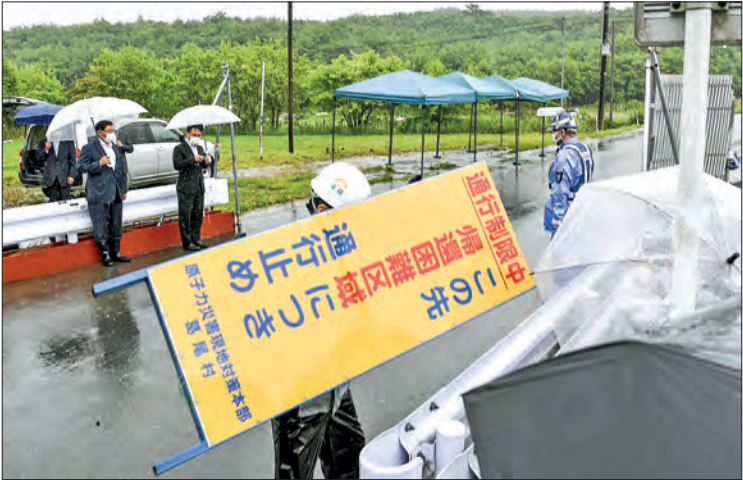
It is the first time restrictions have been removed to allow residents to live again in part of the “difficult-to-return” zone once expected to stay closed far into the future due to high radiation exposure.

The government decided 3 June to end restrictions for the 0.95-square-kilometre area after determining decontamination had reduced radiation

levels, and that infrastructure was in place to support habitation.

But while the government has poured funds into decontamination and infrastructure development for zones known as “specified reconstruction and revitalization base” which are earmarked for reopening, the intervening 11 years have depressed residents’ desire to return to their homes.

In the part of Katsurao’s Noyuki district where restrictions have been lifted, just four of the 30 households comprising 82 people intend to return, according to the local government.— Kyodo



A sign advising that an area was a “difficult-to-return” zone that could not be entered is removed as restrictions on residents are lifted, in Katsurao, Fukushima Prefecture, on 12 June 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

UN in Lebanon demands security guarantees after troops ‘threatened’

THE UN’s mission in Lebanon called Sunday for the country’s military to guarantee the security of its peacekeepers, alleging personnel were “threatened” by armed men the day before.

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has long been deployed in the country’s south — a stronghold of the powerful Shiite movement Hez-

bollah — to maintain a barrier with Israel, as the two countries technically remain at war.

A routine UNIFIL patrol was confronted on Saturday by “a group of men in civilian clothes” near the Arab al-Louaize district in southern Lebanon, force spokesperson Andrea Tenenti said in a statement.

The men “threatened the soldiers and tried to take their weapons”, he said. “Attacks, threats and acts of intimidation against UNIFIL peacekeepers... are a matter of serious concern, and we call on the Lebanese armed forces to guarantee the safety, security and freedom of movement” of the UN force, he said in a statement. —AFP



Myanmar National League 2022 to be launched on 25 June



Defending Champion of the Myanmar National League is Shan United. PHOTO: SUFC

THE Myanmar National League Committee will start the 2022 MNL competition on 25 June.

The Myanmar National League committee meeting was held on 9 June to confirm the competitions to be held this year, and it was announced that the 2022 MNL tourney will be held from 25 June to 6 November.

The Myanmar National League has not yet announced the fixtures and participating teams.

The MNL points competition has been held annually since 2009 and was cancelled in 2021

due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

Ten teams are scheduled to compete in the 2021 MNL season, which was not held, and most of them are likely to participate in this competition.

Clubs have been under training for the 2022 MNL season since the last week of April and early May, and are recruiting new players.

In the last 12 tournaments, Yangon United FC has won the championship five times and Yadanabon FC four times, and Shan United three times. — 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.

AFC, MFF launch joint fitness coaching course

THE opening ceremony of AFC Fitness - Level 1-A Coaching Certificate Course 2022 jointly organized by the Asian Football Confederation and the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) was held on 11 June.

Advisor to the Myanmar Football Federation U Bunny Tin Aung, MFF General Secretary U Ko Ko Thein, Asian Football Confederation Instructor Gholamreza Jahani Ghaeh Ghashlagh and trainees attended the

ceremony.

Officials first introduced the participants one by one.

After that, General Secretary U Ko Ko Thein gave an opening speech while Trainer Mr Gholamreza Jahani Ghaeh Ghashlagh delivered the keynote address.

The ceremony ended with a group photo shoot.

AFC Fitness - Level 1-A Coaching Certificate Course 2022 will run from 11 to 15 June with a total of 11 participants. — GNLM



Trainees attend the opening ceremony of AFC Fitness - Level 1-A Coaching Certificate Course 2022. PHOTO: MFF

Haaland can 'get better' under Guardiola's guidance at Man City

ERLING Haaland believes he will only improve working under Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola after completing his transfer from Borussia Dortmund to the English champions on Monday.

City announced last month they had beaten off competition from Europe's top clubs to agree a deal with the German giants after triggering Haaland's reported £51 million (\$63 million) release clause.

The 21-year-old has now signed a five-year contract to follow in the footsteps of his father Alfie Inge Haaland, who played for City between 2000 and 2003.

"I was born in England, I've been a City fan my whole life, I know a lot about the club," Haaland told Man City TV on why he

choose the Etihad as the destination for the next stage of his career.

"In the end (it was) two things; I feel at home here and also I think I can develop and get the best out of my game at City," Haaland had almost his pick of Europe's top clubs thanks to a buyout clause below his market value and a stunning record of 86 goals in 89 games for Dortmund.

He also now has 20 goals in 21 international appearances after scoring five times in four games this month for Norway.

The arrival of one of world football's biggest talents ends City's search for a specialist striker to succeed the club's all-time record goalscorer Sergio Aguero, who left Manchester last year. — AFP



Dortmund's Norwegian forward Erling Braut Haaland celebrates a penalty during the German first division Bundesliga football match Borussia Dortmund v Hertha BSC Berlin in Dortmund, western Germany, on 14 May 2022. PHOTO: INA FASSBENDER / AFP