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.

Government of the Republic of Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Statement on Peace

1st Waning of Nayon 1384 ME
14 June 2022

1. The Government and the Tatmadaw proclaimed the year 2022 as the year of peace with the goal of achieving prepetual peace as aspired by the entire nation. Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech of peace on 22 April and invited the chairperson/leader and two members of each EAO to hold a sincere and frank peace dialogue.

SEE PAGE-2

Agricultural sector contributes much to Gross Domestic Products-GDP: Senior General

AGRICULTURE and livestock are interrelated and benefit each other, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in a meeting with officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation at Agricultural Research Department in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday afternoon.

Officials reported on agricultural and research work, distribution of quality seeds of crops to farmers in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 financial years, conducting the research for the production of quality seasonal crops and industrial crops, the establishment of mechanical, agricultural and vocational training schools, conducting of agricultural and livestock diploma courses.

Union ministers and the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council gave supplementary reports on respective sectors.

SEE PAGE-3

State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views round the booths at the Agricultural Research Department in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 14 June 2022.

Government of the Republic of Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Statement on Peace

FROM PAGE-1

2. In response to the peace overture of Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, seven NCA signatory EAOs and three non-signatory EAOs gave replies to hold peace talks in the interests of the Union and regions.
3. Of the said ten EAOs, peace delegations of six organizations had already met Chairman of State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in person and cordially exchanged views on peace, the adoption of multiparty democracy that meets the public desire, the establishment of a Union based on democracy and federalism, socio-economic promotion of the locals, undertakings to develop from individual regions to the Union, which is home to the entire national people. The talks produced positive and encouraging results.
4. Peace talks will be continued with the remaining four organizations. The goal of the talks is to achieve perpetual peace in the whole Union.
5. The State Administration Council will continue its work of strengthening the genuine and well-ordered multiparty democracy and building a Union based on democracy and federalism.
6. Solutions for the topics including agreeable subjects that fit the nation's objective conditions, demands of EAOs and issues that look truly promising will be sought through brainstorming sessions.
7. In this regard, a peace overture is made once again to NCA signatory EAOs and non-signatory EAOs that are still absent from the peace talks and they are urged to truly realize the national and regional interests. EAOs that will attend the peace dialogues are requested to send the names of the chairman or a leader who can make decisions on behalf of the chairperson and two members not later than 30 June 2022. EAOs are urged to join the peace process to build a peaceful Union in the interests of all the people of the Union, with the Union spirit as the core.

State Administration Council

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

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

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations confirmed

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

Name	Appointment
1. U Nyunt Win	Director-General Fine Arts Department Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture
2. Dr Myo Myo	Rector Shwebo University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education

8 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 14 June, total figure rises to 613,460

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,460** after **eight** new cases were reported on 14 June 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,439** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still 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.)

Agricultural sector contributes much to Gross Domestic ...

FROM PAGE-1

At the meeting, the Senior General delivered a speech, saying that agro-based industries are being operated in the nation. The agricultural sector contributes much to Gross Domestic Products-GDP. The Senior General stressed the need **to increase the per-acre yield of agricultural produce and enhance the quality of products.** Hence, **farmers need to use quality strains of crops through research.** They have to ensure the use of quality strains of crops, nutritious fertilizer, water sufficiency and high agricultural techniques. Depending on these facts, the per-acre yield of crops will be different. In fact, **agricultural research is of importance in the nation**.

Research needs to be conducted for having quality strains of crops with seawater resilience, and climatic conditions in addition to high per-acre yield. **Agriculture and livestock are interrelated and benefit each other. Agricultural produce can be shifted as feedstuff and waste from cattle can be used as bio-fertilizers.** Hence, research must be conducted on the production of fertilizers. Moreover, research must cover the efficient use of water in agricultural tasks.

The Senior General said that **there are 33 million acres of sown acreage, 14 million acres of monsoon paddy and some three million acres of summer paddy. If crops can be grown on that land through a double-cropping system, paddy production will increase**.

> Hence, research must be conducted on the production of fertilizers. Moreover, research must cover the efficient use of water in agricultural tasks.

If the institutions turn out professionals in the agriculture and livestock sectors, human resources for these sectors will be adequate for operations. Technical training schools will be established in newly-formed districts with a plan for outstanding students to have access to higher studies.

In Myanmar, the Senior General noted that each person needs the consumption of 2.25 ticals of cooking oil. The country requires 600,000 to 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil per year. Apart from domestic edible oil production, the country imports 800,000 to 900,000 tonnes per year due to the high consumption of oil. If local farmers expand the cultivation of edible oil crops, it will contribute a great deal to local oil sufficiency.

The Senior General continued to say that agriculture is an important livelihood of the local people across the nation. He urged all **to systematically conduct the research tasks to benefit the nation. If so, the yield of agricultural produce will increase and it will much benefit the country. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation should strive for the development of the agricultural sector**.

> If local farmers expand the cultivation of edible oil crops, it will contribute a great deal to local oil sufficiency. The Senior General continued to say that agriculture is an important livelihood of the local people across the nation.

The Senior General presented cash awards to staff from the Agricultural Research Department for their achievements.

The Department of Agricultural Research was established in Gyogon of Insein Township in 1954 as agricultural research Beikman. It was moved to Yezin of Pyinmana Township in 1971. In 2004, it was separately established as the Department of Agricultural Research. It opens seven research centres and 11 research farms in regions and states. During the period from 1954 to 2020, the department produced 253 sorts of crops. In the 2020-21 and 2021-22FY, the department focuses on research on 37 kinds of crops. The seed bank of the department was built in 1990. At present, the bank stores varieties of paddy, wild paddy, pulses and beans, cereal crops, edible oil crops, vegetables and other crops, totalling 12,838. Up to now, the department has distributed 24,777 kinds of genes for crops to local and foreign organizations. —MNA

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win tours Kyaukpyu and An stations, Danyawady Naval Region Command Headquarters

DESPITE an unwillingness to cause fighting and armed conflicts due to their experiences, Tatmadaw members sacrifice their lives and limbs in discharging important duties of defending the State, 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 the halls of Kyaukpyu and An stations and Danyawady Naval Region Command Headquarters yesterday.

In his speeches, the Vice-Senior General stressed the need to continuously assess the advancement of international affairs and technologies and cautiously monitor the dangers threatening the country. Despite an unwillingness to cause fighting and armed conflicts due to their experiences, Tatmadaw members sacrifice their lives and limbs in discharging important duties of defending the State.

The Vice-Senior General meets Tatmadaw members and families of the Danyawady Naval Region Command Headquarters yesterday.

The Vice-Senior General cordially greets Tatmadaw members and families from An Station.

He highlighted that the State Administration Council invited all ethnic armed organizations to restore perpetual peace and open the peace door. Such an invitation is still extended till today.

The Vice-Senior General underscored that internal and external terrorists and saboteurs are attempting to break up the strong Tatmadaw due to the failure of missions to destroy the country. He noted that they instigate the military disintegration and solidarity of vertical relations through propaganda in media.

The Vice-Senior General urged officials at different levels to correctly control subordinates through fatherly spirit and commander spirit depending on time, place and work establishments. He then coordinated the fulfilment of the needs of Tatmadaw members and families.

The Vice-Senior General presented foodstuffs to Tatmadaw members and families of respective military stations through senior officers.

The Vice-Senior General and party inspected fish farming work in an aquaponics system, raising of layers, breeding of broilers, DYL pig farm and cultivation of seasonal crops at the Danyawady Naval Region Command Headquarters.

In inspecting the staff housings of a local battalion in the An station, the Vice-Senior General presented foodstuffs and cash assistance to families of the Tatmadaw members. — MNA

The Vice-Senior General gives foodstuffs to family members of the Kyaukpyu Station.

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SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win encourages patient Tatmadaw members and families at military hospital in Sittway

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win yesterday morning comforted officers, other ranks and families receiving medical treatment at the military hospital in Sittway.

At the hospital, the Vice-Senior General asked after the patient Tatmadaw members and families and presented foodstuffs and supplies to them.

He also presented cash awards to health staff discharging duties at the hospital through the commandant of the hospital.

The Vice-Senior General and party offered flowers, water and oil lights to Lawkananda and Sakyamuni Thunsettaw pagodas in Sittway and made cash donations. They also viewed round the strand road and urban area of Sittway by car. — MNA

The Vice-Senior General comforts the patients at the military hospital in Sittway.

The Vice-Senior General donates at the Sakyamuni Thunsettaw Pagoda.

State Administration Council Vice-Chairman continues study tours of Combined Cycle Power Plant project in Kyaukpyu

STATE Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, accompanied by SAC members Daw Aye Nu Sein and U Shwe Kyein, Chief Minister of Rakhine State Dr Aung Kyaw Min, Tatmadaw senior officers of the office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the Western Command and deputy ministers, visited Kyaukpyu and Kyaukpyu Combined Cycle Power Plant project under implementation there.

Officials briefed the Vice-Senior General and party on the implementation progress of the project with the aid of PowerPoint.

When it comes into operation, the plant will generate 135 MW. The State Administration Council Vice-Chairman gave suggestions on measures to be taken to safeguard the natural environment and contribute to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) tasks related to the health and education of local people and on timely implementation of the project in accordance with the required standards.

Then, the Vice-Senior General looked around the construction sites of the project.

The power plant is going to be the first of its kind in Myanmar and it will generate electricity by using the highly efficient SGT-800 Gas Turbine manufactured in Germany. During the 25 years of operation, engineers from Electric Power Generation Enterprise will be assigned and technology for operation and maintenance will be transferred.

Afterwards, the State Administration Council Vice-Chairman and party visited the People's Hospital in Kyaukpyu and met the medical superintendent and staff, heard reports and gave suggestions on them.

Finally, the State Administration Council Vice-Chairman and party went to the Kyaukpyu Education Degree College and met responsible personnel of the college, had a discussion on administrative matters, provided suggestions on reports and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

The Vice-Senior General meets responsible personnel at the Kyaukpyu Education Degree College.

The Vice-Senior General pays inspection tours at the construction site of the power plant project.

Government's Peace Talks Team meets delegation led by Vice-Chair of Arakan Liberation Party (ALP)

THE discussion between the government's Peace Talks Team and the delegation led by Vice-Chair Daw Saw Mra Raza Linn of the Arakan Liberation Party-ALP was organized in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by State Administration Council Member National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Chairman Union Minister at the Government Office (1) Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, in his capacity as the leader of the Peace Talks Team, SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naung, ALP Vice-Chair Daw Saw Mra Raza Linn, Central Executive Committee members Khaing Soe Mra and Khaing Paw Lin.

During the meeting, Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and ALP Vice-Chair Daw Saw Mra Raza Linn made greeting speeches.

They then discussed peace and development-related matters. The discussion will continue on 15 June. — MNA

The peace talks between the government's Peace Talks Team and the delegation led by the ALP Vice-Chairperson is in progress.

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs receives Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India

The Indian Ambassador calls on the MoFA Union Minister yesterday.

U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Vinay Kumar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at 11:00 am on 14 June 2022 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to further advancing of the bilateral relations and strengthening of multi-dimensional cooperation between the two countries including at the regional and international arenas while adhering to the five principles of peaceful co-existence and the principles of ASEAN and the UN Charters.—MNA

State Administration Council's Information Team to hold press conference 16/2022

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold a press conference (16/2022) at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm on 16 June. Local and foreign media personnel are invited to the press conference, it is learnt. – MNA

16th press conference of Information Team to be broadcast live on 16 June

THE 16th press conference of the Information Team of the State Administration Council will be broadcast live on MRTV HD, MRTV News, MWD, MWD Variety, MITV, MOI Website, MOI YouTube, MRTV Website and aired live on Radio Myanmar, Thazin FM, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Padamyar FM, FM Bagan, Cherry FM and Star FM starting from 1 pm on 16 June, at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information. — MNA

MoL monsoon tree-planting ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw

The MoL monsoon tree-planting event in action.

THE monsoon tree-planting ceremony of the Ministry of Labour was held yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister U Myint Kyaing of the Ministry of Labour, the deputy minister and the permanent secretary planted seedlings of Seintalone mango tree at the designated places and departmental officials planted a total of 162 plants – 120 gold mohur and 42 Seintalone mango saplings – at the designated places in the compound of the Head office of the Social Security Board.

In addition, the Union minister and party encouraged the event of a total of 95 seedlings of various trees, which were grown by departmental officials from the Union Minister's Office, Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department and Labour Relations Department at the Office No (51). —MNA

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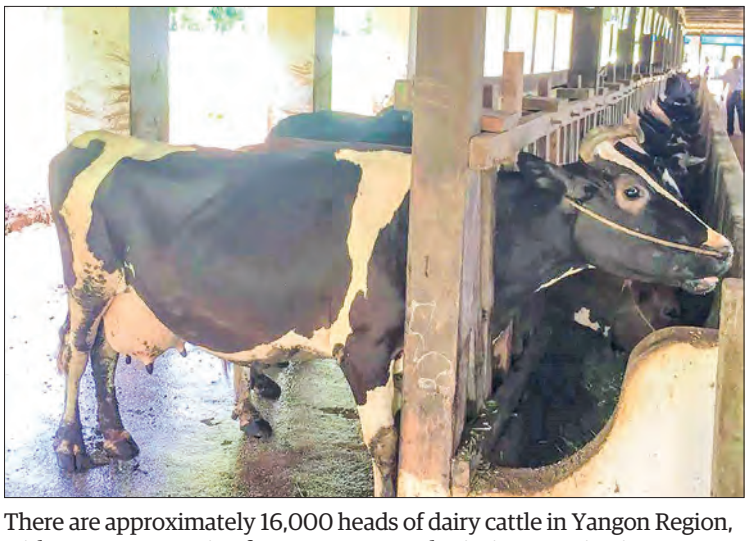
LOCAL BUSINESS

Dairy industry needs to improve milk quality for future prospects

IMPROVING milk quality is requisite for good business prospects in Yangon city where there is a growing demand for milk.

Milk provides essential nutrients for growth and development. Since 1978, Myanmar has been farming seven breeds of dairy cattle from France, the Netherlands and Australia; Jersey, Ayrshire, Guernsey, Norwegian Red, and Friesian with the assistance of the World Bank. Friesian and Jersey breeds with high milk yield potentials are primarily farmed. At present, Friesian cattle farming is commonly found.

"If dairy production prioritizes quantity over quality, it will degrade milk quality. The foreign countries maintain milk quality in dairy farming. In Myanmar, the price of milk evaluates on the measurement mostly. Friesian cattle produce a high milk yield but cow milk contains only 3.5 per cent milk fat. Friesian can produce 10 visses (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) while the milk yield of Jersey is estimated at eight visses. Jersey cow has five per cent milk fat. There are taste differences. However, Friesian cattle are primarily farmed here. Milk composition depends on the types of breed although the same feedstuffs are utilized in dairy farming. We have to look forward to the outlook of the future for milk consumers," said U Min Nyunt Oo, deputy director of the Yangon Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.



There are approximately 16,000 heads of dairy cattle in Yangon Region, with Jersey accounting for 20 per cent and Friesian constituting 80 per cent. **PHOTO: KANU**

The average lactation period of a cow is 300 days. Total milk yield for 300-day lactation is estimated at five to six visses per day. The highest yield is 13 visses. Therefore, Friesian cattle are mainly farmed in Yangon. Insein and Tarmway dairy markets are the main distributors in Yangon city. New Zealand boosts productive performance and milk composition quality with Kiwi crossing breed of Friesian and Jersey.

There are approximately 16,000 heads of dairy cattle in Yangon Region, with Jersey accounting for 20 per cent and Friesian constituting 80 per cent. To improve milk quality, best breeding cattle should be farmed. The stability of milk prices is correlated with feedstuff cost. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation produces pasture silage (grass and corn silage) for the dairy farmers and makes efforts to directly distribute those pickled pastures to the farmers. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Myanmar cattle export to Bangladesh blocked amid security concerns

The value of animal product exports dropped by $100 million in the 2019-2020FY as against a year-ago period, following the negative impacts of the COVID-19.

MYANMAR'S cattle export to Bangladesh cannot be done despite its offer, said U Soe Naing, chair of the Mandalay Region Cattle Exporters Association.

Cattle have to be exported via Maungtaw and Sittway in Rakhine State through sea trade. We have a transport challenge to pass Rakhine State in our export channel, he continued.

"Although Bangladesh proposes to buy the cattle to meet their requirements, exports to Bangladesh via Rakhine State is not yet possible. There is no guarantee to ship the cattle safely on our side," U Soe Naing elaborated.

Only when the authorities concerned give protection from any risk will the cattle export be possible, he added.

Myanmar's live cattle exports to China have been suspended in the official trade channel since late 2020. Yet, the black market is booming in border markets, according to the Mandalay Region Cattle Exporters Association.

Live cattle export was allowed in late 2017, with a view to eradicating illegal exports, creating more opportunities for cattle formers and promoting their interests.

According to the 2018 cattle census, there are 11.5 million heads of cattle in the country, with 1.8 million buffalo and 9.7 million cows and bulls, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

Additionally, about 1.1 million cattle are mature enough to be placed on the market per year. About 400,000 cattle are required for local consumption, while the remaining are sent to export markets.

Myanmar shipped US$360 million worth of animal products including cattle to the external markets in the financial year 2018-2019. The value of animal product exports dropped by $100 million in the 2019-2020FY as against the previous FY, following the negative impacts of the COVID-19. — NN/GNLM

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Onion prices rally to K2,000 per viss in Mandalay market

THE prices of onions peaked at K2,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the Mandalay market, according to onion traders.

An abundant supply of summer onions from Myingyan, Pakokku, Monywa and Meiktila is seen in the Mandalay market. The onion was priced at only K500 per viss in the corresponding period last year, whereas the wholesale price this year climbed to K2,000 per viss, said U Soe Win Myint, the owner of the Soe Win Myint commodity depot.

"The large quantity of summer onion is flowing into the Mandalay market. Furthermore, the price is moving upward trend. The yield increased and so did the price. There is a regular demand from foreign markets like Bangladesh in addition to local consumption. Traders also keep the onion stocks in their hands. Last year, the onion market collapsed and some growers even left the plantations unharvested due to a lack of demand. Thanks to price hike during the harvest time, the growers are financially doing well," he explained.

Myanmar exports onions to external markets beyond self-sufficiency. The onions are commonly grown in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. It is cultivated near the riverbank with an irrigation system in the upper Myanmar region. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

An abundant supply of summer onions from Myingyan, Pakokku, Monywa and Meiktila is seen in the Mandalay market. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG**

Uphold good morality to reform the society

PARENTS and teachers wish their offspring and pupils well-versed and reliable for the nation. They wish those children would be those who serve the interests of the people in the spirit of charity. Their good morality and goodwill should be added to the good morals. As such, they have to adhere to moral restrictions and avoid malpractices.

Really, everybody understands that doing good deeds would bring good results. Only if they do misdeeds, will they face unprecedented losses. Hence, everybody considers whether their behaviours would benefit others or not. While avoiding the misdeeds, they have to hold up a firm spirit with a genuine will. Self-controlling of the mind eyes a starting point of success. Self-control to minimize greed and infatuation with everything prohibits mental and physical plights.

> Those who are of good morality never exchange their good behaviours with money. As such, all citizens should be loyal to the State and the people without hope for the interference of others in their internal affairs, and they have to make decisions for serving the interests of the country with goodwill.

More than 2,500 years ago, the Lord Buddha preached 38 kinds of auspiciousness for all living beings, especially humans. The peaching consists of physical and mental control, well learning of ethics related to human society for ensuring physical and mental politeness, talking about righteous topics, taking all measures free from sins, staying away from misdeeds, physically and mentally avoiding misdeeds, easy contentment, and practice of thrift.

In doing livelihoods for fulfilling the basic needs, humans need to avoid indulgence for possessing the happiness of mind. If one cannot keep contentment in mind, one's greed cannot be limited. Consequently, those who cannot limit their greed will face immorality and disadvantages in all measures. Satisfaction will bring contentment to those who are able to limit their greediness.

Those sustaining good morality will have lifetime achievements. Those who have good morality are better than those qualified for education. Persons with good morality can be praised for their behaviours in abiding by ethics and civics.

Truly, good morality is of importance not only for the people but for public service personnel. Especially, it can be said immoralities as leaking of important data and information for the State and the people to those who deserved to know it. Moreover, somebody fails to be loyal to the State and citizens because of immorality.

Those who are of good morality never exchange their good behaviours with money. As such, all citizens should be loyal to the State and the people without hope for the interference of others in their internal affairs, and they have to make decisions for serving the interests of the country with goodwill.

■

Kyoto City's big deficit, who will be responsible for it

By Suzuka YOSHIDA

TOURISM is an industry that earns foreign currency while staying in the country. Japan, which became the number one "country hoping to visit" in questionnaires around the world, finally resumed accepting tourists on June 10. Hotels, restaurants, travel agencies, and local governments have been suffering from a decline in income because the accommodation, food, and transportation costs paid by tourists have fallen to less than 10% nationwide for two and a half years. There are many tourist destinations waiting for the arrival of foreign tourists, and in particular, Kyoto City is waiting for foreign tourists, both in terms of administration and citizens. This is because the city of Kyoto has a swelling budget deficit and issued a warning to the citizens last August that it would collapse if it stays the same. Nowadays, there is a debate among Kyoto citizens, parliament, and religious officials over measures how to eliminate the budget deficit.

The budget deficit of US$ 6,618

In August last year, Kyoto City made a shocking announcement that it was in a budget deficit of 860.4 billion yen (≒ US$6,618 million). Kyoto city warned the citizens that the financial collapse is near and that the general tax revenue of Kyoto City is 284.7 billion yen (2021), which has more than three times the debt.

The total revenue of Kyoto City is 1.005 trillion yen (≒ $7.7 billion), and the city tax collected from citizens is 28.5 per cent (284.7 billion yen ≒ $2.2 billion), which is less than 30 per cent. Others are barely made up of Kyoto City with grants of 21.1 per cent from the National and Kyoto prefectures, Tax Revenues distributed to local government of 5.1 per cent from the national government, bond issuance of 8.9 per cent, and local transfer tax of 5.2 per cent.

On the other hand, expenditures are 32.0 per cent (320.7 billion yen ≒ $2.47 billion) of social welfare expenses, which is higher than the tax revenue collected from residents, and the amount is increasing year by year as the ageing of Kyoto residents progresses. The next largest are industrial-economic expenses 24.1 per cent (241.1 billion yen ≒ 1.85 billion dollars), education and culture expenses 11.7 per cent (116.4 billion yen ≒ 900 million dollars), and urban construction expenses 7.8 per cent (77 billion yen ≒ 600 million dollars). Health and hygiene expenses continue to be 6.5 per cent (64.9 billion yen ≒ 500 million dollars). Expenditures include subway construction costs and bus route maintenance costs. There is still debate about whether the subway is really needed as a means of transporting tourists to various zones of the city. Moreover, since these transportation fees are provided to the elderly almost free of charge, it is natural that social welfare costs should rise.

The road in front of temples is paved by Kyoto city for tourists/visitors to make it easier to walk. But temples do not pay the income tax.

What should be prioritized on luxury equipment or residents' services

Since the city of Kyoto announced last August that there was a risk of bankruptcy, residents, the city administration, and the city council have begun to argue for responsibility on how to eliminate the risk of bankruptcy.

First of all, it was pointed out that taxes were not used correctly. The renewal of the city council hall in Kyoto City cost 15.9 billion yen (≒ 122.3 million dollars), and the elevator door of Kyoto City Hall was renovated for 5 million yen (≒ 3,846 million dollars). It was criticized for having a tea ceremony room to entertain foreign guests. The city administration explained, "It is needed to appeal to overseas guests for the traditional techniques using lacquering and gold leaf done by Kyoto residents." Residents, on the other hand, commented that "it is not necessary to show expensive technology to only a few overseas guests in a year" and "anachronism".

Certainly, many traditional craft engineers live in Kyoto. They make a living by making simple items that can be lined up in souvenir shops, but it is certain that they sometimes want the opportunity to show off their full-scale techniques in order to improve their skills. The art market is established only if there is a client (orderer) who places such an order, and the artists can exhibit their ability on a full scale. Unfortunately, the ordering party that existed before World War II has disappeared in modern times. Someone needs to give an order for craft engineers to keep their technology.

But with social welfare costs exceeding city taxes, does the city need to be a client? The parliamentarians who made a decision on the order have prioritized traditional crafts over social welfare.

Taxation on temples and shrines is taboo

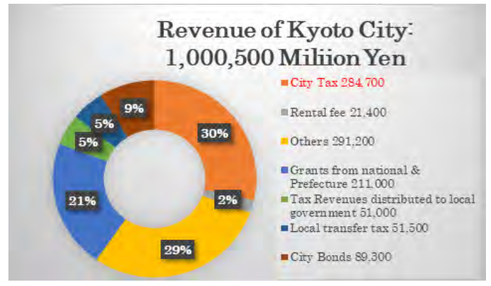
Resolving the budget deficit requires efforts from two perspectives: tax increases and service reductions, but both are painful and very few people respond to tax increases or service reductions. Even though the amount of tax per capita of Kyoto citizens is lower than the national average, they are exchanging "Take tax from others" and "City should not reduce residents' services and public services". It is no longer possible to maintain resident services without raising taxes.

The idea of taking taxes from religious corporations has long been controversial. The Japanese tax system stipulates that religious corporations are exempt from taxation, and shrines and temples do not pay taxes. There are about 186 shrines and 1,410 temples in Kyoto city, and all tourists' worship fees are received by the shrines and temples. More than 30 years ago, once taxed, the temple refused to accept a tax on worshipers and went on strike for several years. Being such a stubborn actor, Kyoto City is unable to cut out taxes. However, even though religious corporations are non-profit corporations, there are little by few opinions that they should be able to pay taxes because they benefit from the public buses and subways operated by the city.

It was very lucky that a certain citizen made a donation of 1.54 billion yen ($118.5 million) to Kyoto City, which made the Kyoto City Administration a little relieved. However, donations are only temporary and cannot be relied on.

The average life expectancy for Japanese is 81.6 years for men. The woman is 87.7 years old. Now that the residents are ageing and the industrial population is declining, there is no resource for the deficit finance to improve in the future. The true value of Congress is being questioned as to whether they can put all possibilities on the table without any taboo for tax collection.

■



WTO seeks shot in the arm with Covid jab IP idea

Members of the public wait to receive their Covid-19 vaccine or booster at a National Health Service bus outside a supermarket in the town of Farnworth, near Manchester in north-west England on 20 December 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE WTO's search for a role in fighting the pandemic sharpened up on Monday as ministers seek a compromise to lift intellectual property rights on Covid-19 vaccines.

The World Trade Organization's first ministerial meeting since December 2017 is wrestling with the wording of a text that would temporarily waive patents on coronavirus jabs.

It is the main pandemic-combatting idea being negotiated at MC12, the global trade body's 12th ministerial conference, being held from Sunday to Wednesday at its headquarters in Geneva.

But serious objections remain from some of the countries that host major pharmaceutical companies, like Britain and Switzerland — a problem at the WTO, where decisions are taken by consensus rather than by majority.

The world's big pharma firms are dead set against the idea, insisting that stripping patents will cripple investment and innovation. They also say the plan — first proposed in October 2020 when the pandemic was raging and before jabs were even rolled out — has gone past its sell-by date as the world now has a surplus of vaccine doses rather than a dearth. After Sunday's opening ceremony and countries setting out their positions, ministers from the 164 WTO members went into rooms at the organization's HQ — the grand 1920s, classical Florentine-style Centre William Rappard on Lake Geneva — to start talking it out face to face.

Birthday present?

This week's conference is a crunch moment for WTO chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, who has staked her leadership on breathing new life into the crippled organization, where progress has been stumbling for years.

The Nigerian former finance and foreign minister took over in March 2021 on a mission to make the WTO relevant again.

But on her 68th birthday Monday, there was no immediate sign of a breakthrough on vaccine patents.

Public interest groups say the draft text falls far short of what is needed, by time-limiting and complicating the vaccine patents waiver — and by leaving out Covid treatments and diagnostics.

Non-governmental organizations staged a protest in the WTO's central atrium, chanting slogans and unfurling banners reading: "No monopolies on Covid-19 medical tools" and "End vaccine apartheid".

"The WTO rules are contributing to exacerbating the pandemic, because it's the WTO that enforces IP rules," demonstration organizer Deborah James told AFP. "Folks have been campaigning on this for two years and it's been a complete wall by a few countries," she said.

"It's an indictment of the WTO system: it's completely broken, it can't respond to a pandemic, it has no ability to put anything other than maximising profits for corporations ahead of anything else."

'We are choosing death'

In October 2020, India and South Africa began pushing for the WTO to lift IP rights on Covid-19 vaccines, tests and treatments to help ensure more equitable access in poorer nations.

After multiple rounds of talks, the United States, the European Union, India and South Africa hammered out a compromise.

SOURCE: AFP

A strategic roadmap for the revival of Myanmar's tourism sector (2021-2025) has been drawn up: MoHT Union Minister

A strategic roadmap for Myanmar tourism recovery (2021-2025) has been drawn up that includes 18 strategies and 93 actions in the post-COVID-19 pandemic, and the current, medium and long-term implementation plans will be implemented according to this policy, said Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung at the 34th Joint Commission for East Asia Pacific and South Asia held by the World Tourism Organization.

The MoHT Union Minister joins the 34th Joint Commission for East Asia Pacific and South Asia meeting held by the WTO.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is working to develop Myanmar's tourism industry, and since 2011, Myanmar's tourism industry has grown rapidly. According to compiled statistics, in 2019, more than 4.36 million tourists arrived. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only 0.9 million passengers arrived in 2020 and only 0.13 million in 2021.

The Union Minister said that Myanmar's tourism industry, like other countries, was affected by the COVID-19 crisis, and is trying to recover as soon as possible. Efforts are being made to turn pandemic challenges into opportunities to become more resilient and revitalize tourism in line with the changing potential of the tourism industry. He added that Myanmar has set policies for the systematic and long-term development of tourism.

Enchanting Myanmar Health and Safety Protocols (HSP) certification for the health and safety of hotels and tourism-related industries to build tourism trust in Myanmar is being provided at the region/state level, national and international levels, and the Barrier Free Tourism Plan 2022-2025 is being drawn up to include all in the tourism industry.

Furthermore, tourism awareness activities are being carried out to increase the capacity of those involved in tourism. The Union minister said at the meeting that foreign tourists are allowed to stay in accordance with the rules of COVID-19 as domestic and international flights are being reopened and visa services are resumed currently.

The meeting was chaired by the Maldives, vice-chaired by Malaysia and held together with the Maldives Tourism Golden Jubilee ceremony. The meeting was attended by Tourism Ministers from member countries of East Asia and the Pacific and South Asia, senior officials and representatives from partner organizations. In line with this meeting, the World Summit on Community-Based Tourism will be held on 15 and 16 June. — MNA

Fifth Meeting of Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint Working Group held virtually

The fifth Myanmar-Bangladesh JWG meeting is in progress online.

THE Fifth Meeting of the Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG) on the repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State was held via videoconference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 June 2022.

The Meeting was co-chaired by U Chan Aye, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and Mr Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh and attended by the Joint Working Group (JWG) members of both sides.

At the Meeting, both sides exchanged views on the status of verification for the displaced persons and difficulties encountered during the verification process, preparation works done prior to the commencement of the repatriation of the verified displaced persons, resettlement plans for the prospective returnees as well as trust and confidence- building measures before their voluntary return.

The two sides also deliberated on repatriating the displaced persons from Rakhine State in accordance with the bilateral agreements signed between the two countries as well as with the health protocol on prevention, control and treatment of Covid-19 issued by the Ministry of Health, Myanmar and resolving matters related to verification through the existing bilateral mechanism: the Ad-Hoc Task Force for Verification of the Displaced Persons from Rakhine State.

The Myanmar delegation also apprised the meeting of the efforts undertaken by the Myanmar Government to ensure the prevalence of security and rules of law in Rakhine State, renovation works of the reception centres, the transit camp and houses, preparations and arrangements made for the livelihood, health and education basic services for the prospective returnees, and cooperation with the international development partners, ASEAN and the UN agencies in creating a conducive environment in the process of resettlement of the displaced persons from Rakhine State.

The date and venue for the upcoming Sixth Meeting of the Joint Working Group will be communicated through the diplomatic channel.—MNA

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

The following telephone numbers, fax and email address can be reached to safely report information in connection with illegal trade.

Auto telephone number	- 067 409 883
Mobile phone	- 09 404339969
Fax	- 067 409 886
Email address	- antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council's Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

Regarding the "request for money from departmental organizations in conducting trade", the following numbers can be reached to safely report such information.

Auto telephone number	- 067 409 881
Mobile phone	- 09 699611116
Fax	- 067 409 887
Email address	- antiillegaltradeoffice@gmail.com

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Interest on daily withdrawal of cash by Kpay growing despite KBZ ATMs reopening

Reoperating ATM machines of the KBZ Bank. **PHOTO : TWA**

THE interest on the daily withdrawal of cash by Kpay is growing despite the cash availability in the KBZ ATMs. KBZ Bank has announced that K300,000 per week can be withdrawn from the ATMs of 50 KBZ branches in Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, and Taunggyi from 9 June.

"K300,000 can be withdrawn from the announced ATMs. You can withdraw again from the bank book after you have withdrawn from the ATM. It is possible that some ATMs do not have cash because the staff have not put the money there," said a KBZ bank staff.

A source close to the banking sector mentioned that the banks could not issue the required amount of money because the banks were issuing fixed amounts in line with the central bank's directives.

Due to COVID-19 and politics, people have to wait for a long time to withdraw their deposits from the bank. They had to queue at the bank in order to withdraw a limited amount of money, as well as pay a huge percentage to the cash agent to get in cash.

Cash agents charge K3,000 for K100,000 cash withdrawal from Kpay, whereas it is free to withdraw K300,000 per week from the designated KBZ ATMs where the deposit from MPU Debit (ATM card) can be withdrawn, and the withdrawal process can be done also by MBanking Cardless Withdrawal. Local banks in Myanmar are providing cash from the deposit in the bank book, and the KBZ bank is the first bank which resumes cash withdrawal service from ATMs. — TWA/GNLM

Authority announces no change in electricity tariffs

THE Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation issued a public notice on 14 June, saying that there is no change in electricity tariffs.

The Ministry of Electric Power has revised electricity tariffs since 1 July 2019 and has been collecting the bill according to the revised rates. The notice also said that the tariff increases news shared on social media is a reprint of the previous increase in 2019.

Currently, the electric power rate for homes is set at K35 from 1 to 30 units; K50 per unit from 31 to 50 units; K70 per unit from 51 to 75 units; K90 per unit from 76 to 100 units; K110 per unit from 101 to 150 units; K120 per unit from 151 to 200 units; K125 per unit from 201 unit and above, respectively.

As for non-home use, it is set at K125 per unit from 1 to 500 units; K135 per unit from 501 to 5,000 units; K145 per unit from 5,001 to 10,000 units; K155 unit from 10,001 to 20,000 units; K165 per unit from 20,001 to 50,000 units; K175 per unit from 50,001 to 100,000 units and K 18 per unit from 100,001 and above respectively. — TWA/GNLM

Onion price surges to K2,100 per viss in Yangon Market

THE onion prices are still up in the second week of June in Yangon and countryside markets. The price was K2,050/2,100 per viss in Yangon yesterday.

The Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre received about 150,000 visses of onion yesterday, according to the data of the centre. The price of Monywa onion is K1,550-1,900-2,000-2,100 per viss and K1,450-1,850-1,900-2,000. The Seikphyu onion is priced at K1,300-1,650-1,800-1,900 per viss while Myingyan Kan Sint onion is K1,375-1,775-1,875-1,975 per viss, said onion purchaser Ko Thein Zan.

"The transaction is good when the price is high. It is slack when the price declines. Those who buy a large amount expect profits when the prices become high. When the price is down, they do not buy and they wait for the time to decline more. It is the nature of the market," he said.

On 14 June, the Pakokku wholesale centre received 155,196 visses of onion. The Pale onion price is K1,800 per viss and the Yaw onion is K1,750 per viss. About 40,000 visses of onion entered the Seikphyu wholesale centre and the price was K1,500 per viss.

In 2019, the country exported onion in bulk and the price rose to K2,700-3,300-3,500-3,600 per viss on 3 December. Meanwhile, the monsoon new onion entered the market and the price dropped to K1,700-2,300-2,500-2,900 per viss in the first week of December 2019.

The price of onion reached below K1,000 per viss as there was no foreign demand in 2020 and 2021. When the winter onion entered the summer market, the production rate dropped by half for rainfalls and other reasons in 2021, and the rotten rate showed 25 per cent, said onion dealer U Hla Ngwe.

Bags of onion enter the Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre on 14 June.

The country has 170,000 acres of onion and produces 600 million visses (about ten tonnes) of onion per year, according to the official data. The local consumption rate is about 600,000 tonnes per year and the surplus rate is about 400,000 tonnes a year, according to the released data.

Myanmar exported 87,832.16 tonnes of onion between 1 October 2018 and 30 September 2019, and it is the highest export volume for six years from 2013-2014 to 2018-2019.

There is a demand to export to Viet Nam via the Myawady border by the end of June, according to a market source.

Recently, the price on 14 June was the highest compared to the same period of the last three years (2020 to 2022) for a decline in the local leftover amount and foreign demand.

The Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre gets four million visses of onion per month and it needs 20 million visses of onion before the monsoon onion period.

The China potatoes enter the Yangon market and the onion would enter when the prices are high, said onion merchants. — TWA/GNLM

Historians, archaeologists discuss Stone Age historical process

The coordination meeting on the Stone Age historical process was held on 13 and 14 June 2022.

A coordination meeting on the Stone Age historical process took place at the Yangon Branch of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum on 13 and 14 June.

Vice-Chairman-2 Dr Toe Hla of the Myanmar Historical Commission explained the Stone Age historical process among the draft historical processes compiled by Myanmar historians whereas Principal U Win Kyaing of Archaeology Technological Training School in Pyay reported on results from the surveys in Stone Age's research.

All participants discussed the situation of the Stone Age process started by Anyathian culture approximately 750,000 to 275,000 years ago, firm pieces of evidence and calculation of age based on scientific dating. The process includes periods of Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic cultures. The second meeting will be added with supplementary discussions.

Likewise, the meeting on Pyu historical process of Myanmar history will take place from 20 to 22 June. Enthusiasts and scholars may join the discussions by holding their research findings and firm shreds of evidence.

Participants are to enlist at the director of the Yangon Branch of the department by dialling 09-5061831 or departmentofarchaeologyygn@gmail.com. —MNA

Colour classification for storms

Yellow Stage

THE level of yellow colour defines the situation to notice the condition of a storm which is over the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea.

Orange Stage

THE level of orange colour defines the situation to especially monitor the change of a storm condition depending on the information that the storm which leads to the coastal area turns to the residences.

Red Stage

THE level of red colour defines the situation to move to the safer places as the storm will fall to the coastal area under possible dangers beyond 12 hours.

Brown Stage

THE level of brown colour defines the situation for taking safe shelters at a time when the area is in danger triggered by the storm.

Green Stage

THE level of green colour defines the situation for the people to return home as the storm weakens.

Trade Mark Ads Call 09251022355, 09974424848

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods, mobile accessories, industrial raw materials and vehicles seized

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, an inspection team led by Police Force made inspections on 11 June.

They seized an unregistered Alphard car worth K2 million in Pyay township and effective action was prosecuted under the Import and Export Law.

On 14 June, the Forest Department inspection team confiscated a total of 2.0816 tonnes of illegal timbers at an estimated value of K1,004,656 in the forest reserve of Toungoo District and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, on 12 June, mobile phone accessories and clothes without official documents worth K4,215,000, from a Nissan AD van worth K9 million heading from Muse to Mandalay at the 16th-mile checkpoint. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, inspections were carried out at the Myanmar Industrial Port Container Terminal Checkpoint under the management of the Customs Department on 13 June.

A port on-duty inspection team captured K3.7 million worth of industrial raw materials which were not mentioned in the import declaration ID and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, the on-duty team from the Mayanchaung Permeant checkpoint under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted inspections.

Foodstuffs and consumer goods that showed no official documents at approximately K2,712,057 were seized from a passenger bus heading from Myawady to Toungoo and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, a combined team conducted inspections at the 4-mile combined checkpoint under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force in Shan State.

Seventy cartons of Mevius cigarettes and foodstuffs at an estimated value of K8.85 million were captured from a Zhong Tong bus worth K100 million on 13 June. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Officials confiscate illegal timbers.

In addition, 200 cartons of toys and foodstuffs (approximately K68,598,000) were confiscated under the management of the Anti-Trafficking Task Force in Sagaing Township on 14 June and the action was prosecuted under the Import and Export Law.

Therefore, 12 arrests (estimated at K200,079,713) were made on four consecutive days from 11 to 14 June, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Idemitsu to shut refinery in western Japan amid decarbonization trend

JAPANESE oil wholesaler Idemitsu Kosan Co. said Tuesday it will close a refinery in Yamaguchi Prefecture, western Japan, by March 2024 as it expects demand for gasoline to continue to fall due to an increase in greener vehicles amid the global trend toward decarbonization.

Idemitsu said in a statement that demand is expected to further shrink also due to Japan's declining population and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to the decision to shut the facility, which has a crude oil refining capacity of 120,000 barrels per day, accounting for about 13 per cent of its group's total.

Idemitsu, the country's second-largest oil wholesaler, held a 38-percent stake as of March in Seibu Oil Co., an affiliate that has run the Yamaguchi refinery. The facility has about 450 employees.

Idemitsu said it has acquired more shares in Seibu Oil to make it a subsidiary before terminating operations at the refinery, bringing its stake to 66.9 per cent.

"We will consider making use (of the refinery after its closure) so it can contribute to the local community and society," Susumu Nibuya, Idemitsu's executive vice-president, said at a press conference in Tokyo. "It is a given that we will provide a place to work (for the employees)."—Kyodo

Idemitsu is considering using the refinery site as a base for greener energy sources including hydrogen and ammonia. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Amazon to start delivering by drone in California town

The drones can carry loads as heavy as five pounds (2.2 kilogrammes) in packages about the size of a large shoe box. **PHOTO: AFP**

AMAZON plans to start flying some purchases to customers later this year, the e-commerce giant said Monday, announcing drone delivery that will debut in a California town.

Retail rival Walmart already offers drone delivery and in May announced it is dramatically ramping up the service, expanding to six states by year-end with the potential to drop off one million packages annually.

Amazon customers in the Northern California town of Lockeford will be able to sign up for free delivery by "Prime Air" drones, the company said in a post.

"Air-eligible" items ordered at the retailer's website will be packed into drones that will fly to the delivery addresses, deposit packages outside from safe heights, then fly away, according to Amazon.

The drones can carry loads as heavy as five pounds (2.2 kilogrammes) in packages about the size of a large shoe box, an Amazon spokesperson told AFP.

Items approved for drone delivery will include household products, beauty items, office supplies and tech gear, the spokesperson said.

Amazon said it has created a sophisticated system to enable its drones to detect and avoid aircraft, people, pets and other obstacles.

"We designed our sense-and-avoid system for two main scenarios: to be safe when in transit, and to be safe when approaching the ground," the company said.— AFP

VW faces Brazil hearing over dictatorship-era slavery claims

GERMAN carmaker Volkswagen faces an audience with Brazilian prosecutors Tuesday over allegations of human-rights violations at a farm it ran during Brazil's military dictatorship, including slave labour, rapes and beatings.

Prosecutors have assembled a 90-page dossier they say documents years of atrocities committed by Volkswagen managers and hired guns at a cattle ranch the company owned in the Amazon rainforest basin in the 1970s and 80s.

In the latest attempt to bring justice for abuses committed under Brazil's 1964-1985 military regime, the federal prosecutor's office for labor affairs summoned VW representatives to a hearing in Brasilia to answer for evidence of abuses including torture and killings at the property in the northern state of Para, known as Fazenda Vale do Rio Cristalino.

"There were grave and systematic violations of human rights, and Volkswagen is directly responsible," lead prosecutor Rafael Garcia told AFP.

The audience will be an initial contact "to see if it's possible to reach a settlement" without opening criminal proceedings, he said.

Volkswagen has declined to comment on specifics of the case, saying it first needs "clarity on all the allegations".—AFP

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE
Date. 15th June, 2022

Invitation to Bid for implementation of Ground Mounted Solar Power Plant Projects on Independent Power Producer and Build – Operate - Own Basis

1. Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) seeks to invite tender for the purchasing of electricity at Designated Connection Points from the Ground Mounted Solar Power Plant Projects on Independent Power Producer (IPP) and Build Operate Own (BOO) basis.
2. The Concession period shall be twenty (20) years from Commercial Operation Date(COD).
3. The Tender Form can be purchased within office hour from the tender announced date at following office either;
   (1) Procurement Department,
   Electric Power Generation Enterprise,
   Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
   (or)
   (2) N0.39 Kanner Road , Ahlone Power Station, Ahlone Township
   Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
4. The Tender Form fee is Myamar Kyat three hundred thousand (Kyat 300,000) only.
5. The bid submission date is **15th August, 2022 at (10:00) hr**, Myanmar Standard Time.
6. Bidders shall prepare the proposals in accordance with the Invitation for Bid and Request for Proposal (RFP). Bidder's Proposals must be submitted on time. Any late proposal shall be rejected.
7. The necessary information of this tender can be inquired within office hour via calling the phone numbers or sending mail to the Email;
   Electric Power Generation Enterprise
   Ministry of Electric Power
   Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw
   Ph+95 9256323643, +95 9448543062
   epgesolartender22@gmail.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22010N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22010N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** 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 X-PRESS FEEDERS LINES

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Britain and Falklands mark 40 years since Argentine surrender

BRITAIN on Tuesday marks 40 years since Argentine forces surrendered after 74 days of conflict on the Falkland Islands, with many veterans still paying the physical and mental price of the gruelling South Atlantic war.

The Royal British Legion is to host a remembrance ceremony at the National Memorial Arboretum in central England for veterans, bereaved family members and civilian support staff.

The Act of Remembrance will include a live link to a similar event at the 1982 Cemetery in the Falklands' capital, Port Stanley, from where Argentine forces capitulated on 14 June 1982.

Britain's prime minister at the time, Margaret Thatcher, announced the surrender to parliament on the same day, vindicating for many her high-risk decision to send nearly 30,000 troops half-way round the world to retake the islands.

A woman laid a wreath after the dedication ceremony of the Falklands Memorial. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The task force returned from the self-governing British overseas territory to a sea of Union Jacks, giving a declining Britain a patriotic boost — and ensuring Thatcher a landslide re-election in 1983. Argentine forces invaded on 2 April beginning a war which claimed the lives of 255 British servicemen and three female civilians, along with 649 Argentinians.

Many of those killed on both sides were never given a proper burial. Forty years on, the memories for military veterans are strong, as, too, is their conviction that the islands — nearly 13,000 kilometres (8,000 miles) from London — are British.—AFP

S. Korea eager to normalize intelligence-sharing pact with Japan

SOUTH Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin on Monday expressed his eagerness to normalize the sharing of military intelligence with Japan under an agreement that has faced the risk of being scrapped amid deteriorating bilateral ties.

The remarks, which Park made after meeting with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Washington, were the latest sign of an improvement in the soured Tokyo-Seoul ties under new South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and came amid concerns North Korea may carry out what would be its seventh nuclear test, or the first since 2017.

The concerns were also reflected in a meeting between White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and China's top foreign policy official Yang Jiechi in Luxembourg, with Sullivan seeking cooperation on North Korean issues from Beijing, Pyongyang's most important ally and economic benefactor.

Park is making his first visit to the United States as foreign minister of Yoon, a conservative who has signalled a tougher stance on Pyongyang than his liberal predecessor Moon Jae In. He is also seeking better relations with Japan after they became marred by wartime disputes.— Kyodo

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

25% of Ukraine's arable land lost to war: Kyiv

UKRAINE has lost a quarter of its arable land since Russia's invasion, notably in the south and east, the deputy agriculture minister said Monday while insisting that food security is not threatened.

"Despite the loss of 25 per cent of arable land, crop planting this year is more than sufficient" to ensure food for the population, Taras Vysotskiy told a news conference.

He said national consumption levels had fallen "due to mass displacement and external migration" as millions fled to escape the fighting.

More than seven million people are estimated to have been displaced within Ukraine by Russia's war, figures from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) show.

But another 7.3 million have fled abroad, more than half of them to Poland.

Despite the significant loss of land to the Russians, "the current situation of crop planting areas.. does not pose a threat to Ukraine's food security", he said.

A farmer drives a tractor as he mows grass on a field of a farm in southern Ukraines Mykolaiv region, on 11 June 2022, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. **PHOTO: GENYA SAVILOV / AFP**

"Ukrainian farmers managed to prepare relatively well for sowing before the war started," he said.

"In February, Ukraine had already imported about 70 per cent of necessary fertilizers, 60 percent of disease control products and about a third of the required fuel" for sowing, he said.

However, the invasion of several regions by Russian troops and the ongoing blockade of Ukraine's Black Sea ports, preventing the export of grain, forced Ukrainian farmers "to change what they were sowing and how much", Vysotskiy said.—AFP

Russia earns $98 bn from fuel exports in 100 days of Ukraine war: report

RUSSIA earned 93 billion euros ($98 billion) from fossil fuel exports during the first 100 days of its war in Ukraine, with most sent to the European Union, according to research published Monday.

The report from the independent, Finland-based Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) comes as Kyiv urges the West to sever all trade with Russia in the hopes of cutting off the Kremlin's financial lifeline.

Earlier this month, the EU agreed to halt most Russian oil imports, on which the continent is heavily dependent. Though the bloc aims to reduce gas shipments by two-thirds this year, an embargo is not in the cards at present.

According to the report, the EU took 61 per cent of Russia's fossil fuel exports during the war's first 100 days, worth about 57 billion euros ($60 billion).

The top importers were China at 12.6 billion euros, Germany (12.1 billion) and Italy (7.8 billion).

Russia's fossil fuel revenues come first from the sale of crude oil (46 billion), followed by pipeline gas, oil products, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and coal. —AFP

An employee controls a valve at a natural gas storing facility in Bad Leuchstaedt, eastern Germany. **PHOTO: JENS SCHLUETER/DDP/AFP/FILE**

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Two Iran aerospace officials 'martyred while on mission'

The Semnan Space Centre is home to the Iranian Space Agency's satellite launch site and ballistic missile testing. **PHOTO: AFP**

TWO Iranian aerospace officials, including a member of the Revolutionary Guards' Corps, were "martyred while on mission" in separate incidents inside the country, the Fars news agency reported today.

Ali Kamani, a member of the Guards aerospace division was "martyred" in the city of Khomein in Iran's central Markazi province, Fars said, quoting a Guards statement.

In a separate incident, Mohammad Abdoos, 33, an aerospace staff member, died in the northern Semnan province yesterday while on a "mission", Fars added.

No further details were given on the men or of the circumstances of their deaths.

Two weeks ago, Col Ali Esmailzadeh, a commander of the Guards' external operations unit, the Quds Force, died "in an accident in his home", according to state news agency IRNA.

On 22 May, Guards Col Sayyad Khodai, 50, was killed outside his home in the east of the Iranian capital after attackers on motorbikes shot him five times.

The Guards accused "Zionists" of being behind the high-profile assassination of Khodai and vowed revenge.—AFP

Cambodia convicts opposition figures in mass trial

A Phnom Penh court convicted around 60 opposition figures including an outspoken US-Cambodian activist in a mass trial Tuesday as long-serving leader Hun Sen cracks down on dissent ahead of national elections next year.

Opposition leader Sam Rainsy, who has lived in France since 2016 to avoid jail for convictions he says are politically motivated, had another eight years added to his existing sentence.

Outside court, US-Cambodian lawyer and campaigner Theary Seng — dressed as the Statue of Liberty — was abruptly dragged into a car by police after receiving a six-year jail term for treason.

Cambodian-American human rights advocate Theary Seng was among those jailed on Tuesday. **PHOTO: AFP / SAMUEL**

"I am ready for a guilty verdict because this regime will not let me go free," Theary Seng said before her conviction.

"It will be an unfair and unjust verdict because I am innocent, the others charged with me are innocent," the 51-year-old added.

Patrick Murphy, the US Ambassador to Cambodia, tweeted he was "deeply troubled" by the verdict against Seng Theary.—AFP

Famed Hong Kong floating restaurant towed away after half a century

HONG Kong's Jumbo Floating Restaurant, a famed but ageing tourist attraction that featured in multiple Cantonese and Hollywood films, was towed out of the city Tuesday after years of revitalization efforts went nowhere.

The buoyant behemoth, which at 76 metres long could house 2,300 diners, set out shortly before noon from the southern Hong Kong Island typhoon shelter where it has sat for nearly half a century.

Designed like a Chinese imperial palace and once considered a must-see landmark, the restaurant drew visitors from Queen Elizabeth II to Tom Cruise, and featured in several films — including Steven Soderbergh's "Contagion", about a deadly global pandemic.

The lavish restaurant's operators cited the Covid-19 pandemic as the reason for finally closing its doors in March 2020, after around a decade of financial woes.

Restaurant owner Melco International Development announced last month that ahead of its licence expiration in June, Jumbo would leave Hong Kong and await a new operator at an undisclosed location.

Under overcast skies, a scattered group of onlookers gathered on the Aberdeen waterfront to see it be dragged away. —AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Canadian who drove van into Toronto crowds given life sentence

A Canadian man who in 2018 rammed his rental van into a crowd of pedestrians in downtown Toronto, killing 11 people, was sentenced yesterday to life in prison without the possibility of parole for 25 years.

Alek Minassian, who was 25 at the time of the attack, was found guilty by a Canadian judge just over a year ago, in March 2021.

On 23 April 2018, Minassian drove a white rental van at full speed down streets and sidewalks in the Canadian metropolis, aiming at passers-by for a little more than a mile.

Ten people were killed and 16 injured in the attack - but the death toll rose to 11 at the end of October 2021 when an injured woman who had spent more than three years in hospital also succumbed to her injuries. It was the worst attack in Toronto's history.

The sentence came less than three weeks after Canada's Supreme Court struck down cumulative sentences for murderers, a provision of the criminal code dating back to 2011 which authorized judges to impose extremely long prison sentences on killers who caused numerous deaths.—AFP

French army quits Mali base ahead of total pullout

FRENCH troops were on Monday handing back a military base in northeastern Mali ahead of a final withdrawal from the Sahel nation, France's army said, after nine years fighting a jihadist insurgency.

And the UN's emissary there warned that their withdrawal could leave Menaka, where they were based, vulnerable to a jihadist attack.

The departure from the Menaka base "was conducted in good order, safely and in transparent fashion", said French army spokesman General Pascal Ianni in Paris.

It comes ahead of the last withdrawal from Mali "at the end of the summer" when France's main military base at Gao will be returned to Malian forces, he added. But El-Ghassim Wane, the UN Secretary General's special representative in Mali, warned that the pull-out could spell trouble for Menaka.—AFP

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Britain and Falklands mark 40 years since Argentine surrender

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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 inves tment 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.

Myanmar team lose in all three group matches of Asian Cup Qualifiers

ON the last day in Group F of the 2023 AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers Third Round, Myanmar and Singapore played on 14 June with Singapore winning 6-2 over Myanmar.

Due to the result, Myanmar lost in all three group matches in the group.

Myanmar and Singapore have no hope of advancing to the next stage but tried to win for their dignity.

Myanmar lost to Singapore 0-3 in the Suzuki Cup in December 2021 but lost by half a dozen goals this time.

The Myanmar team played well against Kyrgyzstan in the previous group match but made many mistakes and conceded many goals in this match.

Singapore broke the death lock in the ninth minute through striker Fandi.

After the goal, Singapore took control of the match, with Song Eun-Yeon in the 16th minute and Kut Jang-Yei scoring again in the 43rd minute with long-range shots.

In the second half, the Myanmar team was able to score two goals in retaliation, but it was difficult to get an equalizer as team Singapore trounce Myanmar with speedy actions.

Two goals were scored by Win Naing Tun in the 53rd minute and Aung Kaung Man in the 65th minute for the Myanmar team.

Fandi scored the fourth and fifth goals for Singapore in the 54th and 69th minutes, and Mohammad Hazaz scored in the 90th minute.

Myanmar has lost all three matches in the group stages of the 2023 AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Mayweather to face MMA fighter in Japan exhibition

NEWLY enshrined Hall of Fame boxer Floyd Mayweather will fight Japanese mixed martial arts star Mikuru Asakura in a September exhibition in Japan, organizers said Tuesday.

The former welterweight world champion, who was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame on Sunday after retiring with an unbeaten 50-0 record, beat "Dangerous" Don Moore in an exhibition in Abu Dhabi last month. The date, venue and rules of his fight against 29-year-old featherweight Asakura will be announced later this month.

It will be the 45-year-old Mayweather's fourth exhibition and his second in Japan, after beating kickboxer Tenshin Nasukawa by TKO in just two minutes in December 2018, in a bout that was widely ridiculed.

Floyd Mayweather fought his last exhibition against YouTuber Logan Paul last year. **PHOTO: AFP/CHANDAN KHANNA**

Mayweather called himself the "pioneer of exhibitions" and promised to "put on a show" for fans when he returns in September. "We're going to treat him nice, we're going to let him go three rounds, we're going to let him try to land his shot," Mayweather said of his opponent. —AFP

One tourney of the women's league in 2018-2019.

MNL-2 and Women's League to be held later this year

AFTER confirming the date of the Myanmar National League competition, the MNL Committee announced that MNL-2 and Women's League will be held later this year.

The Myanmar National League Committee will hold the MNL-2 (first division) tournament from the first week of August to the second week of November, and the Women's League will be held again this year, although no date has been set.

The MNL-2 tournament was launched in 2013 but was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

The Myanmar National League has only announced the schedule for the tournament and has not yet announced the teams.

The Women's League started at the end of 2016 but was suspended after three seasons.

In the last three seasons, the Myawady team won twice and the Sports and Physical Education Institute Team has once.

The Myanmar National League, Myanmar National League II and Women's League are scheduled to be held this year, officials said. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM