

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.

Modern techniques should be employed so that agriculture and livestock breeding can flourish, Senior General says



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the SAC meeting 5/2022 in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 June 2022.

WITH a view to achieving enduring peace, an invitation to peace talks was extended in April and there are still some signatory EAOs and non-signatory EAOs that have announced that they cannot attend the peace talks for

various reasons, said State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the State Administration Council meeting (5/2022) held in the meeting hall of the Office of the State

Administration Council Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that invitation to peace talks was extended with an eye to two political targets

we are leading to the sustainable practice of multiparty democracy and the establishment of the Union based on democracy and federalism.

Then, the Senior General went on to say that there

are different types of federal unions in the world and we should take the best way to the democratic federal union in conformity with our country.

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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

Matriculation exam results of far-flung areas to be broadcast on MRTV

THE 2022 matriculation examination results will be announced across the nation on the same day, and the results of region/state exam centres in remote areas will be broadcast via the Ethnic People's Programme of MRTV at 6 am on 17 June.

It will broadcast the results of Tanai, Shinbwayyan, Chipwi, Hsadone, Hpakant, Kamine, Momauk, Myothit, Lwejel, Dawphonyan, PutaO, Layyinkwin, Khaunglanphu, Sumprabum, Machanbaw and Naungmon exam centres of Kachin State, Loikaw, Bawlake, Pasaung and Meisei exam centres of Kayah State, Leiktho, Phapun, Kamamaung, Kya-in-Seikkyi, Kyaikdon, Tagundaing and Thin Gan Nyi Naung exam centres of Kayin State, Falam, Tonzang, Cikha, Tiddim, Matupi, Paletwa and Sami exam centres of Chin State, Maungtaw and Taungpyo Letwel exam centres of Rakhine State, Monghkat, Mongyan, Mongphyat, Mongyaung, Monghsat, Mongton, Mongpyin and Metmung exam centres of eastern Shan State, Kunlong, Hopan, Laukkai, Mongmit, Magyipin, Mabein and Ngaoh exam centres of northern Shan State, Pinkhun, Tingtet, Saungpyaung, Htiyel,

Lwelboun, Kunhein, Mongkaing, Kehsi Mahsan, Mongnaung, Mongshu, Wangkan, Mongpan, Tonehone and Maukmel exam centres of southern Shan State, Metta, Kyunsu, Kattalu, Sakhanthit, Kanmaw, Thazin, Pulaw, Palauk, Pala, Bokpyin and Pyigyimandaing exam centres of Taninthayi Region, Pauk, Yaypyar, Pakokku, Kamma, Wazi, Myitchay, Sedoktara, Buu, Tantlekyin, Ngape, Padang, Yesagyo, Pakhangyi, Saw, Gangaw, Kyaw and Hanthawaddy exam centres of Magway Region, Mawlaik, Kintat, Pantha, Phaungpyin, Minyar, Thayaung, Yay Auk Taung, Minechaung, Sandar, Leshi, Sum Ma Rar, Pansat, Lahe, Nanyun, Pansaung, Kalewa, Masein, Kyarpin, Panset, Taze, Dabayin, KhinU, Myinmu, Katha, Kawlin, Wuntho, Gyotaung, Intaw, Yay Twin Kone, Meza, Mawlu, Bamauk, Pinlebu, Butalin, Ayadaw, Pale, Kani and Salingyi exam centres of Sagaing Region and the Cocokyun exam centre of Yangon Region. The upper region can listen to the results on the radio at a short wave of 50.71 metres, 97.15 kilohertz while the lower part of Myanmar has a medium wave of 411.52 metres, 72.9 kilohertz. — MNA

Delegation led by ALP Vice-Chair leaves Nay Pyi Taw



The ALP delegation is seen off by NSPNC members, officials and ethnic people.

THE peace delegation led by Vice-Chair Daw Saw Mra Yaza Linn of the Arakan Liberation Party-ALP, which had arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on the invitation of State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, left Nay Pyi Taw by flight yesterday.

The delegation was seen off by officials and members of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, departmental officials and ethnic people of

the Department of Fine Arts and locals by holding miniature State flags and placards bearing: “Perpetual peace is the real aspiration of the people”, “Achieving peace is the true desire of all citizens”, “Let’s hold talks for peace in the Union”, “Only the ethnic nationalities are in unity, stability, peace and tranquillity will be achieved”.

On arrival at Sittway airport, the delegation was welcomed by senior officers of the Western Command, Sittway

Station, departmental officials, ethnic people of the Department of Fine Arts and locals by holding miniature State flags and placards bearing: “Let’s hold talks for peace in the Union”, “May the Rakhine State gain development and prosperity”, “The peace talks must be successful”, “Only when the ethnic nationalities are in unity, will stability, peace and tranquillity be achieved”, “Perpetual peace is the real aspiration of the people”. — MNA

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3 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 16 June, total figure rises to 613,467

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,467** after **three** new cases were reported on 16 June 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,472** 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.)

Modern techniques should be employed so that agriculture and livestock breeding can flourish, Senior General says

FROM PAGE-1

Regarding the terrorist attacks, the Senior General said that, since 3 March 2021, there have been more than 1,100 terrorist assaults by PDFs, that action has been taken against over 700 cases and a total of 4,203 weapons of various sorts have been confiscated and that it has been found that most of these weapons were provided by some EAOs and some imported from abroad. He also said that, in fighting against the terrorists, some members of the security forces and some staff of administrative organizations sustained injuries and were killed and measures are being taken to compensate the victims.

As regards the economy of the nation, the Senior General said that there were trade deficits during the two terms of democratic governments. Therefore, he continued, he has seen to it that goods that are not necessary are not imported and only necessary products are imported. There is still a trade deficit of US\$1,140 million during the period between February 2021 and May 2022,

The Senior General concluded that coordination meetings are being conducted to open agricultural and technical high schools in district-level towns for human resource development and that outstanding students from those schools will be able to continue their studies at respective institutes and universities.

he pointed out. In the current financial year, there are loans that are to be paid back to foreign countries. It is found that there is much to do to generate earnings for the country and efforts are being made for private companies to be able to enhance the export of their goods and products. For the economic development of the country, he emphasized that finished products, rather than raw materials, should be exported.

In his address, the Senior General also touched on the banking industry and said that

there were political riots after the Tatmadaw had taken the responsibility for the country and, as a result, the work of banks slowed down, that there were withdrawals of deposits due to worry and panic, that steps had to be taken to prevent the collapse of banks as withdrawals were not made in accordance with stipulated rules and regulations, and that the banking system has almost returned to normality since January.

As to teaching students at basic education schools, the Senior General explained that what has to be done with failure

is that all school-age children go to school, that school enrolment has increased this year and 6.3 million basic education students (94.1 per cent of the total enrolment) are now at schools. The number of students has increased more in the current academic year than the previous year and it is a plus, he added.

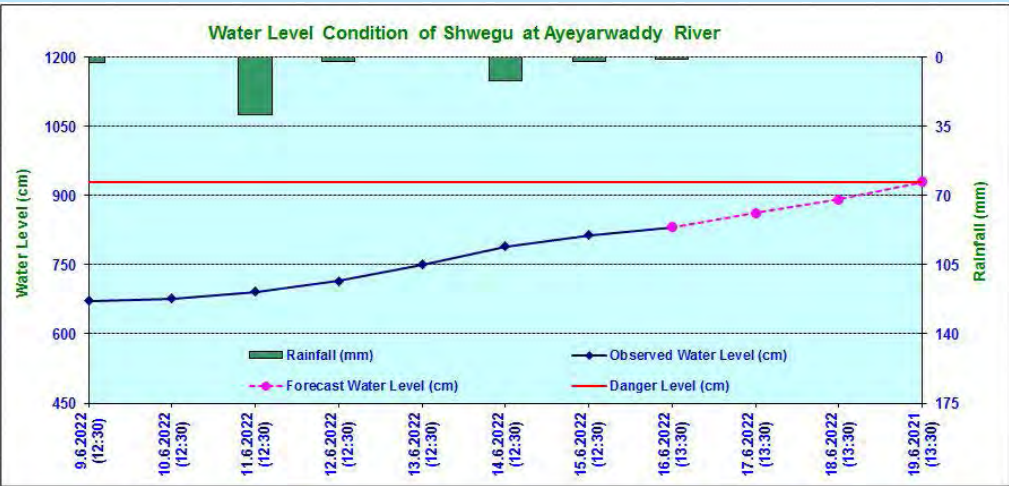
The Senior General proceeded to say that there has been only 0.14 per cent of confirmed cases of COVID and there have been no deaths during this month, that it was due to cooperation and concerted efforts of the public and civil servants, that 64 million people have been vaccinated against the disease and that measures are being taken to continue with vaccination in the rest of regions and states.

The Senior General also elaborated on the development of agriculture and livestock breeding. He said that production based on agriculture and livestock breeding plays a pivotal role in the nation's economy, that the country has a total of over 33 million acres of farmland, that, out of them,

11.7 million acres are cultivated twice a year and 34 million acres are mix-cropped, that trying to boost crop yield pays much better for the country than expanding sown acreage, that research on developing quality strains is being encouraged and that modern techniques should be employed so that agriculture and livestock breeding can flourish.

In connexion with the presentations by the SAC members, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing responded that there would be maximum sentences for the terrorists who perpetrated even the killings of Buddhist monks. There would be further amendments to the Election Law and the Parties Registration Law, he added.

The Senior General concluded that coordination meetings are being conducted to open agricultural and technical high schools in district-level towns for human resource development and that outstanding students from those schools will be able to continue their studies at respective institutes and universities. — MNA



Flood Warning (Issued at 14:00 hrs M.S.T on 16-6-2022)

According to the (13:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ayeyarwady River at Shwegu is observed as about (3) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Shwegu Township to take precaution measures.

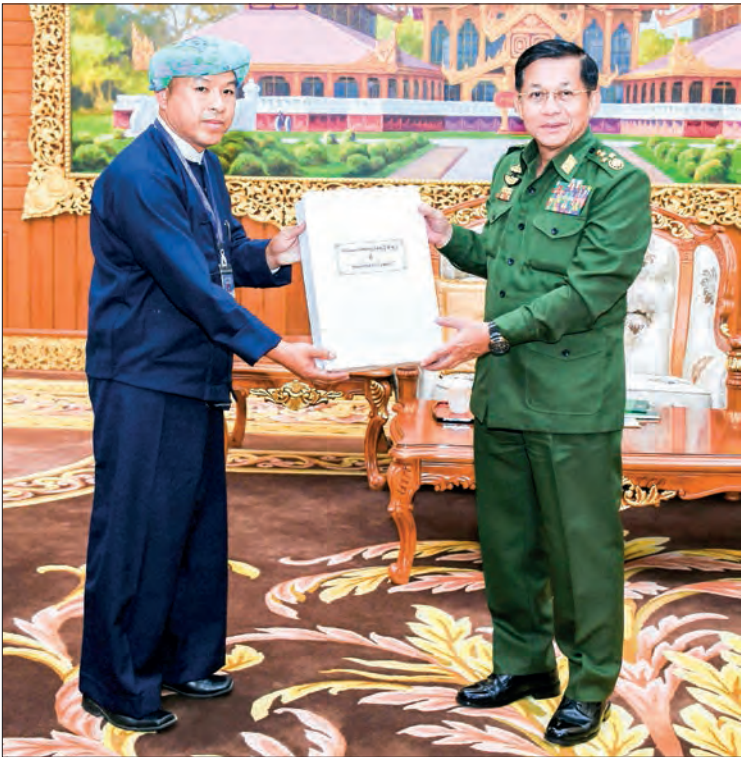
Flood Warning Graph for Shwegu

Discussion should be made with a broader perspective for the interest of the Union: Senior General

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a peace delegation led by Vice-Chairperson-1 U Khun Htun Tin of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO at Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning to talk about peace issues.

The event was also attended by Vice-Chairman of SAC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council members General Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae. The PNLO Vice-Chairperson-1 was accompanied by Joint General Secretary (1) Khun Min Thein and Central Committee member Khun Zwe Hto.

The Senior General explained the efforts of governments to eliminate armed conflicts in the country to ensure peace and tranquillity, the situation to be solved peacefully despite different political views in leading to a multiparty democratic system, demands of ethnic armed organizations during talks, open discussion regarding possible things that the country and regions need, situations to discuss with broader perspective for the interest of Union, matters to practise multiparty



democracy that conforms with the people’s desire and the establishment of a Union based on democracy and federalism.

Then, PNLO Vice-Chairperson-1 and members expressed words of thanks for the peace talks and discussed the concept of the PNLO to solve the political problems through peaceful means, exercising the multiparty democracy, opinions on the establishment of a Union based on democracy and federalism and other regional

development programmes.

Both sides also exchanged views on peace issues and development programmes.

After the meeting, the Senior General presented gifts to the PNLO Vice-Chairperson-1 and his delegation who returned local products as gifts. They then posed for documentary photos.

The delegation led by the Vice-Chairperson-1 of the Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO 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

The Senior General poses for the documentary photo (top) and presents gifts to the PNLO delegation (left).



UNICEF Representative to Myanmar presents his Credentials to Union Minister for Foreign Affairs

REPRESENTATIVE of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Myanmar Mr Marcoluigi Corsi paid a courtesy call and presented his Credentials to U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw at 11 am on 16 June 2022.

Also present at the meeting were the senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

The MoFA Union Minister receives the Credentials of the UNICEF Representative to Myanmar.

MoST Union Minister attends 19th ASEAN ministerial meeting on science, technology and innovation

UNION Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw attended the 19th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation hosted by Viet Nam through videoconferencing yesterday.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw said that Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is an important part of promoting economic development and promoting stability and integration in the ASEAN region. STI is a way to achieve most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Science, technology and innovation (STI) play an important role in supporting the digital transformation and

success of the SDGs. Myanmar is implementing the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (2016-2025), and the emphasis is placed on capacity building and scientific and technological innovation.

At the meeting, the ASEAN Ministers of Science and Technology discussed ways to enhance cooperation in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the development of a prosperous and sustainable STI in the ASEAN region. — MNA

MoST Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw virtually joins the 19th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation.



MoH Union Minister meets ICRC Asia-Pacific Regional Director



MoH Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win meets the ICRC Asia-Pacific Regional Director yesterday.

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win met a delegation led by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Asia-Pacific Regional Director Ms Christine Cipolla at the Ministry Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they

discussed further cooperation in healthcare services and the renewal of Regional Agreements signed by both sides.

As the Ministry of Health is the main liaison ministry, the ICRC is working with the relevant ministries and agencies for humanitarian assistance in Myanmar, and coordinating with Region and State governments to be able to continue on a wider scale, the Union minister said.

Next, they cordially exchanged views on issues related to cooperation between the ICRC and the Myanmar Red Cross Society. —MNA

MoSWRR receives Ambassador of India to Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine received a delegation led by Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Vinay Kumar yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting discussed the completion of the distribution of rice and wheat donated by India, India's technical assistance for the curriculum for Social Work, scholarship assistance, and the progress of the ongoing projects implemented under the MoU with India for the development of Rakhine State and

difficulties encountered in the implementation. They also had a cordial exchange of views on the latest development of ASEAN's humanitarian assistance to Myanmar.

Recently, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement coordinated the donation of 10,000 tonnes of rice and 200 tonnes of wheat as humanitarian aid from India to Myanmar and cooperated with the Yangon regional government to distribute them to the families in Yangon whose social-economic life was affected by COVID-19. — MNA



MoSWRR Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine receives the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar yesterday.

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

SAC information team holds 16th press conference



The sixteenth press conference of the SAC Information Team is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE Ministry of Information held the 16th press conference of the State Administration Council's Information Team yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the press conference, Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, the SAC Information Team Leader, explained the situation of the announcement for various armed groups, including the so-called PDF group, who want to enter the legal framework, peace is-

issues, the re-calling of absent basic education staff, the acts of terrorism perpetrated by the so-called PDF terrorists. Member of the Union Election Commission U Khin Maung Oo also clarified matters related to the commission.

Those present at the press conference included members of the SAC Information Team, representatives from various ministries, officials from the

Tatmadaw True News Information Team, invited persons, local media, reporters from daily newspapers, local television stations, and foreign media based in the country.

First, Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun presented the desire of the government to unite all ethnic peoples in the role of national development, activities for various armed groups to enter the legal framework under the

rule of law due to the petitions by some parents and citizens to the government, the return of PDF members to the rule of law in various regions and states, and the similar events happened when the Tatmadaw took over the responsibility of the state to restore law and order in 1988.

He also explained the commitment and efforts of the State Administration Council to promote the peace process, direct discussions with the Tatmadaw Peace Negotiation Committee and EAOs, strengthening peace with ethnic armed organizations that have signed the NCA, and steps being undertaken to reduce the number of clashes between ethnic armed organizations that have not yet signed the NCA and to reach bilateral agreements, the proposal of the SAC Chairman Prime Minister for the peace talks and discussions with each ethnic armed organization, plans for further talks and for the benefit of the country and the ethnic armed organizations that have not yet reached the peace talks to achieve peace, and additional invitations from

previous invitations to hold peace talks for the benefit of the region.

He also clarified that the notice has been sent to education personnel, who have been involved in the CDM movement, to resume their teaching duties, and explained that terrorists targeted teachers and violence against teachers and education staff and the destruction of school buildings were committed.

Then, U Khin Maung Oo, a member of the Union Election Commission, explained with PowerPoint presentation the process being carried out by the Union Election Commission, including the completion of the field census and the inspection of political parties, to complete the voter list.

At the press conference, information on various so-called armed groups, including PDFs, who are entering the legal fold, peace issues, recalling of basic education staff who are absent from duties, and documentary photos of the UEC were displayed. The full interview will be published later, it is reported.

— MNA



Local and foreign media personnel look into the photo exhibitions at the sixteenth press conference of the SAC Information Team yesterday.

Rakhine State Fisheries Dept endeavouring to develop crab sanctuary on 10,000 acres

RAKHINE State Fisheries Department is making efforts to set up a natural marine sanctuary on over 10,000 acres for the sustainable crab exploitation in mangrove ecosystem.

Those involved in a small-scale mangrove crab fishery sent undersized crabs to farming lakes in the thriving crab farming businesses that generate foreign income every year. This being so, the department is working together with the entrepreneurs to release those small crabs into the protected marine zone areas. The marine sanctuary is being undertaken in mangrove forest in 17 townships to tackle with land scarcity, protect them from overexploitation and end crab supply shortages, in line with the

guidelines of the Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

“Crab sanctuary is aimed at creating sustainable crab resources in Rakhine State and maintaining market shares in exports. The efforts to establish crab sanctuary beforehand will contribute to the country’s economic growth as crabs are vulnerable to depletion of resources. We still cannot know how many townships out of 17 will see the achievement of that project. There are many mangrove forest owners and land scarcity problems for the native crabs occurred. If the crab sanctuary can be developed on 8,000-10,000 acres, it will help conserve marine resources and the

environment. Maintaining crab population will be implemented in the designated areas for the crab sanctuary,” said Director U Thet Oo of the Rakhine State Fisheries Department.

When the crabs discard the old shell, they are sent to the cold storage factories and the live crabs are packaged systematically for export.

Earlier, the discarded shells and legs were disposed of. Now, those by-products are turned into the feedstuff as well as the fertilizer by adding value. The locals can generate income from the whole crab.

Approximately 7,000 crabs are set free in the Minganchaung mangrove forest in Sittway city in May. An awareness campaign

for marine resource conservation was also conducted to disseminate knowledge among the locals.

About 3,000-4,000 mangrove mud crabs can be farmed per acre. They are processed in cold storage of the companies and live mud crabs are shipped to external markets. Live mud crabs from

Rakhine State are delivered to the neighbouring countries. The Fisheries Department is endeavouring the sustainable use of marine resources by maintaining the native crab population, along with all the stakeholders involved in the supply chain. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM



About 3,000-4,000 mangrove mud crabs can be farmed per acre. They are processed in cold storage of the companies and live mud crabs are shipped to external markets. PHOTO: KANU

LOCAL BUSINESS

Black gram price soars to K1,560,000 per tonne

THE price of black gram (urad in India) is escalating and hit a high record of K1,560,000 per tonne, according to the bean market.

On 1 June, it was priced at only K1,456,500 per tonne, whereas it tremendously rose to K1,560,000 per tonne on 16 June, reflecting an increase of over K100,000 per tonne in 15 days.

The domestic black gram prices climbed as India, the main buyer of Myanmar's black gram, has a growing need for bean consumption. Additionally, India's government hiked the minimum support price (MSP) of pulses, from Rs 6,300 to Rs 6,600 for pigeon peas and black gram, Rs 7,275 to Rs 7,755 for green gram, Rs 3,950 to Rs 4,300 for soybean, Rs 7,307 and Rs 7,830 for sesame, Rs 6,015 to Rs 6,400 for sunflower and Rs 5,550 to Rs 5,850 for peanuts.

The price is expected to remain on upward trends if India's demand grows. The prevailing prices of black gram in the domestic market are highly correlated with the rise in fuel oil prices and the exchange rate against the dollar.

Moreover, India slashed purchase volume from Myanmar this year compared to the same corresponding period last year as they fulfil their requirements of bean consumption with the supply by Pakistan as well.

Despite the low demand, Myanmar's black gram market raises its head with high prices tracking the prices recorded in India. Black gram prices stand above K1,500,000 per tonne.

India, the main buyer of Myanmar's black grams, has a high consumption of black grams. Furthermore, it reexports them to the external market after pro-



Myanmar is the top producer of the black gram which is primarily demanded by India, while pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are cultivated in Australia and African countries besides Myanmar.

cessing the grams. The annual consumption of black grams in India is estimated at 2.7—2.8 million tonnes.

India extended relaxations of conditions regarding clearance consignment for black gram and pigeon peas until 31 March 2023.

Myanmar conveyed \$272.918 million worth of over 360,383

tonnes of various beans and pulses to foreign trade partners between 1 April and 3 June 2022 in the current financial year 2022-2023. The country shipped \$227.416 million valued at over 292,114 tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through the sea route, and \$45.5 million valued at over 68,269 tonnes were

sent to the neighbouring countries through the land border.

Myanmar exported US\$1.57 billion worth of over 2 million tonnes of various pulses to foreign trade partners last financial year 2020-2021. The country shipped \$966.4 million valued in 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through the sea route, and \$604.3 million valued in 786,920 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through the land border.

Myanmar yearly produces approximately 400,000 tonnes of black gram and about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas. Myanmar is the top producer of the black gram which is primarily demanded by India, while pigeon peas, green grams and chickpeas are cultivated in Australia and African countries besides Myanmar. — NN/GNLM

Low yield elevates potato prices



Potatoes are commonly grown in Shan, Mon and Kayin states and Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions.

THE potatoes are fetching high prices owing to the low yield this year; potato farmers and traders said.

Additionally, potatoes are not imported amid the border restrictions. Consequently, lack of competition in the market drives potato prices up.

"The sown acreage dropped to two or three-fold this year. Earlier, Myanmar's potatoes are competing in the market with those imported from China. At present, there is an equilibrium between the supply and demand", said a potato grower.

The prices of potatoes stood at only K500-K800 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the past years. At present, the prices surged from K1,300 to K2,000 per viss. China's potatoes have flowed into Myanmar's market through

the black market starting in 2015. Therefore, the growers of domestic potatoes face losses due to the slow-moving market every year. This event resulted in a drop in sown acreage in 2020.

"Local potatoes cannot compete with imports, rendering losses every year. This is why some growers no longer cultivate potatoes. As a result of this, the yield rate plummeted. Potato trade with China is blocked and there is a lack of market competition. The prices of local potatoes have increased," said U Myint Lwin, a potato grower.

Potatoes are commonly grown in Shan, Mon and Kayin states and Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions. — Maung Aye Chan/GNLM

Avocado industry gearing up for export market expansion

QUALITY avocado through grafting will be harvested in late October 2022 and the avocado industry is preparing for export market expansion beyond self-sufficiency.

To penetrate more external markets, Myanmar's avocado will be displayed at international expos such as Thaifex and the second-largest B2B trading portal site in Asia (ecplaza.net). Japan Int'l Food Expo (JFEX) also offered Myanmar avocado producers to showcase the products.

More than 30 avocado farms have received the Global Good Agricultural Practice certificate with the help of international institutions to penetrate European markets and maintain quality avocado.

ARISE Plus enhance connectivity and supports trade facilitation. Myanmar mainly targets Thailand, Singapore and the Netherlands. Thanks to monetary policy changes, exports to Thailand have become smooth. More avocado from grafted trees is planned for exports.

Furthermore, China's

market has a high potential for avocado. Myanmar avocado body requested the departments concerned to connect to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) for legitimate exports.

Myanmar cultivates avocado in southern Shan State and PyinOoLwin Township in Mandalay Region.

Branches of six avocado species were imported from California, the US, in 2018 and Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association led avocado grafting with the assistance of international organizations. Hass avocado is primarily cultivated on account of high global demand.

Earlier, Myanmar's avocado was shipped to Thailand, India, China, Singapore and Hong Kong SAR. In 2021, the avocado market mostly relied on the domestic market through online trade platforms wing to the COVID situation. Yet, Myanmar shipped 500 kilogrammes of avocado to Thailand in 2021 through the Tachilek border.

Myanmar shipped over

2,300 tonnes of avocado worth US\$556,000 to external markets in the 2020-2021 Financial Year, according to the Trade Department.

Avocado is perennial and the harvest time varies depending on the height above the sea level. It is harvested between September and February. Hass avocado variety is in good demand in the market.

The Pinkerton avocado was priced at K4,500-K5,000 per kilogramme last year, while Hass avocado fetched up to K7,000-K8,000 per kilo.

The avocado is commonly grown in Chin hills, Shan highland, Nawnghkio and PyinOoLwin areas, covering around 25,000 acres. There are a thousand Myanmar avocado varieties, and the avocado of foreign origins are also found in the country.

Myanmar's avocado is abundant in October and the harvest season extends up to April. Myanmar prioritizes the fruit quality that meets international market standards for market potential. — Htet Myat/GNLM

OPINION

Fight desertification and drought for the planet Earth in time

THE planet Earth is facing a worsening natural environment based on climate change primarily triggered by deforestation and drought because of undisciplined acts of humans who extract timber from forests in a legal and illegal manner, expand public residential sites and farmlands and utilize water sources without limit.

Consequently, the peoples from global countries are unavoidably encountering the sufferings of their undisciplined acts causing environmental degradation. Although some of them understand the impacts of climate change, some are still committing acts of environmental deterioration in extracting natural resources without correct farsightedness for their future.

All in all, public awareness needs to be raised about the improvement of the natural environment in easing the impacts of desertification and drought throughout the world. If so, the environment will bring good results to the global people in the near future.

On 30 January 1995, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a solution to draft the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Hence, the 17th of June was set as a significant day to combat desertification and drought throughout the world with the purpose of raising the presence of desertification and drought, highlighting methods of preventing desertification and recovering from drought.

The global observance of this year's event will take place in Madrid, Spain, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has announced. The theme of 2022 Desertification and Drought Day has been set as "Rising up from drought together". Between 1900 and 2019, droughts impacted 2.7 billion people in the world and caused 11.7 million deaths. Currently, forecasts estimate that by 2050 droughts may affect over three-quarters of the world's population.

The UN General Assembly adopted three objectives related to mitigating the desertification and drought: to promote public awareness about desertification and drought as the first objective, to let people know that desertification and drought can be effectively tackled, that solutions are possible, and that key tools to this aim lay in strengthened community participation and cooperation at all levels as the second objective and to strengthen implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa as the third and last objective.

All in all, public awareness needs to be raised about the improvement of the natural environment in easing the impacts of desertification and drought throughout the world. If so, the environment will bring good results to the global people in the near future.

A Smart Country

By Yin Nwe Ko

PEOPLE use the word 'smart' in many issues. We might have heard this as smartphone, smart card, smart watch, smart TV, etc. According to the OALD's (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary) definition, smart is an adjective and firstly means *looking clean and neat; well dressed in fashionable and/or formed clothes*. However, other meanings are still left. Most of the meanings tend to positive aspects and the word 'smart' is used as a meaning of positive outcome. Among them, one can find the negative meaning of the word 'smart' as in 'Smart bomb'. It is stated as *a weapon/bomb controlled by a computer so that it happens to act in an intelligent way*.

It is a usual one there are two opposite things present together in the world: heat and cold; light and darkness; poverty and wealth. Due to these two opposite things, the world is balanced. Likewise, the word 'smart' has also got two opposite outcomes. However, people are

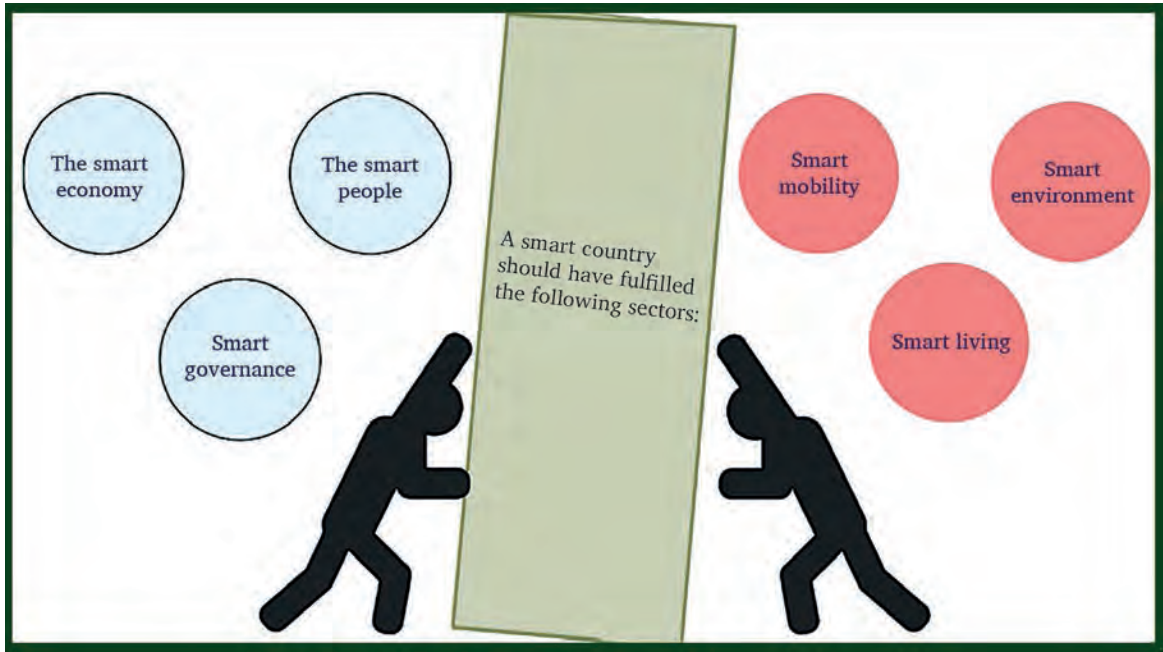
assuming and using the word 'smart' as a positive outlook.

Then, one can guess a usage 'Smart Country'. Could it be present in society? The answer is 'Yes'. When we look for the nature of a smart country as a positive example we will find it queer and confusing for the ordinary class. When we search for the answer to the question "What is the meaning of Smart Nation? We will find it as *"A Smart Nation means people and businesses are empowered through increased access to data, more participatory through the contribution of innovative ideas and solutions, and a more anticipatory government that utilizes technology to better serve citizens' needs."*

It says the potential of digitization has not yet been sufficiently exploited, and rural and structurally weak regions, in particular, are digitally dependent. In addition to the basic principles, such as universal access to fast Internet and digital skills

in all population groups, there is a lack of positive examples. One finding of the work for the Reinhard Mohn Prize (a prize in Germany) is that concrete, digital applications from people's everyday lives, including workplace applications, serve as inspiration for positive change. They are often the reason that communities themselves decide to become active.

Moreover, it consists of digital sovereignty that includes older population groups. The central question is how participation can be made possible and ensured without leaving large sections of the population behind. The digital development of rural areas and structurally weak regions carries the risk that the parts of the population that do not yet use the Internet will continue to be left behind. This is particularly the case for older population groups. In the project, it is highlighted this important aspect by working out how the digital sovereignty of older people can be



strengthened. How can a digital assistance infrastructure be designed that allows all citizens to participate in the possibilities of digital development? Which places would be suitable for this and how can committed citizens get involved?

A smart country should

have fulfilled the following sectors:

The smart economy (Competitiveness) includes Innovative spirit Entrepreneurship, Economic image, and trademarks, Productivity Flexibility of the labour market, International embeddedness, Ability to

transform, etc.

The smart people (Social and Human Capital) include Level of qualification, Affinity to lifelong learning, Social and ethnic plurality, Flexibility, Creativity, Cosmopolitanism or Open-mindedness Participation in public life, etc.

Smart governance (Participation) includes Participation in decision-making, Public and social services, Transparent governance, Political strategies & perspectives, etc.

Smart mobility (Transport and ICT) includes Local accessibility, International accessibility, Availability of ICT infrastructure, Sustainable, innovative, and safe transport systems, etc.

Smart environment (Natural resources) includes Attractivity of natural conditions, Pollution, Environmental protection, sustainable resource management, etc.

Smart living (Quality of life) includes Cultural facilities, Health conditions, Individual safety, Housing quality, Education facilities, Touristic attractivity, Social cohesion, etc.

The sectors mentioned above are the ones just I have learned within my reach. All of us can guess how flourished, peaceful, and prosperous a country is with these characteristics. We cannot estimate the amount of happiness of its citizens. It can be figurative as a celestial abode from six levels of heaven. Here, I remember the words of my intimate friend who lives abroad. He and I have been friends since we were at the university. He left Myanmar

45 years ago and settled life with his family in an Asian country. He often came back to Myanmar and sometimes we happen to meet each other.

Once he said, in his country, those who become the age of 65 are made free of charge wherever they go with bus transportation in his country. All the citizens of his country have got free medical checkups and medical care. I was surprised to hear it. But I recalled the days in which my dad was hospitalized in my little town in Ayeyawady Region 50 years ago. I have seen there all the patients were being shared their lunch and dinner by the hospital daily.

Nevertheless, according to my statement mentioned in the earlier paragraphs, our citizens will sure long for the opportunities of those who are in the smart countries in the world. If so, it is also essential we have to try hard to raise the standard of living and productivity of our nation. It is also needed in the endeavour not to lose our human resources and utilize them beneficially. To summarize my account, there is a well-known saying viz. "Give and Take Culture". It means if one wants something, one must give something in return.

WHO to assess if monkeypox an international health emergency



Health workers screen passengers arriving from abroad for Monkeypox symptoms at Anna International Airport terminal in Chennai on 3 June 2022. PHOTO: ARUN SANKAR / AFP

THE World Health Organization said Tuesday it would hold an emergency meeting next week to determine whether to classify the global monkeypox outbreak as a public health emergency of international concern.

The UN agency is also working to change the name of the disease, which was long confined to Western and Central Africa until more than 1,000 cases were detected in dozens of countries across the world over the last two months.

"The outbreak of monkeypox is unusual and concerning," World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told journalists.

"For that reason I have decided to convene the Emergency Committee under the international health regulations next week, to assess whether this outbreak represents a public health emer-

gency of international concern".

The emergency committee will meet on June 23 to discuss the designation, which is the highest alarm the UN agency can sound.

New name

Tedros added that the "WHO is also working with partners and experts from around the world on changing the name of monkeypox virus... and the disease it causes."

"We will make announcements about the new names as soon as possible."

The announcement comes after more than 30 scientists wrote last week that there was an "urgent need for a non-discriminatory and non-stigmatizing nomenclature for monkeypox".

"In the context of the current global outbreak, continued reference to, and nomenclature of this virus being African is not only inaccurate but is also discriminatory

and stigmatizing," they wrote.

While monkeypox was first discovered in macaques, many cases are believed to be transmitted to humans by rodents.

The normal initial symptoms of monkeypox include a high fever, swollen lymph nodes and a blistery chickenpox-like rash.

However, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said last week that current cases do not always present flu-like symptoms, and rashes are sometimes limited to certain areas.

Tedros said that 1,600 confirmed monkeypox cases and 1,500 suspected cases have been reported to the WHO this year from 39 countries, 32 of which have been recently hit by the virus. While 72 deaths have been reported in countries where monkeypox was already endemic, none have been seen in the newly affected countries, Tedros said.

"Although WHO is seeking to verify news reports from Brazil of a monkeypox-related death there," he added.

No mass vaccination

To fight the global spread, the WHO aims to recommend "tried-and-tested public health tools including surveillance, contact-tracing and isolation of infected patients".

However, the WHO does not recommend mass vaccination against monkeypox, he said, after the European Union said Tuesday it had purchased almost 110,000 vaccine doses.

"While smallpox vaccines are expected to provide some protection against monkeypox, there is limited clinical data, and limited supply," Tedros told journalists.

"Any decision about whether to use vaccines should be made jointly by individuals who may be

at risk and their health care provider, based on an assessment of risks and benefits, on a case-by-case basis."

Rosamund Lewis, WHO's technical lead for monkeypox, told journalists that there are a few smallpox vaccines that may be protective against monkeypox.

But "much of the data that we have is from years gone by, and/or from clinical studies — there is not a lot of clinical data," she said.

She called on countries that are vaccinating to share their research and pointed to a set of interim guidance documents released by the WHO.

Tedros also emphasised that vaccines must be "available equitably wherever needed," adding that the WHO is working with its member states "to develop a mechanism for fair access to vaccines and treatments".

SOURCE: AFP

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Primary needs of the State are allowed to be imported: SAC Information Team

REGARDING the delay in import permits, Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, SAC Information Team Leader, said the imports of essential goods for the State are allowed, at the 16th press conference of the SAC Information Team.

Importations via sea, air, and land are allowed and licences are issued immediately after the approval from the Foreign Exchange Oversight Committee.

“We are systematically monitoring the use of the foreign currency where it is needed by the State to prevent it from being used unnecessarily,” he said.

“Imports of goods such as luxury goods that are not essential for the country are being



The Information Team Leader is pictured responding to the query of one reporter at the 16th press conference.

restricted. We are working to facilitate trade and commerce with the money allowed by the Central Bank,” he added. In addition, the import of individual

car permits is restricted, and priority is given to the import of industrial raw materials, raw food, and agricultural and livestock equipment.—TWA/GNLM

School textbooks have been printed adequately and school extensions are to be continued, SAC Information Team Leader says

AN adequate number of school textbooks are printed and the school extensions will be continued, said Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, Leader of the State Administration Council’s Information Team, at the 16th press conference.

When the new education system was introduced, overcrowding and an insufficient number of teacher problems have arisen. He said there are displaced children due to terrorist organizations and the ministry is making effort to address the shortage of teachers and classrooms.

He also requested to be pa-

tient and that the government tried to reopen the school for the good of all.

In addition, he ensured that plans are underway to distribute about ten per cent more of free textbooks and all students will be provided with them. Although there were only 580,000 students enrolled in Yangon Region last year, more than 930,000 students have enrolled this year. Plans are underway to recruit more teachers as the number of classes increases, said an official of the Ministry of Education at the press conference. — TWA/GNLM

364 migrant workers sent to Thailand under MoU



Employment agencies welcome the MoU migrant workers on the Myanmar-Thai border.

A total of 364 Myanmar migrant workers were sent to Thailand via the Myawady-Mae Sot Friendship Bridge (2) under MoU on 15 June, according to the Myanmar Labour Attaché Office in Thailand.

Of 364 workers, 154 were sent by the Train Win Overseas Employment Agency while 40 by the Win Phyo Aung Agency and 170 by the Pioneer Agency.

Migrant workers were sent to Thailand starting in May under an MoU system and there are about 3,000 workers to date.

These Myanmar migrant workers sent on 15 June will

work at construction sites, aluminium factories, Warasiri Concrete factory, Green Isoprene rubber industry, iron bar production of Chaiyapopornkrapapa Co Ltd, finished rubber production of SHL Parawood Co Ltd, rubber tapping operation of Sri Trang Rubber & Plantation Co., Ltd and refinery of piles of Kopatch Steel Trade Co Ltd.

On 14 June, a total of 128 migrant workers — 34 re-entry workers, 21 new construction workers and 73 new agricultural workers were sent to Korea under the MoU system. —TWA/GNLM

Myanmar exports over 1 mln tonnes of rice and broken rice in January-May

MYANMAR exported over one million tonnes of rice and broken rice between January and May, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

In May, the country exported over 94,000 tonnes of rice to 16 countries and over 58,000 tonnes of broken rice to nine countries.

Myanmar earned \$687.2 million from rice and broken rice export in 2021 and carried out measures to receive more foreign income in 2022.

African countries purchase

the rice and broken rice mostly from Myanmar, and Myanmar also exports them to China, the Philippines, Belgium, Poland, the Netherlands and Italy.

In April, 35 rice companies exported over 250,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice to 30 countries.

The country exported over 250,000 metric tons of rice and broken rice – 144,034 tonnes of rice and 106,912 tonnes of broken rice — in April.

The country exported over 34,000 tonnes of rice to Cam-

eroon while 23,187 tonnes to China, 15,000 tonnes to Angola, 11,650 tonnes to the Philippines, 11,125 tonnes to Poland and over 48,972 tonnes to other 17 countries.

Moreover, it exported 32,904 tonnes of broken rice to Belgium, 30,754 tonnes to China, 25,000 tonnes to Spain, 13,900 tonnes to the Netherlands, 30,000 tonnes to Poland and over 1,354 tonnes to the other three countries, according to the MRF data. — TWA/GNLM



Export rice is loaded onto the overseas-going cargo vessel.

MoEA holds monsoon tree-growing and fingerling-adding ceremony

A monsoon tree-growing and fingerling-adding ceremony 2022 was held in the compound of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs at 10 am on 16 June.

First, Union Minister U Saw Tun Aung Myint, Deputy Minister U Zaw Aye Maung, the permanent secretary, the directors-general, the deputy directors-general and officials planted fish hatchlings in the ministry's lake. Then, the Union minister and the deputy minister grew Ceylon ironwood saplings as the memorial of the monsoon

tree-growing ceremony 2022 and the permanent secretary, the directors-general, the deputy directors-general, officials and staff planted saplings in the set places.

After that, the Union minister, the deputy minister and the directors-general viewed the cultivation of saplings by staff members, and the fertilizing, weeding and watering of over 72 per cent of the perennial trees that were planted in the last monsoon season.

The Ministry of Ethnic Affairs have planted Ceylon



The MoEA Union minister, the deputy minister and officials are seen adding fingerlings to the ministry's lake.

ironwood saplings, Spanish cherry saplings, teak saplings, Xylia xylocarpa saplings, Myanmar Padauk saplings, Bauhinia acuminata saplings and wind-break Manjansha plants, totalling 180 saplings and 7,000 fish fingerlings during this first ceremony. — MNA



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 pre-

vention, control and treatment activities through border trade posts, international airports and seaports.

A total of 10.81 tonnes of masks were imported by a company and two vehicles through the Chinshwehaw Border Trade Camp yesterday. Officials from relevant de-

partments 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

Imported anti-Covid medical supplies in Chinshwehaw.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, and consumer goods seized

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

Under the instructions of the Chairman of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force, a combined inspection team made inspections at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Checkpoint on 15 June.

They seized K1,195,000 worth of foodstuffs and consumer goods without official documents from a passenger bus and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, 200 cartons of Yogurt brand juice at an estimated value of K3 million were captured at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint in Mon State and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 16 June, inspections were carried out under the supervision of the Bago Region Anti-Illegal



Seized goods in Kayin State.

Trade Task Force.

A total of 6.0410 tonnes of illegal timbers (approximately K2,348,410) were seized in Bago and Toungoo Districts and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, the combined team led by the General Administration Department under the management of the Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force conducted in-

spections in Sagaing township.

They confiscated foodstuffs without payments for Customs duties at an estimated value of K71,859,000 and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law. Therefore, 10 arrests (approximately K78,402,410) were made on two consecutive days from 15 June to 16 June, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — 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.

ECONOMY
WORLD

WTO deals still within sight after
all-night arm-twisting

COUNTRIES were still negotiating on deadline day Thursday after frantically haggling through the night at the WTO in a bid to salvage deals on food security, fishing and combatting Covid-19. Ministers were trading concessions with just hours to go before the scheduled closing ceremony at the World Trade Organization's first conference in nearly five years.

The global trade body's 164 members added on an extra fifth day of talks to try to break the deadlock at the WTO headquar-

ters in Geneva -- and emerge with deals that would prove the organisation still has a role to play in tackling big global challenges. But despite relaxing their original Wednesday deadline, countries were trading concessions right through past dawn to cobble together a wide-ranging set of results. "The negotiations have been going on all night and they are still going on. And we are still optimistic that we can have some really positive outcomes," New Zealand's trade minister Damien O'Connor told AFP.

"There is a lot of commitment to try and move things forward and it's encouraging. "We have seen a huge amount of flexibility from all parties, in a spirit of cooperation. Of course, there'll be some issues that are hard to resolve. Ministers have been trying to secure deals on curbing harmful fishing subsidies; a temporary waiver on Covid-19 vaccine patents; food security; agriculture; e-commerce; the WTO's response to pandemics; and reform of the organization itself.— AFP



The WTO tried to net a long-sought deal on curbing harmful fishing subsidies by promising Tuesday (14 June) an implementation fund it hopes will reel in wavering developing countries. Fishermen unload boxes filled with freshly caught fish from the Den Hoope trawler boat at the Port of Ostend, on 20 October 2020. PHOTO: JOHN THYS / AFP/ FILE

Indonesian president replaces trade
minister over cooking oil crisis



This picture shows an employee monitoring harvested palm oil fruits at a factory in Medan. PHOTO: AFP / ATAR

INDONESIAN President Joko Widodo replaced his trade minister Wednesday over a cooking oil crisis that has roiled global markets, saying "the people need someone experienced".

Despite being the world's biggest palm oil producer, Indonesia has been dealing with domestic shortages and sharp price increases for months as the Ukraine war chokes global

supplies. In April, the government imposed a now-lifted palm oil export ban, further stunning global markets after Russia invaded its neighbour. On Wednesday Widodo removed Muhammad Lutfi from his post in a cabinet shake-up, naming Zulkifli Hasan, who sits in the ruling coalition, as his successor. "He (Hasan) will be good as the trade minister. Right now for food problems, the people need someone experienced, someone who goes to work on the ground directly," Widodo told reporters. The new minister said his first priority would be to "immediately" fix the cooking oil crisis plaguing Indonesia's 270 million people, many of whom rely on the commodity for food and business.— AFP

NEWS IN Brief

US central bank ponders huge rate hike to
combat price surge

THE US Federal Reserve is poised to raise borrowing costs Wednesday amid the troubling acceleration of inflation, with the only question being whether officials will opt for the biggest hike in nearly three decades or a smaller step up. The central bank seemed set to increase the benchmark interest rate again by 0.5 percentage points, but a resurgence of consumer and producer prices in May has fueled growing speculation of a 75-basis-point hike.—AFP

Oil demand to return to pre-COVID level in
2023 - IEA

GLOBAL oil demand will return to pre-pandemic levels next year as China's consumption recovers from COVID lockdowns, the International Energy Agency said on Wednesday. Soaring oil prices and weaker economic growth will temper the growth of demand in the second half of this year, the Paris-based agency said. But "resurgent Chinese oil consumption will more than compensate for a slowdown" in oil demand among the 38-nation Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development that gathers mostly developed countries, the IEA said.—AFP

Germany races to stockpile gas before winter

GERMANY'S race to wean itself off Russian energy and stockpile enough gas before winter is playing out largely hidden from view, some 1,600 metres (one mile) below ground in the foothills of the Bavarian Alps. Surrounded by rolling farmland near the banks of the river Inn, the former Bierwang natural gas field in Unterreit serves as one of Germany's largest underground gas storage facilities. Run by German operator

Uniper, Bierwang can hold more than 800 million cubic metres of gas — enough to power the nearby city of Munich for eight months. Like other storage sites, Bierwang replenishes its stocks between winters, to keep homes heated and Germany's energy-hungry industry humming during the cold months when demand is highest. But this year, the stakes are higher than ever. With the war in Ukraine raging and Moscow

increasingly seen as an unreliable supplier, governments across Europe are scrambling to store supplies before Moscow decides to reduce the flow of gas, or close the taps altogether. "The security of supply this winter will depend on two factors: how full the storage facilities are and how much new gas keeps arriving" from abroad, said Sebastian Herold, a professor of energy economics at the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences.— AFP



An employee of Uniper Energy Storage inspects the above-ground facilities of a natural gas storage facility at the Uniper Energy Storage facility in Bierwang, southern Germany on 10 June 2022. PHOTO: AFP

Disney to fly guests round all 12 parks for \$110,000



Visitors and members of the media walk in Hong Kong’s Disneyland on 18 June 2020, after the theme park officially reopened following nearly five months of closure in a fresh boost for a city that has largely managed to defeat the COVID-19 coronavirus. **PHOTO: ANTHONY WALLACE / AFP/FILE**

NOT sure which Disney resort to visit next summer? Disney chiefs have a solution for its most obsessive — and deep-pocketed — fans, offering a round-

the-world package trip to all 12 parks, starting at a hefty \$110,000 per person. “Disney Parks Around The World — A Private Jet Adventure” will fly 75 mega-fans around the world

in July 2023, with VIP visits to Disney resorts in California, Tokyo, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Paris and Florida. Across 24 days, there will also be stops at coun-

tries which do not have Disney parks, including tours of the Taj Mahal in Agra, India and Egypt’s Pyramids of Giza. According to its brochure, the “bucket list adventure” also includes a “rare opportunity to be a guest at Summit Skywalker Ranch”, founded by “Star Wars” creator George Lucas outside San Francisco. “You’ll travel in luxury via a VIP-configured Boeing 757, operated by Icelandair, with long-range capabilities that allows for direct flights to maximize your time in each destination,” it says. Guests will be joined on board by “experts and staff, who use an audiovisual system for informative briefings and lectures,” while Disney “leaders” and “Imagineers” will be on hand at various points.—AFP

Oil giant BP buys into \$36 bn Australian renewables project

FOSSIL fuel giant BP revealed Wednesday it was taking a 40.5 per cent stake in an Australian energy project being billed as one of the world’s largest renewable power stations. BP said it would operate the \$36 billion “Asian Renewable Energy Hub”, an array of solar and wind facilities sprawled over 6,500 square kilometres (2,509 square miles) of Australia’s sparsely populated west coast. The project is expected to have a generating capacity of 26 gigawatts, exceeding China’s vast Three Gorges hydroelectric dam — which is by some meas-

ures the world’s largest existing power station. It would also produce 1.6 million tonnes of green hydrogen each year, with plans to export much of this to major Asia-Pacific markets such as Japan and South Korea. The hub was first proposed in 2014 as a large-scale wind and solar renewable energy project, and has been slowly going through the process of site surveys and approvals ever since. The arrival of a major player like BP — and the election of a new pro-renewables Australian government — is likely to give the project a shot in the arm. —AFP



White Cliffs Solar Power Station was Australia’s first solar power station. It is located at White Cliffs, New South Wales. **PHOTO: TWITTER/AFP**

European natural gas prices jump on long Texas plant outage

EUROPEAN gas prices surged Tuesday after a key natural gas export terminal in Texas said a full restart was months away following a fire this month that shuttered the facility. Freeport LNG, which experienced a fire and ex-

plosion last week, said a partial resumption of activities was targeted for 90 days, but “a return to full plant operations is not expected until late 2022”. The company had previously signaled the plant would resume activi-

ties in three weeks. There were no injuries from the 8 June incident. Europe’s reference natural gas price, Dutch TTF, topped 100 euros per megawatt/hour for the first time in nearly three weeks and was up 13.1 per

cent at 99.295 euros near 1630 GMT. By contrast, US natural gas prices tumbled 18.5 per cent on a glut of supply that will no longer be processed into liquefied natural gas (LNG) and exported.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0266-721N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0266-721N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-6-2022** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (236N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AEGEAN EXPRESS VOY.NO. (236N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-6-2022** 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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3211S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3211S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-6-2022** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

GLOBAL
AFFAIRSXi, Putin agree to work together
to counter US-led global order

12 June marks Russia Day: a national holiday that sees Muscovites flock to festivities and firework shows across the city. Tens of people join together to hold a rendition of the Soviet Victory Banner in Moscow. **PHOTO: ALEXANDER AVILOV / MOSKVA NEWS AGENCY/KYODO**

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin have agreed to work together to counter the international order dominated by the United States and democrat-

ic European nations, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

During his telephone talks with Putin, Xi said Beijing and Moscow should join hands to promote the development of a

“fair and just” international order, according to the Chinese ministry.

Amid Russia’s prolonged invasion of Ukraine, Xi was also quoted by the ministry as telling Putin that Beijing is willing to continue supporting Moscow so that Russia can safeguard its core interests, such as sovereignty and security.

Since Russia launched a major attack on Ukraine on 24 Feb, China has shied away from criticizing Moscow while opposing punitive sanctions on the nation imposed by the United States and European countries. In their first phone talks since 25 Feb, Putin told Xi that Russia opposes any attempts by foreign powers to interfere in China’s internal affairs, including Taiwan, Hong Kong and Xinjiang, the ministry said.—Kyodo

Thailand takes
step towards same-
sex marriage with
Parliament vote

THAILAND took a step towards marriage equality on Wednesday as lawmakers gave initial approval to legalising same-sex unions, prompting celebrations outside the Parliament building. It is a significant landmark in a Buddhist-majority country with a highly visible LGBTQ community but whose members still face major barriers and discrimination.

The lower House approved two bills that would allow same-sex marriages and also two others that would permit civil partnerships.

A committee of lawmakers will now scrutinise the bills in detail and consolidate them into two proposals, to give MPs a choice between backing civil

partnerships and full same-sex marriage.

The legislation must clear several more hurdles before becoming law, but after today’s vote a small but enthusiastic group of activists celebrated noisily outside Parliament, weeping, hugging and waving rainbow flags.

“I am very happy and glad, it is a good sign in Pride month that there are MPs who want equality and vote for the bills,” LGBTQ activist Nada Chaiyagit said. “But there is a long way to go.” Demands for marriage equality were a theme at Bangkok’s Pride parade earlier this month – the Thai capital’s first such event in nearly 16 years.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia says destroyed NATO arms depot in western Ukraine

RUSSIA said Wednesday its forces destroyed a depot containing NATO-supplied arms in western Ukraine as President Volodymyr Zelensky urged Western allies to speed up arms deliveries to his country.

“Near the town of Zolochiv in Lviv region, high-precision long-range Kalibr missiles destroyed an ammunition depot of foreign weapons transferred to Ukraine by NATO countries, including 155-mm M777 howitzers,” the defence ministry said in a statement.

Ukraine said on Tuesday it had received just 10 per cent of the weapons it requested from the West to deter Russia’s military intervention.

Russian forces are currently concentrating their firepower on the strategically important industrial hub of Severodonetsk as part of efforts to capture a swathe of eastern Ukraine.

Earlier on Wednesday, Russia’s former president Dmitry Medvedev suggested that Ukraine may not exist in two years.



Launch of the cruise missile “Kalibr” from the frigate of the Black Sea Fleet. **PHOTO: RUSSIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY / TASS/AFP**

“I saw a report that Ukraine wants to receive LNG (liquefied

natural gas) under a lend-lease agreement from its overseas

masters with payment for delivery in two years,” Medvedev, who is now deputy head of the Security Council, wrote on Telegram.

“And who said that in two years Ukraine will even exist on the world map?” said the close ally of President Vladimir Putin.

The Ukrainian president has appealed for heavy weapons from the West, criticizing the “restrained behaviour” of some European leaders which he said had “slowed down arms supplies very much”.—AFP

Kyiv recovers Azovstal fighters’ bodies
in swap with Moscow

KYIV said Tuesday it had received the bodies of 64 soldiers who died defending Mariupol’s steelworks in an exchange with Moscow that saw Ukraine returning the remains of Russian troops.

“Ukraine has recovered the bodies of 64 heroic Azovstal defenders for their dignified buri-

al,” the Ukrainian reintegration ministry, which is responsible for the territory under Russia’s control, said in a statement.

Azovstal, the last point of resistance in the southern port city of Mariupol, was captured by Russia at the end of May after a months-long operation.

The ministry said the swap

took place in the Zaporizhzhia region but did not say exactly when, nor did it specify how many Russian soldiers’ bodies had been returned. The exchange came after two previous swaps between Kyiv and Moscow involving 210 dead Ukrainian soldiers that were made public earlier this month.—AFP

Ukraine grain reaches
Spain via Baltic Sea

A Ukrainian grain shipment arrived in Spain on Monday after being shipped via the Baltic Sea to circumvent Russia’s blockade, imposed following the outbreak of war, a Spanish association said.

The Finnish-flagged cargo ship, the Alppila, carrying 18,000 tonnes of grain for animal feed docked at A Coruna port

in northwestern Spain early on Monday, the Agafac food manufacturers association said.

It said it was the first time such a route had been used for Ukrainian grain. Agafac, which had placed the order, said the grain had been transported by lorry to the northwestern Polish port of Swinoujscie on the shores of the Baltic Sea.—AFP

Japan passes bill to prevent exploitation of young people in porn

A bill to prevent young people from being exploited in pornographic productions was passed into law Wednesday, marking a step in efforts to end abuses of those involved in the industry in Japan.

Although the bill targets people who appear in porn regardless of age or gender, it was proposed by a bipartisan group of lawmakers after Japan lowered the age of adulthood in April, making it no longer possible for 18- and 19-year-olds to cancel contracts to which they have agreed.

The bill, which will mostly go into effect a day after its promulgation, allows people who agree to appear in pornographic content to terminate their contracts at any time before the film's public release without conditions, as

well as up to a year afterwards. However, as a special measure, a review period of up to two years after a film's release will apply for the first two years after the law's promulgation.

If the contract is terminated, video vendors are obliged to recover the products and delete the footage, and cannot claim compensation from the performers.

The bill, passed at a House of Councillors plenary session, also mandates that a month must pass between the signing of a contract and the filming of the video, and four months between the filming of the video and its public release. This gives enough time for those who appear in them to reconsider whether they still want to make the film and release it.

Producers must additionally



The House of Councillors passes a bill to prevent young people from being exploited in pornographic productions during a plenary session in Tokyo on 15 June 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

provide a written explanation to performers describing the nature of the content, including specific sexual acts required during film-

ing, and the fact that they may be identifiable. False representations or acts of intimidation will be punishable by a prison term

of up to three years or a fine of up to 3 million yen (\$22,000) for an individual, or 100 million yen for a corporation.—Kyodo

Hariri killers to be sentenced as end looms for Lebanon court

A UN-backed court for Lebanon will sentence two Hezbollah members in their absence Thursday for the 2005 assassination of former premier Rafic

Hariri in what could be the cash-strapped tribunal's final act.

The Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL), which is based in the Netherlands, found Ha-

bib Merhi and Hussein Oneissi guilty on appeal in March over a huge bombing which killed Hariri and 21 others and injured 226.

But they are unlikely to ever spend time behind bars as the Lebanese Shiite Muslim movement Hezbollah has refused to hand over the pair or a third man, Salim Ayyash, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in 2020.

Meanwhile the STL, which is estimated to have cost between \$600 million and \$1 billion since it opened in 2009, has warned it will close imminently due to a shortage of funds.

The court said in a statement that it will announce the sentences for Merhi and Oneissi at 2 pm (1200 GMT) on Thursday.—AFP



Hariri, who had stepped down as Lebanon's prime minister in October 2004, was killed less than six months later in a suicide blast. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan, Australia vow to deepen defence cooperation in Indo-Pacific

THE defence chiefs of Japan and Australia pledged Wednesday to step up their cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, where China has been increasing its influence, both militarily and economically.

Defence Minister Nobuo

Kishi and his Australian counterpart Richard Marles told reporters in Tokyo that the two nations confirmed plans to enhance training designed to increase interoperability between their defence forces. Kishi said

the two also agreed to strongly object to any attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force in the East and South China seas — a veiled reference to Beijing's maritime assertiveness there.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Small gunmakers boom as US demand soars

TONY Hook flipped through cell phone pictures of finished work by his New Hampshire shop, explaining how one customer wanted mementoes of major life events: a gun to mark each of his children's births.

Smaller gunmakers like him are booming in the United States (US), thanks to ravenous and sometimes specialized demand for pricey limited-production pistols and custom rifles, engraved with bible passages or the American flag.

"He had us build a gun for every newborn he had," explained Hook, the owner of RTD Arms & Sport. "So this is his son's name and his date of birth," he said, showing the engraving on a rifle.

The millions of guns produced annually in the US are primarily made by the nation's biggest manufacturers, yet smaller operators have poured into a market that saw production nearly triple from 2000 to 2020.—AFP

South Korean truckers end week-long strike over wages, fuel costs

SOUTH Korean truck drivers will return to work on Wednesday after reaching an agreement with Seoul to end an eight-day protest over wages and fuel costs that had snarled global supply chains.

The truckers' industrial action had disrupted production and shipments for the crucial steel, petrochemical and automobile sectors, in an early test for new President Yoon Suk-yeol who has vowed to deal with labour disputes "strictly".

The Cargo Truckers Solidarity Union reached an agreement with the Transport Ministry late yesterday and truckers will return to work from today, the ministry said in a statement.

The ministry said is "relieved" that the union decided to end their strike, adding "we are very sorry for causing concern for the people due to disruptions in logistics and production".

The truckers called the strike to protest over sharp rises in fuel prices - with inflation at its highest level in more than a decade - and the ending of a minimum wage guarantee.— AFP



AFC Fitness Level 1-A Coaching Certificate Course concluded

THE concluding ceremony of AFC Fitness - Level 1-A Coaching Certificate Course 2022 jointly organized by the Asian Football Confederation and Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) was held on 15 June.

Technical Director of the Myanmar Football Federation U Tin Myint Aung, Trainer from the Asian Football Confederation Gholamreza Jahani Ghaeh

Ghashlagh, officials and trainees from the Myanmar Football Federation attended the ceremony.

Technical Director U Tin Myint Aung gave the opening remarks at the end of the training while AFC trainer Gholamreza Jahani Ghaeh Ghashlagh gave keynote speeches.

A trainee thanks on behalf of the trainees after receiving the graduation certificates.

Next, officials from the Myanmar Football Federation and trainees presented a souvenir to Mr Gholamreza Jahani Ghaeh Ghashlagh.

The ceremony ended with a group photo being taken. AFC Fitness - Level 1 A Coaching Certificate Course 2022 was conducted from 11 to 15 June with 11 trainees attending it. — GNLM



Goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne celebrates Australia's victory in Doha.
PHOTO: AFP

Australian hero keeper says water-bottle act was 'kill or be killed'

AUSTRALIAN goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne says it was "kill or be killed" after video emerged of him tossing away a bottle of his Peruvian opposite number during the penalty shootout win that sent the Socceroos to the World Cup. The 33-year-old Redmayne became an Internet sensation after dancing his way along the goal line as Peru's players prepared to take their penalty kicks in an attempt to put them off. He was lauded as a national hero in Australia with his save of Alex Valera's spot-kick that gave the Socceroos a 5-4 win on penalties on Tuesday in Doha and a place at a fifth straight World Cup.—AFP

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

US Open begins with Rahm, McIlroy set for early charge

DEFENDING champion Jon Rahm and four-time major winner Rory McIlroy were poised for early charges as the 122nd US Open began Thursday with the PGA Tour-LIV Golf divide a major sub-plot.

Rebels from the Saudi-backed upstart LIV Golf Series and stars of the established US PGA Tour were both in the field of 156 at The Country Club.

The US Golf Association chose not to follow a PGA Tour ban of 17 golfers who played in last week's LIV Golf debut in England, staying faithful to this year's US Open qualifying standards.

LIV Golf offers the largest purses in the sport's history at \$25 million per regular-season event, \$7.5 million more than this week's US Open prize money total.—AFP

Man City to launch Premier League title defence at West Ham

MANCHESTER City will begin the defence of their Premier League title at West Ham while Liverpool travel to Fulham on the opening weekend of the season.

The 2022/23 fixtures, published on Thursday, give new Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag an opening test at Old Trafford against Brighton, who have a home record of 4-0 last month.

Nottingham Forest's first match in the top

flight for 23 years will be at Newcastle. Pep Guardiola's City will start their bid for a fifth title in six seasons at the London Stadium on Sunday, 7 August, after all their rivals have begun their campaigns. Frank Lampard, whose Everton side narrowly escaped relegation, comes up against his former employers Chelsea on the previous evening.

For the second season running Arsenal have

the honour of kicking-off the new campaign with a short trip to Crystal Palace on Friday, 5 August. Liverpool and City renew their rivalry at Anfield in mid-October, after a midweek Champions League tie, with the return fixture

scheduled for the start of April.

Reds boss Jurgen Klopp is unlikely to be impressed with their fixture allocation in conjunction with their European commitments. Their three away matches following Champions League group games are against Chelsea, Arsenal and Tottenham.—AFP



Manchester City celebrate winning the 2021/2022 Premier League title. PHOTO: AFP/FILE