

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.

State Peace Talks Team, DKBA delegation hold meeting



The discussion between the government Peace Talks Team and the DKBA delegation is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 June 2022.

A MEETING between the Peace Talks Team of the State and the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DKBA delegation was held at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay

Pyi Taw yesterday morning. The meeting was attended by Member of the State Administration Council Union Minister at the Union Government Office (1) Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peace-

making Negotiation Committee Leader of the Peace Talks Team Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, SAC Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Secretary of the committee Lt-Gen Min Naung, DKBA Commander-in-Chief

Saw Steel, Member Saw Sein Win, and Member Saw Kyaw Than Htay. During the meeting, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, leader of the Peace Talks Team, and Saw Steel, Commander-in-Chief of

the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army-DKBA, delivered greeting speeches. They discussed the peace and development issues. The second day of the talks will be held on 21 June. — MNA

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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

Civil Servants Housing, Public Housing developed in Yangon Region (1)

By Kayan Soe Myint

YANGON, the commercial hub of Myanmar, is located on the 3,967.86 square miles in area. It is home to a 7,875,075 urban population. The directorate of the Department of Urban and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction was opened in Yangon on 4 May 2015 and the department is developing civil servants' housing and low-cost and affordable public housing units to meet housing demands in urban areas.

The department constructed Myananda Housing for in-service civil staff in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township with 14 five-storey buildings having 476 apartments, with an aim to fulfil the needs of the civil staff including the accommodation in order to stop corruption and boost the morale of the government personnel. Those civil servants from 56 departments in Yangon Region are entitled to rent the housing. The government allocated K10.2 billion for housing between the 2018-2019 financial year and 2019-2020FY.

Public Rental Housing

Maha Bandoola Public Rental Housing is located at the corner of Maha Bandoola Road and No.2 Highway in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. The housing includes 50 eight semi-detached buildings with five floors (1,200 apartments). Yangon Region government supervised the housing project with the fund of K20 billion allocated by the Union Government in the 2015-2016FY and apartment units are rented out. The Department of Urban and Housing Development takes the role of supervising the housing.



One of the Public Rental Housing projects in Yangon Region.

Public Rental Housing in Dagon Myothit (South) Township

Public Housing is being developed on 171 acres in Dagon Myothit (South) township, Yangon Region under Phase I, including 194 buildings and 3,104 apartments. The previous government, the Ministry of Construction and the Myanmar Developer Association discussed the matter to ease the COVID-19 impacts on the construction sector on 3 July 2020 and implemented a 10,000 units project of public rental housing in the three cities (Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay) to provide accommodation to the low-income people who are suffering from soaring rent prices in big cities and create job opportunities for residents in the construction sector. The project was carried out under the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan.

The master plan of the project targets 393 buildings (with 6,288 apartments) and 272 buildings (4,352 apartments). As

per Phase I, 194 buildings (3,104 apartments) are being constructed. Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF) and Myanmar Licensed Contractors Association (MLCA) are undertaking the project.

Affordable Kyansitmin Housing Scheme operated with a revolving fund

Low-cost housing, with 73 buildings with 2,372 apartments on 50 acres accessing government premises and services with township hall, general public hospital, township court and township police force, is considered as Kyansitmin Housing Project Phase I, whereas medium-cost housing is regarded as Kyansitmin Housing Project Phase II, covering 66 buildings with 632 apartments on 27 acres of land. The Affordable Kyansitmin Housing Project offers cheaper rates for the apartment units under the Union Budget and it is equipped with physical and social infrastructures.

Phase I was started in 2014 and completed in 2017. The apartment units were put up for sale with the housing loans of the Construction, Housing and Infrastructure Development Bank in 2018. Phase II began in 2017. Depending completion, the apartment units were sold to the public.

Shwelinpan Low-cost Housing Project

In order for the low-income people to own a house, a pilot project of the subsidized housing scheme was implemented in 2013 and K12 million worth a 468-square feet unit on the ground floor; K11.2 million worth unit on the first floor; K10.6 million-worth unit on the second floor and K9.8 million-worth unit on the third floor were sold.

Phase I of Shwelinpan low-cost housing includes 32 four-storey buildings with 768 apartments. The differences are six semi-detached houses with four floors in Phase I and eight

semi-detached houses with four floors in Phase II, totalling 496 apartments.

Phase III contains 21 four-storey buildings (six semi-detached houses) with 504 apartments. The committees are formed for three housing phases and it has a gated community. One religious building is also built in the compound. It is also used as the community centre.

Yuzana low-cost housing

Yuzana Low-cost Housing Phase I, II and III in the compound of Yuzana Garden City Housing Estate was developed by drawing up a master plan in 2015, along with the old low-cost apartments constructed by the Yuzana Company during the 1998-2008 period for 750 buildings with 11,540 apartments).

The newly constructed low-cost housings have six, eight and twelve semi-detached buildings with four floors. The number of units is registered at 864 in Phase I, 1,152 in Phase II and 1,456 in Phase III. Those low-cost housings are popular among the people. Consequently, Phase IV has been planned with 64 apartments.

As the Union Budget covers social infrastructures in the Yuzana Housing Project, the prices of housing units are fairer and it is created to be a fun living environment. YBS Bus terminal is also set up for public transport. It has other facilities and services such as City Mart, Supermarket, Hawker Centre, Mya Thida Park, restaurant and Yuzana market and the General Hospital (500-bed).



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.)

MoI presents awards to students who pass matric exam and stipends to offspring of ministry's staff

THE Ministry of Information held an award-giving ceremony for those who passed the matriculation examination of the 2021-2022 Academic Year and a stipend-awarding ceremony for the offspring of the ministry's staff for the 2022-2023 Academic Year yesterday.

The students opened the ceremonies by singing the song "Myanma School" and the Sein-Pwint-Pama-Lin-Latt-Par (shine like a diamond) video clip was played.

Then, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn said the youths are the leaders of the future. The ceremonies aim for outstanding young people who will take the responsibilities of the country in the future.

The youths should focus their mind on serving the interests of the country and the people and should not lose sight of their goals.

The government is prioritizing the education sector and strongly carrying out for that sector that plays a key role in building the modern democratic nation.

Then, the Union minister and



MoI Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn takes the documentary group photo at the event yesterday.

wife Daw Khin Swe Win, the deputy minister and wife Daw Win Yi, the permanent secretary and departmental officials provided educational assistance and stationeries to the representatives of relevant departments, and they presented outstanding awards to the students who gained distinc-

tions from one to six subjects in the matriculation examination for the 2021-2022 Academic Year.

The ministry provided K13,999,000 of educational assistance and K14,380,000 worth of 3,595 dozen books for 2,795 students. It also presented K11,150,000 to 102 students who

passed the exam.

At noon, the students and parents visited the MRTV Diamond Jubilee Museum in Tatkon.

First, Director-General U Ye Naing of MRTV greeted them and the tour group viewed the broadcasting programmes at the main building.

They then studied the machinery used for TV broadcasting, direct broadcast vehicles, scale models, documentary photos of newscasters, musical instruments, studios and gramophone record players and related equipment displayed at 40 booths in the museum. —MNA

Union Industry Minister inspects factories in Mandalay Region

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than inspected the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Inyaung) in Kyaukse, Mandalay Region on 19 June 2022.

First, the managing director and factory manager explained the business process and production of intravenous fluids and disposable syringes with needles. Then, the Union minister directed them to make business plans for each product and strictly adhere to the notifications and directives.

The Union minister said that Good Manufacturing Practices are a must in manufacturing pharmaceuticals which is es-

sential in healthcare services. The samples and quality assessment records must be systematically kept before and during the production stages. Next, he urged them to draw up production schedules to ensure the real-time production performance with the purchase order of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Labour. After that, he also instructed the officials concerned to conduct research and development work for the sustainable operations of the factories and encouraged the staff to improve learning in the workplace for professional devel-

opment. He closely observed the production stages of disposable syringes with needles later.

In the afternoon, the Union minister arrived at the Soap Factory (Yamethin) and the factory manager and officials concerned elaborated on the factory operation management. The Union minister instructed them to carry out market research on Shwe Wah soap and boost product quality. Finally, he asked them to make concerted efforts to keep the factory operational for the long term and inspected Shwe Wah branded soap bars and machines and equipment at the factory. —MNA



Union Industry Minister Dr Charlie Than inspects the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Inyaung) in Kyaukse on 19 June.

MoRAC Union Minister inspects Myanmar-Korea friendship school, attends meeting on history of Pyu Era and contiguous history of Myanmar

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko inspected the Myanmar-Korea friendship school in No (8) Ward of Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Region yesterday.

During the visit, the Union Minister talked about the conducting of cultural course, basic Abhidhamma courses and teacher training courses before the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2019.

He also stressed the need to reopen the training courses as the infection rate declines and conduct repair work on school buildings where necessary.

At noon, the Union Minister attended the discussion on the history of Pyu Era and contiguous



Union Minister U Ko Ko inspects the Myanmar-Korea friendship school in Hlinethaya Township.

ous history of Myanmar held at the National Museum (Yangon).

Firstly, member of Myanmar Historical commission U

Thein Hlaing reported on the Pyu era history (draft).

Then, the Union Minister said the purpose of the discussion is to make a documentary film by combining the work of experts, member of Myanmar Historical commission for each history and researches of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

Then, the officials discussed the history of Pyu era (draft) and the Department of Archaeology and National Museum reported on the final researches, lab tests of international labs and calculation of age.

The discussion will be held from 20 to 22 June. The additional facts will be revised in the discussions for second time.

— MNA

MoSWRR holds coordination meeting on immediate flood response



The coordination meeting on emergency response to floods is in progress.

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held a coordination meeting to respond quickly to possible floods due to weather conditions, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine said that preparation is important to disaster management. If well prepared, the damage can be reduced. According to the current river level situation, it is found to be close to the danger level in Myitkyina, Bhamo and Shwegu. The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology has also announced

that it may reach the danger level. Floods are likely to start during the rainy season this year due to floods in China, she said.

It is also necessary to pay attention to the risk of floods and subsequent risks. As there are already plans and previous experiences, it is necessary to follow the plans, she continued. She also stressed the need to notify the relevant region/state governments to prepare for floods and be ready for emergency response.

Deputy Minister U Aung Tun Khaing gave instructions to supervise the readiness of relief

supplies and to be more careful than usual. Heads of Department of the Region/State Emergency Management Center gave explanations by sector, and the Permanent Secretary gave supplementary reports.

Afterwards, the participants discussed and the Union minister and the deputy minister gave suggestions to facilitate the coordination.

Heavy rains in recent days in Shwegu, Bhamo, and Myitkyina caused river water to overflow. The river level is rising in the wards and villages in downstream areas, and a total of 1,180 people in these towns have been relocated to monasteries and offices of the ward administration offices. It is reported that the Kachin State Government and the Disaster Management Department are providing assistance where necessary.

— 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.

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

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

Social security clinics to expand nationwide

SOCIAL security clinics will be expanded across the country to make it easier for insured workers to access healthcare services, according to the Social Security Board, Ministry of Labour.

During the mini-budget year, a total of 246 inpatients and 380,850 outpatients received medical services offered by the Social Security Board. The clinics will be expanded near the places close to factories, workplaces, workers' dormitories, and residential areas where most workers live. Currently, three workers' hospitals, 96 social security clinics, 57 departmental clinics, one traditional medicine clinic, two mobile clinics, 24 Capitation Payment con-

tract clinics, and seven Fee for Service Payment contract clinics are opened in regions and states, including the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, to provide healthcare services to insured workers.

There are 33,868 workplaces covered by the social security benefits and 1,107,338 insured workers. The insured workers are entitled to receive free medical treatment for any illness, financial benefits for illness, maternity and death, access to healthcare for children under a year old of an insured woman, financial benefits for injuries, temporary/permanent disability and death in the workplace, financial benefits for the death of the insured worker, funeral, and his/her family. — TWA/GNLM



The Social Security Board of the Ministry of Labour opens a clinic in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township.

Palm oil prices decline outside Yangon



Palm oil is seen at one retail outlet (top). A vendor is frying snacks with palm oil.

THE palm oil price outside Yangon was K8,400 per viss last week and the price fetched about K7,200 per viss this week on 20 June, according to the purchasers.

As the prices drop, the people who run the food-frying business save their costs.

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association released the reference prices of palm oil at K5,815 per viss between 20 and 30 June.

The price was only K5,645 per viss between 13 and 19 June. The reference price in Yangon rose to K165 per viss within 10 days from 20 to 30 June.

The price was only K5,645 per viss between 6 and 12 June.

The palm oil export tax in Indonesia reduces to \$200 per tonne instead of \$375 per tonne by the end of July 2022.

The Indonesian government will collect the tax on palm oil at \$240 per tonne starting 1 August. For such news, the palm oil in Malaysia declined to 370 ringgit per tonne on 20 June, according to data.

Between 13 and 20 June, the crude palm oil price was different by about MYR800 in Malaysia.

On 13 June, the price was MYR5,810 per tonne and MYR4,996 per tonne on 20 June, according to data.

It is K420.55 per MYR. In the foreign oil market, the palm oil price was \$1,193 per tonne and declined to \$1,172.15 per tonne on 20 June. The price showed a decline of \$68.57 per tonne compared to the price on 17 June. One tonne of oil is equal to 620 visses.

The Yangon palm oil price was K2,785 per viss in 2021 and K1,585 per tonne on 20 June 2020.

Two oil vessels carrying 5,000 tonnes of oil each docked at Thilawa terminal on 10 and 13 June and one vessel carrying 4,300 tonnes of oil to Hteedan terminal on 17 June, according to merchants. — TWA/GNLM

Thai authorities hand over 155 convicted Myanmar workers



The transferred Myanmar migrants are seen on the Ranong-Kawthoung border.

THAI authorities handed over 155 Myanmar workers to Myanmar authorities on 17 June, said officials.

Those 155 detainees, arrested for various reasons in 14 southern provinces of Thailand, were handed over after being released from a prison in Ranong province.

Fifteen Myanmar migrant workers were repatriated to Myanmar via Ranong, Thailand, on the afternoon of 17 June, according to the Labour Attaché of Myanmar Embassy.

A total of 155 people, including 88 men, 52 women and 15 children, were deported from Ranong, Thailand, to Kawthoung, Myanmar.

"Officials in Thailand have handed over 155 repatriates to Myanmar authorities. The workers will undergo a five-day medical check-up at the Quarantine Center in Khamaukkyi and Pulontontone," said a volunteer.

Myanmar citizens include both migrant and non-migrant workers. It is reported that the authorities systematically handed over the workers, including those who had crossed the border illegally.

Thai authorities are cracking down on Myanmar migrants entering Thailand on various pretexts, and the largest number of migrant workers are being arrested for entering the country unofficially.

On 8 June, Thai authorities handed over 165 Myanmar workers convicted in Thailand. —TWA/GNLM

Traditional boat service in Taungthaman Lake marks busy weekends

TRADITIONAL boat service in Taungthaman Lake receives an increasing number of passengers at weekends and on Myanmar Sabbath days starting from early June, said U Soe Win, chair of the Taungthaman Boat Association.

The water level in Taungthaman Lake has risen along with the Ayeyawady River's rising water level. The growing number of passengers allowed boat operators to generate daily income, he added.

There are 43 boats providing services in Taungthaman Lake. Approximately 20 boats give service are seen during the weekend and Myanmar Sabbath days. The number of boat passengers drops on weekdays.

"This traditional boat ser-



Domestic tourists enjoy boat rides in Taungthaman Lake.

vice does a roaring business with foreign tourists. At present, the tourist arrival is rarely witnessed. local visitors seldomly ride the boat so there is nearly zero income in the past months. With the water level rising in the lake, we received some passengers.

About 15-20 boats regularly give services during the weekends," he elaborated.

Taungthaman Lake and U

Pein bridge are one of the famous landmarks in the Mandalay Region. Tourists and domestic travellers enjoy boat rides, strolling along the bridge and taking photos. The boat service charge is estimated at K5,000-K8,000.

"We are struggling with the traditional boat business. The local visitors do not eye boat ride so we find it hard to make ends meet," said a boat operator.

Last May, the water level in Taungthaman Lake was low. Starting from the first week of June, the number of visitors who enjoy boat rides is up when the water level increases. The water level will continue to rise in the coming months. — Maung Aye Chan/GNLM

Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree College holds tree-planting ceremony in Yangon



THE Ministry of Border Affairs Hall, of the Education and Training Department the Nationalities Youth Resources De-

velopment Degree College of in Yangon Region on 20 June morning.

Firstly, the principal and officials gave out the saplings to students and planted the saplings in the designated places altogether with faculty members and department staff.

During the event, ten Star-flower saplings, 50 Manjansha saplings, 50 Lagerstroemia Indica saplings, 50 Singapore cherry saplings, 20 Sal saplings, 120 Khayawah saplings and 50 Madhuca longifolia saplings totalling 350 were planted. — MNA

4 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 20 June, total figure rises to 613,494

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,494** after **four** new cases were reported on 20 June 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,498** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.—MNA

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals
Enterprise

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs and unregistered vehicles seized

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

The on-duty team made inspections at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint on 18 June and 20 June under the supervision of the Customs Department.

They seized an unregistered Honda Fit GD1 car worth K5 million at the 97/0 milepost on the Yangon-Myawady Highway and 150 cartons of Yo Good-brand juice that were not declared in

the Import Declaration (ID) at an estimated value of K7.25 million from a passenger bus heading from Mawlamyine to Yangon. Effective action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, on 19 June, inspections were carried out at the 16th-Mile checkpoint under the supervision of the Mandalay Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

250 cartons of Vetrue-brand food at an estimated value of 2.50 million were captured at the 16/2 milepost on the Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Road and action was

taken under the Customs Procedures.

A combined team led by the Forest Department under the management of the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force confiscated a total of 65.4150 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K41,961,644 in Bago, Toungoo and Pyay Districts and action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, seven arrests (approximately K51,711,644) were made on three consecutive days from 18 to 20 June, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA



Seized illegal commodities in Mon State.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Mezali diversion weir covers over 60,000 acres of monsoon crops in Pwintbyu Tsp

STARTING from 15 June, Mezali diversion weir has been providing irrigation water for over 60,000 acres of monsoon crops in Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region in the current 2022-2023 Financial Year.

“We ensure adequate water source for monsoon crop farming. The irrigation is distributed to the farming acres through southern and northern Mone canal,” said U Ye Htut Aung, a staff officer of the township department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management.

“Our department has been irrigating farming acres since 15 June. We distribute agricultural water through a network of canals and ditches from the dam so that the locals efficiently utilize the water supply and meet



An undated photo shows the scenic view of the Mezali diversion weir in Magway Region.

the yield target. This irrigation network for monsoon paddy and other crops will continue until 15 November. The department has also notified the farmers of the

effective use of irrigated water and field operation timeline,” he elaborated.

The department is providing agricultural water through

Mezali diversion weir to the farmers in each growing season. The farmers are also ploughing to remove weeds and also planting the paddy seedlings.

The locals in Pwintbyu Township plan to cultivate 69,094 acres of monsoon paddy, 9,665 acres of edible oil crops, 5,991 acres of various pulses, 2,449 acres of long-staple cotton, 4,434 acres of kitchen crops and 5,392 acres of herbs and forages, totalling 97,025 acres, according to monsoon crop acre data of the Agriculture Department in Pwintbyu Township.

The dams which can store large volume of water; Mone Creek dam in Sidoktara Township and Kyeeohn-kyeewa dam in Pwintbyu Township supplies water into Mezali diversion weir. A hydropower plant of those dams connects to national grid for power supply as well, according to Pwintbyu Township Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management. — Hlaing Win Lay/GNLM

Fishery product prices fluctuate based on flood tide and neap tide

THE prices of fishery products fluctuate based on the tidal cycles in the delta region, which is close to the sea. The prices are quite cheap during a period of the flood tide and they go up during a period of the neap tide, when the shrimp and fish catch is low, according to Ko Kyaw Naing, a resident in Bogale.

Rivers in the delta region experience two tides-up and down per day, six hours long for each tide, due to the gravitational pull of the moon. Fishery products caught are transported to the nearest towns through which they are exported to wholesale centres in Yangon. During a period of the flood tide, one viss of shrimp is around K5,000-6,000 while it is around K9,000-10,000 during a period of the neap tide.

The decrease in prices of fishery products also makes the chicken price drop in the



The decrease in prices of fishery products also makes the chicken price drop in the market.

market. As the price of fishery products is based on the tidal cycles, those who understand the purchase of the cycle and

stock them in the fridge so that less of them need to be purchased during a period of the neap tide. — TWA/GNLM

Myanmar ships nearly 1.8 mln tonnes of corn abroad markets in 9 months

MYANMAR conveyed about 1.8 million tonnes of corn to external markets between 1 October and 15 June in nine months, said U Min Khaing, chair of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

At present, Myanmar exports corn to Thailand and China via border posts, while the corn is delivered to the Philippines, India and Viet Nam.

In the 2021-2022 corn season (October-September), Myanmar targets to export about 2 million tonnes of corn to external markets, said U Min Khaing.

The price is relatively down in domestic markets as Myanmar’s corn price is heavily relying on Thailand. The prices of corn stand at K1,030-1,050 per viss depending on quality.

Additionally, corn crops will soon be harvested in Thailand in the coming months. Nevertheless, we cannot say for sure that the price will remain downward or not, U Min Khaing added.

Thailand gives green light to corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

Therefore, only two months (July and August) are left for corn exports under Form D exemption.

Myanmar exported 2.3 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021 corn season (October-September). Of them, 1.7 million tonnes of corn was sent to Thailand.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons — winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/GNLM

OPINION

Don't soonest put blame on others

EVERYBODY knows all effects are based on causes. Similarly, all causes are origins of effects. It is a universal truth. No one can change such a theory, and such a truth never disappears from the world.

In society, all participants don't have Enlightenment. So, they may commit sins sometimes. Ordinary people don't have any supernatural knowledge which is the nature of human powers to predict and forecast fortune. If so, they may commit inappropriate things unintentionally.

On the other hand, some persons may commit sins intentionally. It is because they prefer to do so due to their motivation.

Actually, the natural world is formed by various kinds of humans in habits, mindsets, physical and mental diversity and so on. Hence, they are enjoying the freedom of the right to do something as they like.

As such, if you see an event or incident related to inappropriate moves or behaviours, you should not put blame on others at first before knowing the root cause of the event. So, if you see every event, you should scrutinize and analyze the root causes which motivate the occurrence of events. After comprehensively understanding the root cause of the event, you may make any conclusions. Even if so, your decision or conclusion may not be correctly approved.

All the events may have background histories behind them. Such a background may be deep or not. It may be a grudge for someone to commit a severe sin but it may be meaningless for others. Hence, it can be said that the mental pain which triggers the occurrence of the event may be measured by the heartfelt loss of sufferers or losers in events.

When you understand the nature of those who commit inappropriate events, you should foster empathy, sympathy, compassion and loving-kindness for those sinners. Only if you forgive the sins of those persons, will they have to enjoy the right of pardon. If not, they would never ever escape from the life of sinners. Consequently, they would not delay repeatedly committing similar sins in the world because they don't have any empathy and understanding from others.

More than 2,500 years ago, the Lord Buddha preached many kinds of Desana to His disciples to follow Universal principles such as dispersing compassion to others. But, His teachings did not consist of the ways to put blame on others. It is the primary essence of Buddhism. Hence, all global peoples should hold up a concept to avoid blaming others.

Nearly one billion people have a mental disorder: WHO

NEARLY one billion people worldwide suffer from some form of mental disorder, according to latest UN data – a staggering figure that is even more worrying, if you consider that it includes around one in seven teenagers.

To make matters worse, in the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, rates of common conditions such as depression and anxiety, went up by more than 25 per cent, the UN health agency (WHO) said on Friday.

In its largest review of mental health since the turn of the century, the World Health Organization has urged more countries to get to grips with worsening conditions. It has offered examples of good practice that should be implemented as quickly as possible, in recognition of the important role that mental health plays in positive and sustainable development, at all levels.

Tedros: Compelling case for change

“Everyone’s life touches someone with a mental health condition,” said WHO Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. “Good mental health translates to good physical health and this new report makes a compelling case for change.

“The inextricable links between mental health and public health, human rights and socioeconomic development mean that transforming policy and practice in mental health can deliver real, substantive benefits for individuals, communities and countries everywhere. Investment into mental health is an investment into a better life and future for all.”

Even before COVID-19 hit, only a small fraction of people in need of help had access to effective, affordable and quality mental health treatment, WHO said, citing latest available global data from 2019.

For example, more than 70 per cent of those suffering from psychosis worldwide, do not get the help they need, the UN agency said.

Haves and have-nots

The gap between rich and poor nations highlights unequal access to healthcare, as seven in 10 people with psychosis receive treatment in high-income countries, compared to only 12 per cent in low-income countries.

The situation is more dramatic for cases of depression, WHO said, pointing to gaps in assistance across all countries — including high-income ones - where only one third of people who suffer from depression receive formal mental health care.

And although high-income countries offer “minimally-adequate” treatment for depression in 23 per cent of cases, this drops to just three per cent in low and lower middle-income countries.

“We need to transform our attitudes, actions and approaches to promote and protect mental health, and to provide and care for those in need,” said WHO’s Tedros.

“We can and should do this by transforming the environments that influence our mental health and by developing community-based mental health services capable of achieving universal health coverage for mental health.

Source : UN News



Migrants and refugees can be exposed to various stress factors which affect their mental health and well-being. Central American migrants cross the Rio Bravo into Texas. PHOTO: JULIO CESAR AGUILAR/AFP/FILE

Pregnant women produce super antibodies to protect newborns: Study



A pregnant woman wears a face mask as a preventative measure against the spread of the new coronavirus, COVID-19, as she waits for the bus in Bogota, on 16 March 2020. PHOTO: RAUL ARBOLEDA/AFP

A subtle molecular change allows immunoglobulin to take on an expanded protective role during pregnancy, according to a study by the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Centre.

Now scientists say this natural process can be replicated to improve vaccines and other antibody-based treatments.

Scientists discovered years ago that newborn infants depend upon immune components transferred from their mothers to survive the onslaught of pathogens that begin invading their bodies as soon as they are born.

Eventually, children develop their own immune systems, built through surviving natural exposures to viruses and bacteria, and augmented by a phalanx of well-established childhood vaccines.

But in the meantime, it’s one of a mother’s most important gifts that keeps their babies safe: antibodies.

A surprising explanation

Now, a far-reaching study published 8 June 2022, in Nature, provides a surprising explanation of how those early days of mother-provided immunity actually work and what that information could mean for preventing death and disability from a wide range of infectious diseases.

The findings suggest that researchers may be able to mimic the amped-up antibodies that expecting mothers produce to create new drugs to treat diseases as well as improved vaccines to prevent them. “For many years, scientists believed that antibodies cannot get inside cells. They don’t have the necessary machinery.

And so, infections caused by pathogens that live exclusively inside cells were thought to be

invisible to antibody-based therapies,” says Sing Sing Way, MD, PhD, Division of Infectious Diseases at Cincinnati Children’s. “Our findings show that pregnancy changes the structure of certain sugars attached to the antibodies, which allows them to protect babies from infection by a much wider range of pathogens.”

“The maternal-infant dyad is so special. It’s the intimate connection between a mother and her baby,” says John Erickson, MD, PhD, Division of Neonatology, and first-author of the study.

Both Way and Erickson are part of Cincinnati Children’s Centre for Inflammation and Tolerance and the Perinatal Institute, which strives to improve outcomes for all pregnant women and their newborns. Erickson continues, “This special connection starts when babies are in the womb and continues after birth. I love seeing the closeness between mothers and their babies in our newborn care units.

This discovery paves the way for pioneering new therapies that can specifically target infections in pregnant mothers and newborns babies. I believe these findings also will have far-reaching implications for antibody-based therapies in other fields.”

How mothers make super antibodies

The new study identifies which specific sugar is changed during pregnancy, as well as how and when the change occurs.

During pregnancy, the “acetylated” form of sialic acid (one of the sugars attached to antibodies) shifts to the “deacetylated” form. This very subtle molecular change allows immunoglobulin G (IgG) — the body’s most common type of antibody — to take on an expanded protective role by stimulating immunity through receptors that respond specifically to deacetylated sugars. “This change is the light switch that allows maternal antibodies to protect babies against infection inside cells,” Way says.

Source : ANI

MYANMAR Daily Weather Report

(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Monday 20 June 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 21 June 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing and Magway regions, scattered in Mandalay Region and (North and East) Shan State, fairly widespread in Bago, and Taninthayi regions and Southern Shan, Kayah and Kayin states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (5-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 June 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 June 2022: Some rain or thundershowers which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 June 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

TECH/ENVIRON WORLD



Eri Sugita, an associate professor of international cooperation studies at Osaka University, shows a cardboard dispenser of sanitary products she developed, on the Suita Campus of the state-run university in Osaka Prefecture in May 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japanese scholar develops disaster-friendly sanitary goods dispenser

A Japanese scholar has developed a sanitary pad and tampon dispenser made of cardboard that can be easily installed in public toilets, after learning some women are reluctant to receive free hygiene goods from local governments.

The flat-pack and easy-to-assemble dispensers could also be used in evacuation centres in the event of a disaster, with the creator, Eri Sugita — an associate professor of international cooperation studies at Osaka University — saying it can be used by “all who need it”.

Some local governments in Ja-

pan have started distributing free pads and tampons after the coronavirus pandemic highlighted the issue of “period poverty,” or difficulty in buying menstrual products due to poverty.

However, some women are reluctant to ask for the products as the process often involves a public servant distributing them over a counter. “I wanted to allow women discretion and make the products available in private rooms,” said Sugita.

Menstruation is almost a taboo topic at work or school, and when a

woman buys a sanitary product at a convenience store, the clerk puts it in a nontransparent paper bag so that others cannot see it.

About 140 of the dispensers, bearing the message “Take one please” in English and Japanese, have been installed in toilets on the campuses of the state-run university in western Japan.

In an on-campus survey, students commented that they were glad they could receive the product “out of the public eye” and that it was helpful if they had suddenly started menstruating. —Kyodo

Israel to fund testing of 3 innovative energy techs

THE Israel Innovation Authority (IIA) and the Ministry of Energy on Sunday announced support for testing three chosen innovative energy technologies developed by Israeli companies.

The purpose of the grants is to promote the economy and develop Israeli hi-tech in the fields of energy and water, while dealing with the climate crisis and reducing pollution, said a joint statement issued by the ministry and the IIA.

The total support amounts to 3.3 million shekels (950,000 US dollars), up to 50 per cent of the cost of each testing project.

The first technology, developed by the energy storage company Augwind, creates an energy system from renewable sources, using clean storage and aiding in energy efficiency as well as compressed air supply to factories, the statement explained.

The second project will test an ultra-fast charging system, developed by Zooz Power company, for an electric vehicle based on a charging accelerator, which allows for an additional driving range of about 200 km in just 15 minutes of charging, it said.

The third technology to be tested, developed by Siasol Eyes company, monitors faults in solar panels. It is based on a thermographic review using a drone which flies above solar farms throughout the country, it added. —Xinhua

26 more dead in India monsoon fury, waters recede in Bangladesh

AT least 26 more people have died in monsoon flooding and lightning strikes in India, as millions remained marooned in the country and neighbouring Bangladesh, authorities said Monday.

Floods are a regular menace in India and Bangladesh, but experts say climate change is increasing their frequency, ferocity and unpredictability for the two countries’ 1.6 billion people.

In India’s northeastern state of Assam, three people were killed in landslides while six others died in flood waters, disaster management authorities said.

In the eastern state of Bihar, lightning triggered by storms killed at least 17 people, according to local disaster management minister Renu Devi.

Assam continued to reel under severe flooding, with 5,140



This aerial picture shows a flooded area following heavy monsoon rainfalls in Goyainghat on 19 June 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

villages across the state’s 33 districts submerged by surging waters. More than 100,000 villagers are taking refuge in relief shelters. The state was first hit in April when pre-monsoon rains arrived, causing floods that killed 44 people.

The floodwaters receded

after a few weeks, only to rise again in June at the start of the annual monsoon season and taking the state toll to 71 so far. In neighbouring Meghalaya state, at least 16 people have been killed since last Thursday after landslides and surging rivers that submerged roads. —AFP

Aussie national airline, Airbus announce 200 mln USD biofuel investment

AUSTRALIAN national carrier Qantas has announced a 200 million US dollar joint investment with Airbus into Australia’s sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) industry, designed to drive down carbon emissions. The landmark deal, announced to the public on Sunday, is part of Qantas’ push to transition to sustainable jet fuels — biofuels — and position Australia as a major exporter of

SAF.

“This investment will help kickstart a local biofuels industry in Australia and hopefully encourage additional investment from governments and other business(es) and build more momentum for the industry as a whole,” said Qantas CEO Alan Joyce.

“Ensuring a sustainable future for our industry has become the priority for Airbus and we are

taking up this challenge with partners across the world and from across all sectors,” added Airbus CEO Guillaume Faury in the joint statement. The Qantas-Airbus partnership would last for an initial five years with the option to extend. Qantas has committed itself to using 10 per cent SAF in its overall fuel mix by 2030 and 60 per cent by 2050. Compared to traditional jet fuel, biofuels can

cut greenhouse gas emissions by around 80 per cent, and as such are a key tool as airlines seek to minimize their impact on the environment. Joyce hoped the deal would encourage other airlines and governmental bodies to join the push. “We’re calling on other companies and producers to come forward with their biofuel projects. In many cases, this funding will be the difference between

some of these projects getting off the ground.” The investment has come amid a raft of green initiatives since the airline committed to net zero emissions by 2050 in 2019. They include carbon offset schemes, more efficient planes and flight paths, and a frequent flyers “Green Tier”, which gives rewards to customers based on the sustainability of their lifestyle. —Xinhua

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

China’s mass testing mantra is building a waste mountain

HAZMAT-SUITED workers poke plastic swabs down millions of throats in China each day, leaving bins bursting with medical waste that has become the environmental and economic levy of a zero-Covid strategy.

China is the last major economy wedded to stamping out infections no matter the cost.

Near-daily testing is the most commonly used weapon in an anti-virus arsenal that includes snap lockdowns and forced quarantines when just a few cases are detected.

From Beijing to Shanghai, Shenzhen to Tianjin, cities are now home to an archipelago of temporary testing kiosks, while authorities order hundreds of

millions of people to get swabbed every two or three days.

Mass testing appears set to stay as Chinese authorities insist zero-Covid has allowed the world’s most populous nation to avoid a public health catastrophe.

But experts say the approach — a source of political legitimacy for the ruling Communist Party — creates a sea of hazardous waste and a mounting economic burden for local governments who must plough tens of billions of dollars into funding the system.

“The sheer amount of medical waste that is being generated on a routine basis (is) at a scale that is practically unseen in hu-

man history,” said Yifei Li, an environmental studies expert at New York University Shanghai.

“The problems are already becoming astronomical, and they will continue to grow even bigger,” he told AFP.

Beijing has positioned itself as an environmental leader, cracking down on air and water pollution while setting the goal of making its economy carbon-neutral by 2060, a target experts say is untenable given the current trajectory of investments in coal.

Blanket-testing is now posing a new trash challenge.

Each positive case — typically a few dozen a day nationwide — unspools a trail of used test kits, face masks and person-



A health worker takes a swab sample from a woman inside a fenced residential area under lockdown due to Covid-19 coronavirus restrictions in Beijing on 20 June 2022. **PHOTO : AFP**

al protective gear. If not disposed of properly, biomedical waste can contaminate soil and waterways, posing threats to the environment and human health. —AFP

COVID-19 incidence rises in India as nearly 80,000 new cases recorded in a week

THE incidence of COVID-19 pandemic continues to rise again in India, as around 80,000 new cases have been registered over the past one week.

The number of active cases has increased by almost 60 per cent over the past seven days. However, the concerned health authorities have ruled out an outbreak of a fourth COVID-19 wave.

According to the official figures released by the federal health ministry on Monday, 12,781 new cases were registered across the country, taking the total tally to 43,309,473. This

was the fourth consecutive day when the number of new cases registered per day rose by over 12,000.

Besides, 18 people died from the pandemic in the country, taking the total death toll to 524,873.

Delhi once again remains one of the worst COVID-19 affected places, with 1,530 fresh infections registered on Sunday evening. The number of active cases in the national capital stood at 5,542, as the positivity rate was at 8.41 per cent. Three people died in Delhi due to COVID-19, according to the

official figures released on Sunday evening.

The daily positivity rate in the country was recorded at 2.89 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate has been 2.50 per cent, revealed the federal health ministry.

Presently, there are still 76,700 active COVID-19 cases in the country with an increase of 4,226 active cases during the past 24 hours.

So far, 42,707,900 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals, of whom 8,537 were discharged during the past 24 hours. —Xinhua



A health worker inoculates a teenage boy with a dose of the Covaxin vaccine against the Covid-19 coronavirus at a vaccination centre in Mumbai on 9 June 2022. **PHOTO : AFP**

Aussie research finds snake venom possibly helps accelerate natural blood-clotting process

RESEARCHERS from Australia’s University of Queensland (UQ) found protein in the venom of two Australian snakes could be used as an accelerant in the body’s natural blood-clotting process.

The research, published in Advanced HealthCare Materials, was released to the public on Monday. The gel, which contains venom proteins of Australia’s eastern brown and scaled viper, was able to clot blood three times faster than the body’s natural process, reducing blood loss by five times.

“The venomous snakes are known to contain a potent mix of various molecules ... some particular molecules have very potent activity on the human blood clotting system,” said the lead author of the study, Dr Amanda Kijas, from UQ’s Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN).

Kijas told Xinhua that based on some previous research, the team has further identified that particular venom proteins can rapidly get the blood to clot in less than a minute, and the venom could stop the clot from breaking down again.

Kijas said the team is

working on a venom gel that remains liquid when stored in a cool place but solidifies at body temperature to seal the wound. It could be sold in pharmacies, added to first aid kits, and used by paramedics or military personnel in combat zones, to stop bleeding while a patient is taken to the hospital.

“As many as 40 per cent of trauma-related deaths are the result of uncontrolled bleeding, and this figure is much higher when it comes to military personnel with serious bleeding in a combat zone.”

People who have dysfunctional guide clotting mechanisms, such as haemophilia, could also use the gel to avoid ending up in the hospital due to bleeding.

“When a traumatic injury occurs, the complexity of the healing process overloads the body’s capacity to control the bleeding,” Kijas said.

The venom gel is being tested in pre-clinical evaluations and is being scaled-up toward commercial application. The research team is also exploring how the technology could also treat burns and trauma injuries. —Xinhua

ECONOMY

WORLD/AD

Stock markets mixed as recession worries persist

MARKETS were mixed Monday having pared earlier losses but sentiment continues to be clouded by fears that central bank moves to rein in soaring inflation will induce a recession. The tepid performances come after a sell-off last week fuelled by the Federal Reserve's sharp interest rate hike — the biggest in nearly 30 years — and a warning of more to come, while increases in Britain and Switzerland added to the gloom.

And while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq saw gains on Friday, there is a sense that indexes still have some way down to go before they find a bottom, with economic data suggesting economies are beginning to feel the pinch.

Cleveland Fed chief Loretta Mester added to the worry, saying that the risk of a recession in the United States was increasing and it would take several years to bring inflation down from four-decade highs to the bank's two per cent target.

She told CBS's "Face The Nation" on Sunday that while she was not predicting a contraction, the Fed's decision not to

act sooner to fight rising prices was hurting the economy. In Asian trade Monday, Tokyo, Shanghai Sydney, Seoul, Taipei, Bangkok and Wellington were all in the red, though there were gains in Hong Kong, Mumbai, Singapore, Manila and Jakarta.

London, Paris and Frankfurt edged up in early trade. Analysts warned there was likely to be more pain ahead for traders as the Ukraine war drags on and uncertainty continues to reign.

"Central banks' hawkish rhetoric and concerns over a global economic slowdown/recession (are) not helping sentiment and at this stage it is hard to see a turn in fortunes until we see evidence of a material ease in inflationary pressures," said National Australia Bank's Rodrigo Catril. And Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management added: "Most of these major central banks are praying for some relief from inflation and hoping the data falls in line, but unless there is a detent in the Ukraine-Russia war, escalation will continue to drive energy price fears so it could be a tough road ahead."—AFP

Food prices rising in Japan, cooking oil up 1.5-fold on year

FOOD manufacturers in Japan have been hiking prices as a result of rising raw material and crude oil costs, data showed Monday, dealing a blow to households already hit by the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic.

The average price of cooking oil at supermarkets across the country spiked 1.5-fold in May from a year earlier, while that of mayonnaise was up nearly 30 per cent, according to Japanese analysis company True Data Inc.

Raw material and crude oil costs have risen in line with higher demand as economies recover from the coronavirus pandemic and due to global supply chain disruptions. Japan has also seen the



Customers shop at a supermarket in Tokyo on 20 June 2022. PHOTO : KYODO

cost of imported products rise due to the yen's depreciation against the US dollar and other major currencies.

While supermarket operators decide the price of products sold at stores, many of them have passed on rising costs from food manufacturers to customers due to the difficulty of absorbing price hikes.

The prices of margarine products, spaghetti and white bread spiked by about 10 per cent, according to True Data.—Kyodo

EasyJet cuts summer flights on staff shortages

BRITISH no-frills airline EasyJet on Monday said it was reducing the number of its flights this summer, as the UK aviation sector struggles with severe staff shortages.

Airlines and airports are struggling to recruit staff after the lifting of pandemic lockdowns, which saw the aviation sector slash thousands of posts.

London's Gatwick airport last week said it would reduce summer flights owing to limited resources.

On Monday, EasyJet said it "is proactively consolidating a number of flights across affected airports", including Gatwick.

The carrier added that it was seeking to "build additional resilience" also amid delays to air traffic control and passport checks.

Despite the travel chaos, EasyJet stressed that its bookings remained "strong" for the peak-demand summer months of July and August.

Staff shortages across the aviation sector have sparked flight delays and cancellations in recent weeks.

"We are sorry that for some customers we have not been able to deliver the service they have come to expect from us," said EasyJet chief executive Johan Lundgren.

EasyJet said it expects the airline's capacity in the group's current third quarter to be 87 per cent of the pre-pandemic 2019 level.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (758N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (758N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GOLDEN BRIGHT VOY.NO. (08-22)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GOLDEN BRIGHT VOY.NO. (08-22)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V RUI NING 5 VOY.NO. (V.3106)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RUI NING 5 VOY.NO. (V.3106)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

‘Huge uncertainty’ for EU firms over China’s Covid curbs, chamber warns

MANY European firms are rethinking their investments in China because of its strict Covid controls, a top business group said Monday, warning that disruptions had pummelled operations.

While the rest of the world has steadily removed coronavirus curbs, China has remained committed to its zero-Covid strategy, using lockdowns and mass testing to stamp out all infections.

But this strategy has hammered businesses and snarled supply chains — 60 per cent of respondents in a survey of European businesses said it has become harder to do business in China, in large part due to Covid controls.

“We hope that China is really waking up,” Bettina Schoen-Behanzin, vice-



A health worker (L) wearing a personal protective equipment (PPE) works inside a fenced residential area under lockdown due to Covid-19 coronavirus restrictions in Beijing on 20 June 2022. PHOTO: AFP

president of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, told AFP. “(We hope) that they find a way to get out of this zero-tolerance Covid strategy because it causes huge uncertainty and this is for sure not good for investment.”

The chamber con-

ducted the survey on over 600 member firms in February and March just as strict lockdowns were imposed in several areas to control China’s worst Covid outbreak in two years — from business hub Shanghai to the northern breadbasket province of Jilin. —AFP

Laos to sell electricity to Singapore

LAOS will soon start selling electricity to Singapore under the Laos-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS-PIP).

According to local daily Vientiane Times report on Monday, a total of 100 MW will be supplied by Laos to Singapore.

The power purchase agreement was signed in Lao capital Vientiane on Friday by Managing Director of the Lao state-owned Electricite du Laos (EDL) Chanthaboun Soukaloun, and Executive Director of Keppel Infrastructure Holdings Janice Bong. The ceremony at

which the agreement was signed was attended by Lao Minister of Energy and Mines Daovong Phonekeo, Deputy Minister of Finance Phouthanoupeth Saysombath, Singapore’s Ambassador to Laos Leow Siu Lin, government officials and representatives of the two parties.—Xinhua

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(13/2022-2023)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.
- | Sr No. | Tender No. | Description | Remarks |
|--------|---------------------|--|---------|
| (1) | DMP/L-164(22-23)CAP | Desktop Computer, Laptop Computer, UPS & Note Book Computer (21) Items | Ks |
2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 20 June 2022 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications and Commercial Quotation with Original Bid Bond in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 12:00 pm on 4, July 2022.
4. Tender Closing Date & Time — 4-7-2022, 12:00 pm
- Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

Air passengers to reach 83 per cent of 2019 levels this year: IATA



A traveller enters the departure area on her way to her flight from Changi International Airport in Singapore on 11 March 2022. PHOTO: AFP

AIR passengers are expected to hit 83 per cent of pre-pandemic levels this year and the aviation industry’s return to profit is “within reach” in 2023, the International Air Transport Association said on Monday.

“Airlines are resilient. People are flying in ever greater numbers. And cargo is performing well against a backdrop of growing economic uncertainty,” IATA director-general Willie Walsh said in

an upgraded industry forecast for 2022.

The air industry was sent reeling by the pandemic, with passenger numbers plunging 60 per cent in 2020 and remaining 50 per cent down in 2021. Airlines lost nearly \$200 billion over two years.

While some firms in the sector went bankrupt, others — backed often by states — have emerged from the pandemic with profits intact.—AFP



IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Website: www.ircon.org, CIN-L45203DL1976GOI008171



Notice Inviting Tender

NIT No.: IRCON / 1800020 / KRP / Tender / Design Consultancy/ Km 0 to 109.2/ Date 08.06.2022

Open tender for and on behalf of IRCON International Limited is invited from Indian/Myanmar bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the works of “Design Consultancy work for Preparation of design & drawing including survey and Geotechnical Investigation for the Construction of Two lane Road on NH Specifications from km. 0.00 to km. 109.20 in Chin State of Myanmar.”

Estimated Cost of Work : Rs.6,89,37,859 or MMK 1,66,39,53,103 (inclusive of all taxes)

Last Date & Time of Bid Submission : 04.07.2022 at 15:00 Hrs. (Myanmar Time)

For further details, visit Project Head office at Flat No- 702, 50th Street Condominium, 50th Street, Lower Block, Botahtaung Township, Yangon Division, Myanmar, Tel: +95 -18397982, +95-9895016768 (WhatsApp available) +95-9443276712 email- ircon.1800020@ircon.org. Corrigendum, if any, would be sent through email only.

Project Head
Kaladan Road Project, Myanmar



IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Website: www.ircon.org, CIN-L45203DL1976GOI008171



Notice Inviting Tender

NIT No.: IRCON / 1800020 / KRP / Tender / Km-0 to 10/ Pkg-I / Date 09.06.2022

Open tender for and on behalf of IRCON International Limited is invited from Indian/Myanmar bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the works of “Balance work for Construction of Two-lane Road on NH Specifications up to Black top including Cross Drainage Structure from km. 0.00 to km. 10.00 in Chin State of Myanmar. (Package-I).”

Estimated Cost of Work : Rs.79,20,50,183 or MMK 19,11,77,15,261 (inclusive of all taxes)

Last Date & Time of Bid Submission : 04.07.2022 at 15:00 Hrs. (Myanmar Time)

For further details, visit Project Head office at Flat No- 702, 50th Street Condominium, 50th Street, Lower Block, Botahtaung Township, Yangon Division, Myanmar, Tel: +95 -18397982, +95-9895016768 (WhatsApp available), +95-9443276712 email- ircon.1800020@ircon.org. Corrigendum, if any, would be sent through email only.

Project Head
Kaladan Road Project, Myanmar

Kishida cautious about Japan acquiring nuclear-powered submarine

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Sunday took a cautious view about acquiring a nuclear-powered submarine to boost the country's defence capability, a call made by some opposition parties ahead of next month's House of Councilors election.

"I'm not so sure if making the leap to a nuclear submarine is a good idea," Kishida said in an appearance on a Fuji TV programme with other party leaders, as the official campaigning will kick

off Wednesday for the 10 July election.

The premier cited the difficulty of using nuclear power for military purposes under Japan's atomic energy law and the high running cost. But Kishida, who heads the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, stressed the need to reinforce Japanese defences at a time when Russia's invasion of Ukraine and China's military assertiveness have highlighted Japan's security challenges. "We will see what needs to be prioritized to safeguard

the people's lives and their livelihoods," he said.

Natsuo Yamaguchi, head of the LDP's junior coalition partner Komeito, echoed Kishida's view, calling the idea of a nuclear-powered submarine "unrealistic."

Ichiro Matsui, leader of the Japan Innovation Party, and Yuichiro Tanaka, head of the Democratic Party for the People, called for the acquisition of a nuclear-powered submarine to boost deterrence and reconnaissance capacity.—Kyodo



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida makes a speech during an inaugural meeting in Tokyo on 19 June 2022, of a national council tasked with making policy proposals for sustainable finances in Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Bankrupt Sri Lanka opens IMF talks, begins shutdown



Autorickshaw drivers queue along a street to buy petrol from a Ceylon petroleum corporation fuel station in Colombo on 17 June 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

SRI Lanka closed schools and halted all non-essential government services on Monday, beginning a two-week shutdown to

conserve fast-depleting fuel reserves as the International Monetary Fund opened talks with Colombo on a possible bailout.

The country of 22 million people is in the grip of its worst economic crisis after running out of dollars to finance even the most essential imports, including fuel.

On Monday schools were shut and state offices worked with skeleton staff as part of government plans to reduce commuting and save precious petrol and diesel. Hospitals and the main seaport in Colombo were still operating.

Hundreds of thousands of motorists re-

mained in miles-long queues for petrol and diesel even though the energy ministry announced they will not have fresh stocks of fuel for at least three more days. The country defaulted on its \$51 billion foreign debt in April and went cap-in-hand to the IMF. The first in-person talks with the IMF on Sri Lanka's bailout request commenced in Colombo on Monday and will continue for 10 days, the lender and the government said in brief statements.—AFP

Russia-Ukraine conflict

Ukraine says lost control of Severodonetsk village

UKRAINE said Monday it had lost control of a village adjacent to the eastern industrial city of Severodonetsk, the centre of weeks of fierce fighting with invading Russian troops.

"Unfortunately, we do not control Metyolkine anymore. And the enemy continues to build up its reserves," the Lugansk regional governor Sergiy Gaiday said in a statement on social media.

Russia's capture of



Ukrainian inhabitant, Raissa, reacts next to a destroyed school in the village of Bilogorivka not far from Lysychansk, Lugansk region, on 17 June 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

the hamlet with a pre-war population of around 1,000 people, is the latest

around Severodonetsk, where Moscow's army has met tough Ukrainian

resistance.

Russian troops have slowly advanced in the eastern Donbas region where they focused their military efforts after being pushed out from areas around the capital at the start of their invasion in February.

Gaiday said that the Azot chemical plant in Severodonetsk, where hundreds of civilians are said to be sheltering, was being shelled by Russian forces "constantly".—AFP

LI & FUNG (MYANMAR) LIMITED
Notice for Member's Voluntary Winding Up
Under Section 147 of Insolvency Law and
Insolvency Rules-9 and 15-B
(Company Registration No. 117129624)

Notice is hereby given that

(1) the sole member of LI & FUNG (MYANMAR) LIMITED (the "Company") had passed a special resolution on 15 June 2022 that the Company be wound up by way of member's voluntary winding up under the Insolvency Law 2020 with effect from 15 June 2022.

(2) Daw Myat Myat Chit (holder of Myanmar NRC No. 1/MaNyaNa (N) 081592), has been appointed as liquidator to conduct the member's voluntary winding up of the Company by a resolution of the sole member passed on 15 June 2022. A copy of the notice of appointment is set out below.

Notice of Appointment of Liquidator

Form-11
(Proof of debt or claim)
Insolvency Law 2020, section 207
Insolvency Rules 97

To
Liquidator

1. This is to state that _____ Company _____ Company with company registration number _____ was on _____ date and still is justly and truly on _____ date indebted to me an amount of _____

[* To fill in (as appropriate) the date when the Order to windup was passed or in the case of voluntary winding up the date when the resolution to wind up was passed.]

Particulars of the debt or claim:

Date	Consideration (how the debt arose)	Amount	Remarks (include details of voucher substantiating payment and attach copies)
2. To my knowledge or belief the creditor has not, nor has any person by the creditor's order, had or received any satisfaction or security for the sum or any part of the debt or claim, other than as disclosed in the First Schedule to this document.			

3. If any debt or other negotiable securities are held, show them in a schedule in the following form:

Date	Drawer	Acceptor	Amount	Due Date
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3. The creditor holds no security for the debt or claim, other than as disclosed in the Second Schedule to this document.

4. I am authorised in writing by the creditor to make this statement. I know that the debt described above was incurred for the consideration stated and that the debt remains unpaid and unrepaid.

Signed _____
Name _____
Date _____

(3) The creditors of the Company, are requested to submit their proof of debts or claims together with the detailed particulars and evidence of the debts or claims to the undersigned liquidator, within one month from the date of this advertisement, at No-13, Fourth Floor, Baho Road, Sanchaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar and electronically to any of the email addresses of the undersigned as indicated below, using the prescribed form, set out below.

Daw Myat Myat Chit
NRC No. 1/MaNyaNa (N) 081592
Liquidator
Contact Number: +95 9450022074
Email Address: myat@myatandassociates.com/
myatandassociates@gmail.com
LI & FUNG (MYANMAR) LIMITED (In Liquidation)

Ms. Kwok Wai Yin
Passport No. K07124506
Director
Contact Number: +852 23004920
Email Address: ClaraKwok@lifung.com
LI & FUNG (MYANMAR) LIMITED (In Liquidation)

Pope’s future sparks debate, resignation seems unlikely

POPE Francis has fuelled the rumour mill with a postponed Africa trip and the curious timing of an upcoming meeting of cardinals – but experts caution against assuming a resignation is nigh.

Hobbled by pain in his knee and forced to use a wheelchair in recent weeks, the 85-year-old pontiff postponed a July trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan last week.

That move, along with an unusual decision to hold a consistory to name new cardinals during the vacation month of August, triggered intense speculation about his plans for the future, including the most radical — that he was planning to step down.

Not so fast, many say.

“In the pope’s entourage,

the majority of people don’t really believe in the possibility of a resignation,” a Vatican source told AFP.

Rumours within the insular Roman Curia — the Catholic Church’s powerful governing body — are nothing new, and often fuelled by those with an interest, said Italian Vatican expert Marco Politi. “These rumours are encouraged by the pope’s opponents who are only eager to see Francis leave,” he told AFP.

Door to retired popes

The resignation of a pope was once almost unthinkable. But when Benedict XVI stood down in 2013, citing his declining physical and mental health, he set a precedent.

In 2014, a year after being

elected to replace Benedict, Francis himself told reporters that were his health to impede his functions as pope, he would consider stepping down too. “He (Benedict) opened a door, the door to retired popes,” the pontiff said then.

More recently in May, as reported by various Italian media, Francis joked about his knee during a closed-door meeting with bishops: “Rather than operate, I’ll resign.”

However, a trip to Canada at the end of July is still on the pontiff’s schedule, and the pope continues to receive injections in his knee and physical therapy, according to the Vatican.

As a child, Francis had one of his lungs partially removed.



Pope Francis waves from the window of the apostolic palace overlooking St. Peter’s square during the weekly Angelus prayer on 19 June 2022 in The Vatican. **PHOTO: AFP**

Today, besides his knee issue, he suffers recurring sciatic nerve pain. Rumours of a resignation also flared last year after Francis underwent colon surgery, prompting him to tell a Spanish radio station that the idea “hadn’t even crossed my mind”. —AFP

Britain set for biggest rail strike in decades



(FILES) In this file photo taken on 10 January 2017 Commuters attempt to board a full South West Train carriage toward central London as others alite at Clapham Junction station in London after strike action by Southern Rail caused another morning of travel disruption in the British capital. **PHOTO: AFP**

BRITAIN’S railway network this week faces its biggest strike action in more than three decades in a row over pay as soaring inflation erodes earnings.

Rail union the RMT has said that more than 50,000 workers will take part in a three-day national strike, coinciding with major events including the Glastonbury music festival.

Schools are warning that thousands of teenagers taking national exams will also be affected. The RMT argues that the strikes are necessary as wages have failed to keep pace with inflation, which has hit a 40-year high.

Jobs are also at risk with passenger traffic yet to fully recover after the lifting of coronavirus pandemic lockdowns.

Countries around the world are being hit by decades-high inflation as the Ukraine war and the easing of Covid restrictions fuel energy and food price hikes.

The strikes are planned for Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday in the biggest dispute on Britain’s railway network since 1989, according to the RMT.

The union has also announced a 24-hour walkout of its members on the Tube, London’s underground railway network, planned for Tuesday. —AFP

Another M5-level quake jolts central Japan, agency warns of more

AN earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.0 struck Ishikawa Prefecture, central Japan, on Monday, the second strong quake to jolt the region in as many days, the weather agency said, while warning the next week may see more of a similar intensity.

No tsunami warning was issued following Monday’s quake that occurred at 10:31 am and registered upper 5 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in Suzu, at the tip of the Noto Peninsula in the Sea of Japan coast prefecture, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The

focus was at a depth of around 14 kilometres.

There were no immediate reports of major damage or injuries, according to local authorities.

The temblor also registered 4 in the town of Noto and 3 in some parts of the neighbouring prefectures of Niigata and Toyama.

No abnormalities were reported at nuclear power facilities in the area, including Hokuriku Electric Power Co’s Shika plant in Ishikawa, the central government said.

Bullet train services in the

area were unaffected, JR East said.

When Monday’s earthquake occurred, Setsuko Shinki, 80, rushed out of her home while she was in the middle of cleaning up the mess created by the previous day’s quake. “Yesterday’s tremors were worse. I’m worried that the roof may fall down,” she said.

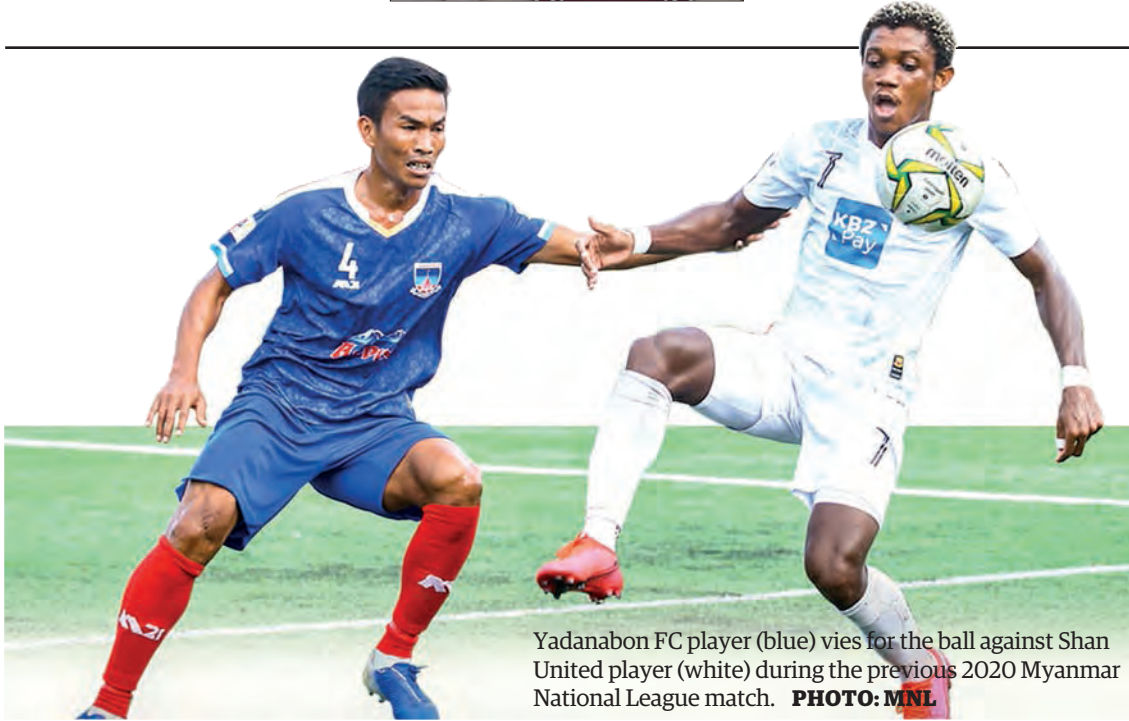
At around 3 pm Sunday, an earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 5.4 struck the region, leaving at least six people injured in Ishikawa. It registered lower 6 on the Japanese intensity scale in Suzu. —Kyodo



People call on others to evacuate as a strong earthquake hit Suzu, Ishikawa Prefecture, at 10:31 am on 20 June 2022, just as they were cleaning up merchandise that had fallen off the shelves due to another strong quake a day earlier. **PHOTO: KYODO**



SPORT



Yadanabon FC player (blue) vies for the ball against Shan United player (white) during the previous 2020 Myanmar National League match. PHOTO: MNL

Fixtures for 2022 Myanmar National League announced

THE Myanmar National League Organizing Committee has announced the fixtures for the 2022 Myanmar National League competition, which will be held five times a week.

A total of 10 football clubs will compete in the upcoming MNL tournament.

The MNL matches will be held every Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday at the Thuwunna Stadium.

Defending Champion Shan United, Hanthawady United, Ayeyawady United, Yangon United, Myawady FC, Maha United, Ra-

khine United, ISPE FC, GFA FC, and Yadanabon FC will compete in the tournament, according to the football authorities.

The first round matches will be played from 25 June to 25 August while the second round matches from 3 September to 6 November.

According to the fixture, Myawady FC will play an opening match against Yangon FC on 25 June.

Next, Hanthawady United will take on Ayeyawady United on 26 June.

Similarly, Mahar United will

face Shan United on 27 June and ISPE FC will take on Rakhine United FC on 29 June.

GFA FC will take on Yadanabon FC on 30 June.

The two runners-up clubs Hanthawady United and Ayeyawady United are facing even in the first round of the MNL 2022.

The MNL tournament was launched in 2009 and is held annually for all years except 2021.

Yangon has won a five-time Championship while Yadanabon has won four times and Shan United has won three times.

— Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

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

Khin Malar Tun's Thai League Club win Championship title

COLLEGE of Asian Scholars, a Thai women's club team led by Khin Malar Tun, captain of the Myanmar women's national football team, won the 2022 Thai Women's League Championship.

The College of Asian Scholars team won all 14 matches at the end of the season, beating the second-placed team by 11 points with a total of 42 points to win the championship title.

The team includes most of the Thai national team players and recruited Khin Malar Tun in the middle of the season.

Khin Malar Tun joined the team on 7 June and scored in the first match and was able to play as a strong player.

Khin Malar Tun is the first Myanmar female footballer to play for a Thai wom-



Myanmar female football star Khin Mar Lar Tun is seen with 2022 Thai Women's League Championship trophy. PHOTO: COLLEGE OF ASIAN SCHOLARS

en's club and was successful in her first season.

This is the first time that Myanmar women's football players have been allowed to play for foreign clubs in the last few years, as Win Theingi Tun is also playing for Indian club Gokulam.

Khin Malar Tun has a three-month contract with the Thai club College of Asian Scholars.

— Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Judo helps fight xenophobia in South Africa

IN a newly renovated white building in a South African township about 20 children in judogi and others in school uniforms tumble around on a tatami under the watchful eye of a coach.

They are from a nearby primary school and regularly gather for judo classes here in Alexandra township, north of the Johannesburg inner city and in the shadow of the financial hub of Sandton.

The project aims to "use judo as a vehicle for ... refugees, migrants (and) South Africans to meet together", said Judo for Peace coordinator Roberto Orlando. It's a "platform to be all equal, to learn together and to develop skills and values all together".

Alexandra is one of the poorest, most densely populated black townships in South Africa.

In 2008, more than 60 people -- mostly migrant workers from other African countries -- were killed in the country's worst

outbreak of xenophobic attacks since the end of apartheid. Fourteen years on, the scourge of xenophobia, which mainly targets black Africans, has not left the township.

From time to time, violent attacks against African immigrants still occur in Alexandra and other townships where crime and unemployment is rife.

Such attacks are predominantly staged by jobless black South Africans.

This year has seen tensions rise again in Alexandra. For several months a vigilante group called Operation Dudula -- "push back" in Zulu language -- has staged marches demanding the expulsion of illegal immigrants.

Migrants especially from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Nigeria and Zimbabwe have borne the brunt of the anti-foreigner hostility.

Orlando decided now, more than ever, was the best time to have a dojo in the township. It officially opened its doors last month. —AFP