

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.

Ayeyawady Bridge (Aunglan-Thayet) construction project

THE Ayeyawady Bridge (Aunglan-Thayet) construction project is located in the Thayet District of the Magway Region. The bridge will link Aunglan and Thayet townships. The bridge construction task force (3) of the Bridge Department under the Ministry of Construction constructs the bridge and is now complete 50 per cent.

The 2,272.5 metres long bridge has a 1,732.5 metres long main bridge section and a 300 metres long approach bridge on the side of Thayet and a 240 metres long approach bridge on the side of Aunglan.

The facility is 10.5 metres in width flanked by one-metre-wide pedestrian walk on each side. The water clearance will be 130 metres in width and 16 metres in height. The load capacity of the bridge is AASHTO HS 25/ HL 93. The construction cost will be K98,000 million and the operation started in the 2017-2018FY. The total budget was K38,992 million as of 2022-2023FY. The Bridge Department invited a tender to construct four spans out of 14 spans for the main bridge this financial year. The bridge construction is estimated to be completed in the 2024-2025FY.



An aerial view of the approach (on the side of Aunglan) to the Ayeyawady Bridge (Aunglan-Thayet).

When it completes, there will be easy access to Thayet and Aunglan townships without any transport difficulties.

Moreover, it can reach the economic corridor that links to Ruili of China by passing through Thayet, Aunglan and

Nay Pyi Taw from the Kyaukpau SEZ of Rakhine State.

Therefore, the new bridge will bring benefits to the resi-

dents in improving their economy, health, education and other sectors.—Kayan Soe Myint/ GNLM

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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



၂၀၂၂ ခုနှစ် ကမ္ဘာ့အေးအေးပေးပေးရက် (World Refrigeration Day - WRD)



“Cooling Matters”

“လူနေမှုဘဝ သာယာဖို့ အေးအေးပေးနည်းပညာ မြှင့်တင်စို့”

“Let’s improve cooling technology for social prosperity”

ATOM telecom launches ATOM Store App to improve user experience

ATOM (Advancing Telecommunications of Myanmar) launched ATOM Store App to provide a better-end service and enhance connectivity. The customers can start downloading it from 20 June free of data charge and enjoy special offers such as (a K5,000 cash bonus to use on-net calls and text at a Paygo rate and 200 MB data).

This applies to all customers after the first activation. The newly launched ATOM Store app will have a familiar user experience with an enhanced digital journey. In the future, customers can enjoy a faster and easier app experience and exciting features. More industry-first gamification will also be introduced with prizes worth millions. The ATOM Store app will be a daily essential app for customers to experience life beyond better such as new lifestyle, gaming, entertainment, and many more.

All Android OS device users can download and install

the new ATOM Store app via Google Play Store or send “APP” to 500 or dial *979*5*5#. Meanwhile, the iOS OS users will soon be able to get the new app via the App Store in the coming weeks.

“We want our customers to experience next-level products and services in all forms, whether it would be for gaming, entertainment, education and so much more.

“Our steps are progressing forward by introducing the new ATOM Store today. With our commitment to our stakeholders, we will bring high-quality and the most innovative services to advance connectivity. Stay tuned for more!” said Ahmad Abdallah, Chief Operating Officer of ATOM.

With a 4.5G network, ATOM offers a wide range of affordable, secure and world-class digital products and services that improve lives, transform businesses, and strengthen communities. — GNL

Notice

IT is recommended that the people continue to receive the immunization at the relevant health facilities, as the mutant COVID-19 virus and its new variants can only be effectively prevented by repeated doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and immunization.

Ministry of Health
24-6-2022

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

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

COVID-19 vaccine is administered daily to target groups regardless of race or religion, including Buddhist monks and nuns, local people over the age of 40, students, religious leaders, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 550 people from Tamway Township in Yangon Region, 13,604 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 5,784 people from twelve townships in Rakhine and Chin States and 2,547 people from seven districts, Mandalay Region, respectively.

Similarly, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 10,222 students from twenty-six Townships in Ayeyawady Region, 9,757 students from eleven townships in Rakhine and Chin States, and 200 students from Lahe and Htanparkway in Sagaing Region yesterday.

It is reported that officials from the respective Military Commands visited the site and coordinated the necessary work. — MNA



A student in Taunggyup Township in Rakhine State gets COVID-19 vaccine shot.

6 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 24 June, total figure rises to 613,538

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,538** after **six** new cases were reported on 24 June 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,524** 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.)

Union MoD Minister joins 16th ADMM, associate meetings in Cambodia

THE Myanmar delegation led by State Administration Council member Union Minister for Defence General Mya Tun Oo attended the 16th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (16th ADMM) held in Cambodia together with Defence Ministers and officials of ASEAN countries and Deputy ASEAN Secretary-General on 22 June.

During the event, Cambodian Defence Minister General Tea Banh made an opening speech.

Then, the leaders approved the papers on enhancing cooperation of ASEAN defence forces in cross-border epidemic control, promotion of assistance of female peacekeepers of ASEAN and establishment of ASEAN defence schools tabled by Cambodia and another reference paper on cyber security and information centre under ADMM by Singapore.

They also recognized the paper on enhancing information sharing between rules of law for the South-East Asia ocean



MoD Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo is welcomed on arrival in Yangon on 23 June 2002.

and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus Maritime Security and creating a historic military to promote sustainable peace proposed by Cambodia.

Then, the leaders affirmed the motions of Cambodia and

issued a joint statement, and concluded the meeting.

After the meeting, they met with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen at the peace palace in Phnom Penh. The associate meetings, ASEAN-Japan De-

fence Ministers' Informal Meeting, and ASEAN-China Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting were held and the Defence Ministers' of relevant countries joined the events.

After the meetings, the Un-

ion Minister went to Myanmar Embassy in Cambodia and met with the families of the embassy and Military Attaché office, and trainees who are attending Khmer language training class in Cambodia on the morning of 23 June.

In the evening, the delegation led by Union Minister was seen off at Phnom Penh International Airport by Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia U Thit Linn Ohn, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy, and Air) Brig-Gen Thura Hla Min and Cambodian officials. The delegation arrived back at Yangon at 8:40 pm.

By attending the 16th ADMM, the delegation reported on the stand of Myanmar and Tatmadaw, implementation of defence services in ASEAN regions, and activities of the country, and also exchanged views on regional defence and security affairs and promoted the relations between ASEAN countries.—MNA

MoFA, MoIC hold monsoon sapling-planting ceremony



A Monsoon sapling-planting ceremony 2022 of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation held at a plot beside the Ngaliwe Creek in the compound of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday morning.

At the planting ceremony, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin of the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs, Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing of the Ministry of International Cooperation, the deputy minister for Foreign Affairs, the permanent secretary, the directors-general, officials and staff planted a total of 552 saplings – 382 precious teak saplings, 120 sweet-smell coconut saplings and 50 Seintalone mango saplings – at the designated places as the commemoration of the 2022 rainy season tree-planting ceremony.

And then, the Union ministers, the deputy minister, an permanent secretary and the directors-general viewed the activities and encouraged the staff who were planting saplings.—MNA

The MoFA and MoIC Union Ministers are pictured encouraging the staff who plant the saplings.

MoI Union Minister inspects upgrade work of Wazira cinema

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, accompanied by the Attorney General of Yangon Region, the Chairman of the Myanmar Press Council, Chairman of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, and officials from the Myanmar Music Association, inspected the ancient Wazira Cinema on Bogyoke Aung San Road, Yangon, yesterday morning.

During the inspection, the director-general of the Information and Public Relations Department explained upgrading the cinema to Red Carpet Theater. The Union Minister said the Wazira Cinema is one of the oldest cinemas in Myanmar, adding that it is necessary to carry out systematic maintenance in accordance with



Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views the upgrading work in the Wazira Cinema.

the rules to be followed in the maintenance of ancient buildings. The Wazira Cinema was built in 1920 and is the oldest cinema in Myanmar, originally named Excelsior. In 1942, it was renamed

“A-1 Cinema”. It was renamed “Wazira” in 1968 and is about 115 feet long and 140 feet wide on Bogyoke Aung San Road in Yangon.

The Wazira Cinema was decorated with 16th- to 18th-century Beaux-Arts-style architectural fusion of French architecture and figurines. At present, it is also being planned to make the Wazira Cinema not only a movie theatre but also a venue where plays, puppet shows, dance, music festivals, and international film festivals are held.

In addition, upgrade works will be implemented with the purpose of making the cinema an archaeological museum for foreign tourists, as well as a place to show old movies and puppet shows on weekends. — MNA

MoHT Union Minister attends workshop led by Indonesian Ministry of Tourism and Economic Innovation

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung attended a regional workshop on the National Tourism Professional Board (NTPB) and the Tourism Professional Certification Board (TPCB), led by the Ministry of Tourism and Economic Innova-

tion of Indonesia, held via a hybrid system yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by representatives from related Ministries of NTPB and TPCB, private tourism organizations, the International Labour Organization, Speakers from the Minis-

ters of Education for the Establishment of Learning Centres in Southeast Asia and ASEAN and East Asia Economic Research Group, Members of the NTPB and TPCB from the ASEAN Member States and representatives from the ASEAN Tourism Authority.

At the workshop, the Union Minister urged the ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Regional Secretariat on the Implementation of Mutual Recognition of ASEAN Tourism Professionals to promote the implementation of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Programme for Tourism Professionals and Tourism Entrepreneurs. He discussed issues related to the capacity building of ASEAN Master Trainers and ASEAN Master Assessors, and the provision of teacher training programmes for Freelance Professionals under the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Programme.

Afterwards, the participants discussed the necessary infrastructure development for the implementation of the ASEAN Tourism Professionals Recognition Programme, the role of NTPB and TPCB, challenges and

opportunities, and cooperation for regional economic development and future plans for tourism.

Next, the deputy director-general of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism of Myanmar and representatives of NTPB and TPCB from the ASEAN Member States discussed the status of NTPB and TPCB, National Trainers and Assessors training based on ASEAN Tourism Skills Standards, certification status, proficiency standards for ASEAN tourism professionals and good experiences in implementing the ASEAN Common Tourism Curriculum.

The regional workshop aimed to share and discuss the experiences of NTPB and TPCB in implementing the ASEAN Tourism Professionals Recognition Programme, which contributes to the integration of the ASEAN Business Community. — MNA



MoHT Union Minister Dr Htay Aung virtually joins the tourism promotion workshop hosted by Indonesia.

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Action to be taken against recording businesses working without renewing business licences

THE Ministry of Information announced that action will be taken against recording businesses working without renewing their business licences.

If the registration certificate of the recording studios in Yangon expired, it is required to renew it within 30 days after the expiration date by submitting K5,000 as the registration fee and the relevant form to the Film Promotion Division of the Department of Information and Public Relations, Ministry of Information.

For the recording studios from other regions and states, the renewal of the registration will be able to make at the respective region/state Film Promotion Divisions of the Department of Information and Public Relations.

Currently, the Ministry of Information is granting Music Recording Business Licence Registration with one year term. — TWA/GNLM



The district IPRD office in Bago Region.

Commodities' prices down in Bayintnaung wholesale centre

THE prices of onion, potato and palm oil decline and the mung bean prices become high in the last week of June, according to the Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre.

On 22 June, the Monywa onion price was K1,400-1,700-1,800-1,900 per viss and the Chinese onion entered the market at low prices on 23 June and the local onion prices dropped about K50 and K150 per viss on 24 June.

On 23 June, the Monywa onion price was K1,350-1,700-1,800-1,900 per viss and K1,250-1,600-1,700-1,800 per viss on 24 June. The Seikphyu onion price was K1,200-1,600-1,700-1,800 per viss on 23 June and K1,100-1,450-1,600-1,700 per viss on 24 June.

The Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre received 150,000 viss of onion on 23 June and 180,000 viss of onion on 24 June. The Seikphyu onion entered the market on 24 June and the highest price was only K1,300 per viss. A total of 12,000 visses of onion entered the Seikphyu market and the highest price was K1,450 per viss on 23 June. On 22 June, the Pakokku wholesale centre received over 58,000 viss of onion and the Yaw onion price was K1,600 per viss. on 24 June, it received over 65,000 visses and Yaw onion price was only K1,450 per viss, according to the local source.



A vendor is pictured selling dry groceries.

The original price of Chinese onion is about K650 per viss and the Indian onion is below K1000 per viss. On 23 June, the Heho potato was priced at K1,400-1,700-1,700-1,700 per viss and K1,400-1,650-1,650-1,650 per viss on 24 June, according to the market.

The prepaid system for palm oil is adapted at the reference price of K5,815 in the Yangon palm oil market until 30 June, said palm oil seller Ko Aung Thu.

Similarly, the foreign crude palm oil price was 4,748 Malaysian Ringgit-MYR and 4,668 MYR per tonne on 22 June.

On 20 June at noon, the price was 5,232 MYR and 500 MYR per tonne. In the Yangon market, the reference price is K5,815 as of 30 June and a person can buy 5 viss at price of K5,950, said Ko Sein Tun who buys oil from Nyaung pinlay market. The oil will be sold prepaid system (when the company's oil vessel arrives but the time is unknown), according to oil merchants.

As the foreign oil price drastically declines, the local reference price is high. The price to be released on 1 July will be dropped more and so the oil importers sell with the prepaid system, the buyer said. The set reference price is only for instant sales. The prepaid price has not been set yet.

On 23 June, the FAQ/RC mung bean price was K1,607,500 per tonne and K1,622,000 per tonne on 24 June. The price of RC pigeon pea remained unchanged at K1380,000 per tonne on 23 and 24 June, according to the Yangon market. —TWA/GNLM

Farmers, companies to implement contract farming systems to expand sunflower cultivation

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein called for the implementation of a contract farming system between farmers and companies to expand sunflower cultivation in the Yangon Region in the 2022-2023 financial year.

The chief minister said so at the meeting on the expansion of sunflower cultivation by contract farming held on 23 June. He urged relevant departments to work together for a successful contract farming system to fulfil the sunflower cultivation target for domestic edible oil supply.

In Myanmar, peanuts, sesame seeds, sunflower, and other oilseeds are mainly



Myanmar has to import edible palm oil worth over \$800 million per year to meet the domestic demand for cooking oil.

cultivated to ensure domestic edible oil security, and 1.5 million acres of sunflower will be expanded in the current financial year.

It is reported that discus-

sions are underway to import good seeds required for the expansion and to produce duplicates in the country, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The Ministry has been providing the necessary supplies required for the domestic oil production to the domestic oil producers, and the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project, a rural development programme, is providing funds to the seed production farmers through a revolving fund system.

Myanmar has to import edible palm oil worth over \$800 million per year to meet the domestic demand for cooking oil. — TWA/GNLM

MIFER Deputy Minister attends 2nd Meeting of High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision

DEPUTY Minister U Than Aung Kyaw of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Eminent Person (EP) of Myanmar attended the Second Meeting of the High-Level Task Force on the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (HLTF-ACV) which was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 23-24 June 2022.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia Dr Chem Widhya and High-Level Representative of Malaysia Ambassador Dato' Zainuddin Yahya co-chaired the meeting. Eminent Persons and High-Level Representatives from the ASEAN Member States, the Deputy Secretary-General of the ASEAN Secretariat and the representatives participated in the meeting.

At the meeting, Eminent



MIFER Deputy Minister U Than Aung Kyaw poses for the documentary group photo.

Persons gave guidance on the report of the First Joint Working Group (JWG) to assist the work of the HLTF-ACV. They exchanged views and discussed the Modalities for Stakeholders'

Consultation, the Core Elements of ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision and Strengthening ASEAN's Capacity and Institutional Effectiveness.

In his intervention, Depu-

ty Minister U Than Aung Kyaw highlighted that the proposed core elements of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision should be in line with the objectives and principles of the ASE-

AN Charter. He also mentioned that based on the findings of midterm reviews, some characteristics of core elements of the current vision 2025 are still relevant and should be retained, and some emerging issues due to the geopolitical and economic contexts, future pandemics, digitalization, climate change, also should be incorporated in the new elements of the Post 2025 Vision. He also stressed that ASEAN should be a more united, inclusive and responsive community in dealing with external partners by strengthening the ASEAN Centrality and ASEAN-led mechanism.

The senior officials, the representatives of Myanmar for the ASEAN Political and Security Community Pillar, Economic Community Pillar and Social and Culture Community Pillar also attended the meeting. — MNA

CRIME NEWS

Stimulant tablets seized in Monywa, Myeik townships

STIMULANT tablets were captured in Monywa and Myeik, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

On 23 June at noon, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and examined a motorcycle driven by Ma Dae Dae on the Innphat Street of Htandaw Ward in Monywa Township and confiscated 390 stimulant tablets.

According to the investigation, the combined task force searched the house of the suspect, located at No 5/55, Monywa (South) Ward in Monywa Township and seized 44,850 more stimulant pills at 12:25 pm. After that, they captured the owner of stimulant tablets, Ma Su Sandar Tun at her house in Htandaw Ward,

Monywa Township, according to further investigation.

On the same day at 5:30 pm, a team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force captured 1,900 stimulant pills from a motorcycle driven by Min Nge (aka) Lu Hla (aka) Ga Nan, while conducting investigations at the No 1 Jetty of the Noutlel Ward in Myeik Township.

Similarly, a team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force inspected a house of Win Myo Htike at No 20, Saya Inhochan Street of the Myitnge Ward in Myeik Township and confiscated 1,900 stimulant tablets at 6:50 pm. The suspects were prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the Myanmar Police Force stated. —MNA



Two arrestees are seen along with seized stimulant pills and a motorbike.

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods, chemicals and unregistered vehicles seized

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

Under the instructions of the Chairman of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force, a combined inspection team led by the Forest Department made inspections on 20 June, according to information.

They seized a total of 3.4922 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K349,220 near the 90/2 milepost on the Pyay-Taungup Road in Taungup Township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, a total of 0.3492-tonne illegal teak poles at an estimated value of K25,000 were captured in Ingapu Township under the supervision of the Ayeyawady Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force and effective action was prosecuted under the Forest Law.

In addition, inspections were carried out under the management of the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force on 21 June.

They confiscated consumer goods and foodstuffs at an estimated value of K35.75 million without official documents from two trucks (approximately K42 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.



Seized goods in Bago Region.

Afterwards, a total of 19.3226 tonnes of illegal teak and other timbers worth K6,389,300 in Bago, Toungoo and Thayawady districts on 23 and 24 June and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, on 22 June, the on-duty team made inspections at the container terminal of Asia World Port and confiscated chemicals (approximately K61,939,600), which were not paid fines by the company.

In addition, at the container terminal of the Myanmar International Port (Thilawa), authorities captured nine vehicles worth K95,553,284 that were four years over the ID period and were left by owners.

At the container terminal of

the Myanmar Integrated Port Limited (MIPL), officials confiscated eight vehicles worth K181 million that were five years over the ID period and were left by owners.

The actions were taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 24 June, a team led by the Myanmar Police Force conducted inspections in Wetlet Township and captured K250,000 worth of a Zongshen 125 CZI motorbike. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Therefore, 41 arrests estimated at K423,256,404 were made on five consecutive days from 20 to 24 June, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Japanese-origin white sesame opens market with high price

THE white sesame of Japanese origin is lately flowing into the Mandalay market with high prices and the trade is bustling as well, said sesame traders in Mandalay city.

Japanese white sesame is mainly supplied from Monywa, Myinmu, Myaung and Kyaukse townships. The price surges to K203,000 per three-basket bag from K165,000 recorded in early May. The figures show a significant increase within a month, said U Soe Win Myint, an owner of Soe Win Myint Commodity Depot in Mandalay city.

“Japanese white sesame is abundantly entering the Mandalay market from various regions. This sesame seed variety was taken from Japan 10 years ago and named Japa-



Japanese white sesame is abundantly entering the Mandalay market from various regions. This sesame seed variety was taken from Japan 10 years ago and named Japanese white sesame.

nese white sesame. It is whiter than normal white sesame and the sesame seeds are thicker.

It is more marketable as well. Out of sesame varieties (white sesame, yellow sesame, brown

sesame, black sesame and Japanese white sesame and black sesame (Samone variety) are

highly demanded in the market. China purchases all the supply of Japanese white sesame. It was also shipped to Japan in the past years. It is cultivated under irrigation networks in summer. The sesame seeds from Salin and Sinbyukyun areas are soon to flow into the market,” he elaborated. That sesame variety can be cultivated throughout the year. It can be harvested after 100 days of cultivation. It is a commercially valued product of Myanmar. The sesame is commonly cultivated in Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing regions. Japanese white sesame from Kyaukse and Ledwin districts are the most preferred in the market. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)/GNLM

Myanmar conveys \$31.437 mln worth of 20,740 tonnes of rubber to foreign markets in May



A female worker is seen collecting the latex from rubber trees.

MYANMAR exported a total of 20,740 tonnes of rubber to external markets through maritime trade and border posts, with an estimated value of US\$31.437 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The export volume is up by \$3,630 tonnes and earned \$4.274 million more compared to trade data in April.

Myanmar delivered \$27.946 million worth of over 17,960 tonnes of rubber to foreign trade partners through maritime trade; with over 10,380 tonnes of rubber to China, over 5,660 tonnes to Malaysia and

over 740 tonnes to India, Meanwhile, \$3.491 million worth of over 2,780 tonnes of rubber were exported to the neighbouring countries via border trade, with 710 tonnes to China and 2,070 tonnes to Thailand.

The prices of rubber surged over K1,200 per pound again in the third week of June, rubber traders said.

In early May, a pound of rubber was priced around K1,000. Shortly after, the rubber price gradually increased. The prices of rubber stand at K1,200 per pound for sun-dried

rubber Local 3 and K1,220 per pound for ribbed smoked sheet Local 3.

Global demand for rubber, rubber production of the Southeast Asian nations and their market supply are contributing factors to the rubber price condition of Mon State, a major producing state in Myanmar, traders elaborated.

Rubber is commonly produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres. About 300,000 tonnes of rubber are produced annually across the country.

Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries.

Myanmar shipped 303,293 metric tons of rubber to its foreign trade partners and generated more than US\$449 million in revenue in the previous financial year 2020-2021. — GNLM

Global gold price rally stops gold import

WHEN the gold price spikes in the global market, gold import still cannot be done, said U Myo Myint, chair of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

Gold mining often collapses in the rainy season (June, July and August). YGEA mentioned gold imports from foreign countries to cover the shortage of raw gold in early May.

However, the gold price is on the rise in the global market. There is adequate raw gold in the domestic market as well. This being so, we do not see any gold importer; for now, he continued. “Gold import is currently stopped. We have two sources of raw gold; gold mines or resellers of old broken or scratched gold items. Gold mines supply gold on sunny days for now. Most the gold retail shops resell the damaged gold items and those items fulfil

the raw gold requirements. The global gold price is also rising. Import is likely to happen with the price of around \$1,600-1,700 per ounce”, said U Myo Myint.

Gold import is aimed not to fall short of raw gold supply for the domestic gold refinery and shops in the rainy season.

If the gold import is done, it will be imported through seven ASEAN countries, South Korea, Japan and India.

Gold shops need a company registration, import/export licence and opening account at Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank. The prevailing pure gold price touches a high of K2,050,000 per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilogramme) in the domestic market. Moreover, the gold market is quite sluggish in the rainy season and school opening season. Sellers outnumber buyers in the market, according to the YGEA. — NN/GNLM



Gold jewellery is seen at one outlet.

Nurture the youth, a reserved force for senior citizens

NOT only school education but vocational education is of great importance in nurturing the youths who are a primary production force for the development of the nation to be capable and skilful in workplaces.

Depending on changes in the mainstream, youths should have to complete the school education at different levels as well as any techniques of vocational education in order to grasp the job opportunities. Especially, vocational education is most important for the youths who are weak in learning school education.

Today's youths are a reserved force of senior citizens in the future. Those youths will have to shoulder the greater duties of the nation at different levels. Endeavours of those youths from various strata at workplaces will be identified as a paramount contribution to the development of the nation.

The youths who have passed the eighth standard examination of basic education schools may join the training centres which are combined with the cooperative schools and the cooperative commercial schools.

Upon completion, the students who graduated from the training centres will be skilful in accounting with knowledge of basic accountancy, modern management and computer science. If they apply for the posts of relevant governmental organizations, cooperative shops and societies, non-governmental organizations and companies, the relevant training courses they have already pursued will surely contribute to their professions.

In fact, it is a great chance for today's youths to have proper livelihoods for their lives in earning incomes for solving the needs of families. They have to continue further advanced studies to have more skilful and wider accountancy knowledge to become reliable ones for the State as well as their societies. Thanks to the chance for learning school education at these centres, the trainee youths will have a wider scope of knowledge in operating their jobs with initiatives and critical thinking.

Today's youths are a reserved force of senior citizens in the future. Those youths will have to shoulder the greater duties of the nation at different levels. Endeavours of those youths from various strata at workplaces will be identified as a paramount contribution to the development of the nation.

Thank You for the Music

By Maung Han Tin

IF YOU want to build your body into good shape, go to the gym regularly. If you want to get the benefits of music, exercise your brain by listening to soothing music systematically. But if you can do both in an appropriate manner every day at a very specific time in your routine with perseverance, you will get the unique health benefit of two.

The Brain-Music Connection

A stereo music system blows out vibrations that travel through the air and somehow get inside the ear canal. These sound waves (vibrations) are transmitted to tickle the eardrum and converted into electrical signals in the brain that travel through the auditory nerve to the brain stem, where they are reassembled into something we perceive as music. As the brain interprets these sounds, cascades of physical effects are triggered within the body. This is how our brains can hear and play music. If we listen to music while sleeping, it improves sleep by calming parts of the autonomic nervous system, leading to slower breathing, a lower heart rate, and reduced blood pressure. Research has shown that listening to music can reduce anxiety, blood pressure, and pain as well as improve sleep quality, mood, mental alertness, and memory.

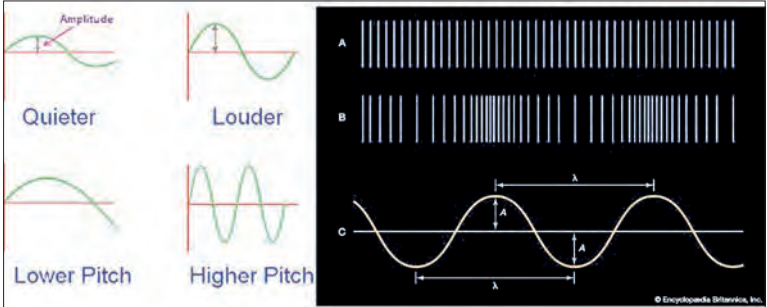
host of positive emotional qualities. When you're fully lost in the music, you're getting a taste of nirvana without any rigorous training. The goal of both music and meditation is to create a powerful and positive shift in our mental state. Music is a reliable source of transformational experiences for many, and we are attracted to music for the same reasons that meditators meditate. Music and meditation both allow a fuller and richer experience of our emotions. They stop our incessant and often negative mental chatter and offer us an opportunity to inhabit the present moment more fully and meaningfully. All of these are essential for human health and happiness. Ludwig van Beethoven says: "Music is the mediator between the life of the senses and the life of the spirit."

How Are Sounds Measured?

Sound is energy that travels in waves. It can be measured in two ways: **frequency (Hertz – Hz)** and **amplitude (decibels – dB)**.

- **Frequency (Hz):** It is the unit of measurement for audio frequencies. An **audio frequency**, or **audible frequency**, is a periodic vibration whose frequency is in the band audible to the average human; the human hearing range. **20 Hz to 20,000 Hz** is the commonly referenced audio

The frequency unit in the SI (International System) unit is the hertz (Hz). One hertz is equal to one cycle per second. One hertz per second is equal to one loop. Hertz measures a sound's frequency pitch, or how many times per second a sound wave repeats itself.



Graphic representations of a sound wave.

(A) Air at equilibrium, in the absence of a sound wave; (B) compressions and rarefactions that constitute a sound wave; (C) transverse representation of the wave, showing amplitude (A) and wavelength (λ).

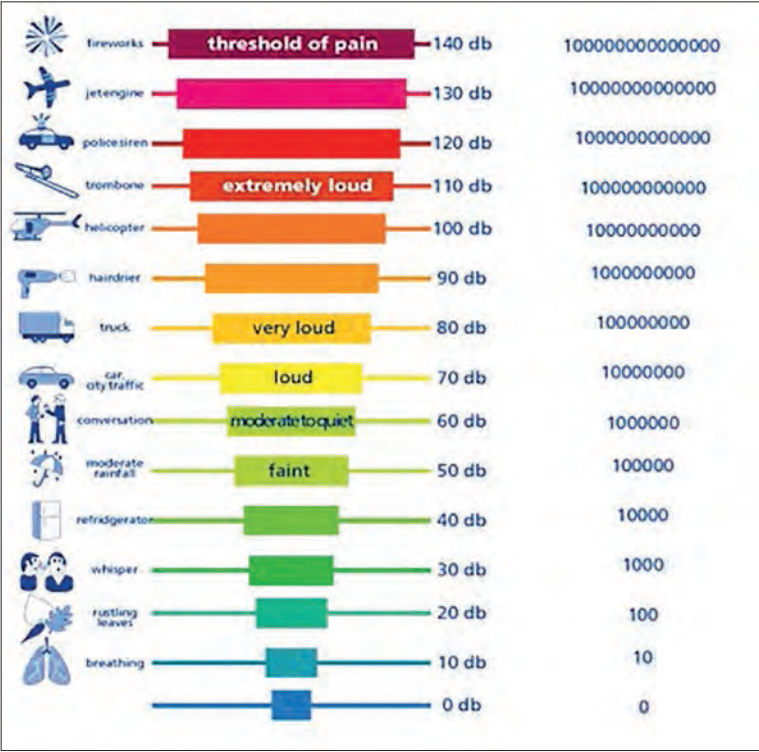
- **Amplitude (dB):** It measures the sound's pressure or forcefulness. The more amplitude a sound has, the louder it is. In daily life, we often think of this as "volume". Decibels measure how loud a sound is. The decibel (dB) is a unit used to measure the intensity of a sound. The decibel scale measures noise logarithmi-

counting or measuring something that increases rapidly, or exponentially, which is similar to how our ears perceive sound. Every increase of 10 dB on the decibel scale is equal to a 10-fold increase in sound pressure level (SPL). Near silence is expressed as

audible range of loudness is from **0 to 180 dB**, anything over 80 dB is considered loud; anything over 85 dB is considered damaging to our hearing. At 100dB it is classed as unpleasant, and at 130dB, it is the threshold of pain, and exposure to this can cause permanent hearing damage in a matter of minutes.

Evolving Science about Benefits of Music and Health

The tempo, or speed, at which music is played, is often measured in the number of beats per minute (BPM). Most studies have selected music that is around 60-80 BPM is ideal for a good sleep because normal resting heart rates range from 60 to 100 BPM. (It has been hypothesized that the body may sync up with slower music). Music is relaxing, especially if the song matches our resting heart rate closely. While many people benefit from songs with a slower tempo, others may find relaxation in more upbeat music. Feel free to experiment and see what works best. The benefits of music listening are enormous, and the following facts



As I have said, the 'normal' hearing audio frequency range of a healthy young person is about **20 to 20,000Hz**. The normal hearing range is from **0 dBHL (Decibel Hearing Level)**, which is the audiometric zero, to **20 dBHL**. Any threshold, at any frequency, that is over 20 dBHL is identified as hearing loss. Although a "normal"

are some of them:-

- **Improves sleep quality:** By listening to music at bedtime, you can sleep better, longer and with fewer disturbances. You can take your mind off of your everyday thoughts and stresses by playing music. Music is a great option to help improve your sleep. Research shows that children of all ages,

both acute and chronic physical pain.

- **Reduces Stress and Eases Anxiety:** Research has shown that blood flows more easily when music is played. It can also reduce heart rate, lower blood pressure, decrease **cortisol** (stress hormone) levels and increase **serotonin** (which acts as a neurotransmitter in the central nervous system) and **endorphin** (which gives us a heightened feeling of excitement) levels in the blood. (Being stressed and having elevated levels of cortisol can increase alertness and lead to poor sleep). It elevates the mood. Music can boost the brain's production of **dopamine** (a hormone released during pleasurable activities, like eating, exercise, and sex, that make you feel good).
- **Boosts problem-solving ability:** Listening to music can activate both the right and left side, of our brain. Engaging both sides simultaneously improves problem-solving ability.

William Shakespeare

said—"Music can minister to minds diseased, Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow, raze out the written troubles of the brain, and with its sweet oblivious antidote, cleanse the full bosom of all perilous stuff that weighs upon the heart."

Harmful effects of listening to music while sleeping

Find enjoyable songs. Avoid songs that cause strong emotional reactions. Be careful with headphones: Headphones and earbuds may cause damage to the ear canal while sleeping if the volume is too high. Sleeping with earbuds can also lead to a buildup of earwax and may increase the risk of ear infections. Instead, try setting up a small stereo or speaker somewhere close to the bed. Choose speakers without bright light, which can interfere with sleep, and find a volume that is soothing and not disruptive.

Not only is it uncomfortable to sleep with earphones, but there are other harmful effects of listening to music while sleeping as well. Take a look at some.

Necrosis: Necrosis refers to the death of body tissue due to a lack of blood flow. Your earphones can do this by cutting off circulation and causing necrosis.

Wax Build Up: Our ears continuously produce wax, which

protects our ear canal. However, excessive buildup of wax can be harmful. It clogs our ears and affects our hearing. Prolonged use of earphones can lead to wax buildup. This is unhealthy.

Strangulation: Sleeping with a cord near you is risky. You could die of strangulation if you wear headphones or earbuds while sleeping. The chances of this are low, but you should always be careful.

Thank you for the Music

We can listen to a variety of music that matches our emerging emotional moods at that time for encouraging, relieving, boosting, judging, and many other things to excite our personal heart feelings. We have to be grateful to composers, music bands, orchestras, and singers. To be more comprehensive and inclusive, we should not forget the inventors and manufacturers of music instruments, audio recording and related electronic equipment, and electricians.

Therefore, I thank you for the music that inclusive society has created, supported, and sung. "Thank you for the music", by ABBA, is one of my favourite songs. To quote my favourite part of its lyrics:

So I say
Thank you for the music, the songs I'm singing
Thanks for all the joy they're bringing
Who can live without it? I ask in all honesty
What would life be?
Without a song or a dance, what are we?
So I say thank you for the music
For giving it to me

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- Healthy Hearing: < <https://www.healthyhearing.com/>>

HEALTH/ENVIRON WORLD

Japan halts aid for coal-fired plants in Indonesia, Bangladesh



Coal being unloaded from a barge at the Suralaya coal power plant in Indonesia. **PHOTO: AFP**

JAPAN will stop providing yen loans for the construction of coal-fired electricity plants in Indonesia and Bangladesh, the government said Wednesday.

The policy reversal regarding the construction of the Indramayu plant in Indonesia and the Matarbari plant in Bangladesh

came in response to international criticism of coal-fired power, a major source of greenhouse gas emissions blamed for global warming.

The Group of Seven nations agreed in 2021 to end new forms of aid by the year-end for coal-burning power stations that fail to take

measures to curb emissions.

But Japan had maintained the plants were exempt as “ongoing cases,” prompting environmental groups to accuse the country of breaking the G-7 promise.

The G-7 comprises Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, plus the European Union.

Indonesia and Bangladesh were conducting surveys for the projects with Japan’s backing, but neither cases have advanced to construction.

“We decided that we cannot proceed any further with these cases as subjects to yen loans,” Foreign Ministry Press Secretary Hikariko Ono said at a news conference.

She also said the government will continue to assist developing countries in the quest for a decarbonized society.—Kyodo

Dutch farmers protest livestock cuts to curb nitrogen

THOUSANDS of farmers on tractors gathered in central Netherlands on Wednesday to protest the government’s far-reaching plans to cut nitrogen emissions, which could see livestock reduced by almost a third.

The Netherlands, the world’s second-largest agricultural exporter, is one of the top greenhouse gas emitters in Europe — especially nitrogen — with much of this blamed on cattle-produced manure and fertilizer.

Traffic came to a standstill for kilometres around the town of Stroe, east of Amsterdam, as farmers were arriving from across the country to protest, AFP correspondents saw.

Many tractors, with horns blaring and safety lights flashing, were also adorned with an upside-down Dutch flag, which has become a common sight at rallies in the Netherlands.

Protesters also carried signs saying “The future of farmers is being destroyed” and “Our



Tractor-driving farmers in the Netherlands protested plans by the government to cut nitrogen emissions that could see a 30-per-cent reduction in livestock. **PHOTO: ANP/AFP**

children are afraid”.

Prime Minister Mark Rutte said earlier this month the government’s plan to cut nitrogen emissions “will have an enormous impact on farmers”.

“This sector will change, but unfortunately there’s no choice, we have to bring down nitrogen emissions,” he said.

The Dutch government plans to cut greenhouse gas nitrogen by as much as 70 per cent

in 131 key areas — many of them close to nature reserves — to reach climate goals by 2030.

For farmers this means that a 40-per cent drop in emissions is expected, which would require around 30 per cent less cattle, according to reports.

The country’s 12 provinces have now been tasked to come up with suggestions by next year to reduce emissions by livestock, construction and traffic.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

New antibody therapies fight cancer, drum up investment

ANTIBODY therapies are providing promising therapy breakthroughs for most cancers and different diseases, producing better investor curiosity greater than 20 years after they had been first commercialized.

Antibodies are proteins that acknowledge international substances, often called antigens, attaching themselves to them to alert the remainder of the human immune system.

In 1975, scientists Georges Koehler and Cesar Milstein found the way to produce them in a laboratory, which later earned them a Nobel Prize for drugs. Dozens of artificial antibodies have since been developed.

New antibody therapies for use with chemotherapy have arrived on the scene lately.

Most not too long ago, a scientific trial of an antibody developed by pharmaceutical teams Daiichi Sankyo and AstraZeneca caught the eye of main most cancers specialists gathered on the American Society of Medical Oncology’s annual congress in Chicago this month. —AFP

Dozens of turtles, dolphins found dead in Guatemala, probe launched

DOZENS of turtles, dolphins and other marine species have been found dead on Guatemala’s Pacific coast, prompting an official investigation, authorities said Thursday.

As many as 65 turtles, most of them of the Olive Ridley variety, and 14 dolphins were discovered dead earlier this week, Guatemala’s National Council of Protected Areas told AFP.

The agency didn’t say where exactly the dead animals were found.

Officials at the agency believe the deaths could have been caused by heavy rains in recent days, which could have carried some toxic materials from the mainland into the sea.

Investigators are also looking into whether industrial fishing being developed offshore could have played a role.

Experts in this Central American nation will now study the animals’ remains to determine what caused the deaths.

Local officials together with volunteers were also looking to see if more dead species were to be found. —AFP

World’s largest bacteria discovered in Guadeloupe

YOU can see it with the naked eye and pick it up with a pair of tweezers — not bad for a single bacteria.

Scientists say they have discovered the world’s largest variety in the mangroves of Guadeloupe — and it puts its peers to shame.

At up to two centimetres (three-quarters of an inch), “Thiomargarita magnifica” is not only around 5,000 times bigger than most bacteria — it boasts a more complex structure, according to a study published in the journal Science on Thursday.

The discovery “shakes up

a lot of knowledge” in microbiology, Olivier Gros, professor of biology at the University of the Antilles and co-author of the study, told AFP.

In his laboratory in the Caribbean island group city of Pointe-a-Pitre, he marvelled at a test tube containing strands that look like white eyelashes.

“At first I thought it was anything but a bacterium because something two centimetres (in size) just couldn’t be one”, he said. The researcher first spotted the strange filaments in a patch of sulphur-rich mangrove sediment in 2009.—AFP

Thailand relaxes mask rule to bolster pandemic-hit tourism

THAILAND has dropped rules requiring people to wear masks from Friday, the government says, as Covid-19 cases fall and the tourism-dependent kingdom seeks to lure back foreign visitors.

Face masks had been compulsory in public since mid-2021, when the country saw a wave of cases driven by the spread of the Delta variant.

But the kingdom is keen to kickstart its stuttering economy and is relaxing Covid-19 restrictions, including discarding most entry requirements from next month. “Wearing a surgical mask or cloth mask is a voluntary practice,” said Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha in a royal gazette announcement issued late Thursday.

The health ministry recommends people continue to wear face masks in crowded or poorly

ventilated areas, the statement added, but there was no explicit mention of public transport.

The capital Bangkok’s privately-owned metro service later announced, however, that it would still require travellers using its trains to wear masks.

The Thai government’s move comes after Singapore and Cambodia also discarded rules requiring outdoor mask wearing.

It also comes ahead of the end of the “Thailand Pass” system, which required visitors to register and show proof of vaccination before entering the kingdom. From 1 July, tourists will only have to carry their vaccine certificates or take a Covid-19 test on arrival.

Thailand’s economy has faltered in the last two years, with growth hammered by the bitter combination of rising living costs and Covid-19.



Visitors carrying sun umbrellas at the 17th century Wat Chaiwatthanaram temple complex in the ancient capital of Ayutthaya, north of Bangkok, Thailand. **PHOTO: AFP**

The kingdom has endured a precipitous drop in tourism, welcoming 1.6 million foreign tourists during the first six months of 2022, according to government data. In the first six months of 2019, that figure was just under 20 million, the data showed. — AFP

Australian national airline begins to shrink pandemic debt with restart of travel

A new market update from Australia’s national airline Qantas Group has shown that the restart of travel has allowed the airline to begin to climb out from a mountain of debt accrued during the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the latest financial year report released on Friday, Qantas’ debt peaked during the pandemic at more than 6.4 billion Australian dollars (4.42 billion US dollars) but was expected to fall to around 4 billion Australian dollars (2.76 billion US dollars) by 30 June.

The airline attributed the improvement to strong international and travel demand over the first half of 2022 since Australia lifted the majority of COV-



A new market update from Australia’s national airline Qantas Group has shown that the restart of travel has allowed the airline to begin to climb out from a mountain of debt accrued during the COVID-19 pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

ID-related travel restrictions. The airline turned its first profit since the onset of the pandemic in the second half of the 2022 financial year, and expects to continue to post a profit in the coming 2023 financial year beginning 1 July.—AFP

Coronavirus created ‘catastrophe’ in Latin American education

MOST children in Latin America and the Caribbean under the age of 11 are unable to understand simple written texts due to an “educational catastrophe” caused by the pandemic, international organizations revealed Thursday.

According to a report by the World Bank, UNICEF and UNESCO, 80 per cent of children in the region have been left with deficient education.

Only Sub-Saharan Africa has worse results.

Children in Latin America and the Caribbean lost an av-

erage of one and a half years of education during the pandemic, as schools in the region remained shut longer than anywhere else in the world.

This could set children’s education back 10 years, the “Two years later: saving a generation” report says.

The region “is facing an unprecedented educational crisis that could compromise future development in our countries”, said Carlos Felipe Jaramillo, the World Bank vice-president for Latin America and the Caribbean.—AFP



COVID-19 pandemic imposed an unseen situation on the Brazilian educational system. **PHOTO: AFP /FILE**

India’s cumulative COVID vaccination crosses 196.62-mark

INDIA’S cumulative Covid-19 vaccination coverage exceeded the 196.62 crores (1,96,62,11,973) mark on Thursday, the Ministry of Health and Family welfare informed.

As per the provisional reports till 7 am yesterday, India crossed the said mark through 2,54,44,218 sessions. According

to the ministry, since the beginning of the vaccination drive for adolescents of the age group 12-14 years, over 3.60 Crores (3,60,03,591) have been administered with the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Similarly, as many as 2,73,69,417 precaution doses of covid-19 have been given to the people belonging

to the age group of 18-59 years (of which 22,24,238 were given to the ones in 18-44 year age group; 21,99,106 to the ones in 45-59 years; and 2,29,46,073 to the people with age more than 60 years) The nationwide administration for precaution doses for the age group 18-59 years began on 10 April. —ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

Singapore eases movement curbs for migrant workers

MIGRANT workers in Singapore no longer need special permission to leave their dormitories from Friday, after two years of coronavirus curbs, but campaigners criticized the decision to maintain some “discriminatory” restrictions.

Around 300,000 migrant workers, many of them from South Asia, live in dorms in the prosperous city-state, where they are typically packed into shared rooms and sleep on bunk beds.

The vast complexes were hit by Covid-19 and locked down at the start of the pandemic, casting

a rare spotlight on what rights activists said were the poor living conditions of the low-paid workers. For most people in Singapore, strict movement curbs were only in place for a short period, but migrant workers remained largely confined to their dorms, except to go to work or run errands.

Authorities have gradually eased restrictions, allowing them to visit specially built “recreation centres”, and rolled out a scheme allowing them to apply for special “exit passes” to visit specific areas.

From Friday, the workers --

employed in industries including construction and maintenance — will no longer need passes to leave their dorms.

But authorities in tightly-controlled Singapore still require them to apply for permission to visit four popular locations on Sundays and public holidays, with up to 80,000 passes available per day.

The measure is to manage “potential high footfall” in those areas, a labour ministry spokesperson told AFP. “Even as we free up community visits, there is still a need to be vigilant as the pandemic is not over.”—AFP



Despite lifting need for special permission, Singapore authorities still require them to apply for permission to visit four popular locations on Sundays and public holidays, with up to 80,000 passes available per day. **PHOTO: AFP**

Chile workers end strike at world's largest copper producer

WORKERS at Chile's state mining company Codelco, the world's largest copper producer, called off an open-ended strike Thursday after reaching agreement with the government.

The strike by some 40,000 mine workers to protest the closure of a foundry in one of Chile's most polluted regions, was ended after one day, the FTC labour federation announced.

The FTC had agreed with the company to work jointly towards closing the Ventanas foundry, over a period of time, in an area dubbed “Chile's Chernobyl”.

Codelco announced it would



Workers described the announced closure of the Ventanas plant as 'arbitrary'. **PHOTO: AFP**

close the Ventanas foundry after an incident on 9 June when 115 people, mostly school children, suffered sulfur dioxide poisoning

released by heavy industry in the area around Quintero and Puchuncavi, home to some 50,000 people.—AFP

Troubled Canada pipeline no longer profitable: budget watchdog

THE controversial Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project, now under construction in west-

ern Canada after being nationalized, is no longer profitable as costs have spiralled, Parlia-

ment's budget watchdog said Wednesday.

In a report, the office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer said a review of the project's finances found “that the government's 2018 decision to acquire, expand, operate, and eventually divest of the Trans Mountain assets will result in a net loss for the federal government.”

Ottawa purchased the pipeline for Can\$4.4 billion (US\$3.4 billion) from Kinder Morgan four years ago to salvage the troubled expansion project.—AFP



The Trans Mountain pipeline, whose pieces are seen here at a storage lot in Abbotsford, Canada in June 2021 waiting to be assembled, is no longer profitable, the office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer concluded in a report. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

WORLD ECONOMY **Brief**

UK hit by second rail strike in week of industrial action

TRAVEL on Britain's railway system ground to a halt again Thursday, as the second of three days of widespread strike action this week billed as the biggest in decades got underway.

Thousands of rail workers staged the latest day-long walkout over pay and working conditions, plunging commutes into chaos and forcing many people to stay at home.

Only around a fifth of services are set to operate on heavily reduced hours, with those still running starting much later in the morning than usual and to end as early as 6:30 pm.

A third day of strikes is planned for Saturday.

With Britain suffering from rocketing inflation and stagnant economic growth, the industrial action -- which could be mirrored by workers in other sectors over the summer -- has echoes of the 1970s. Then, the country was crippled by a wave of strikes across various industries while struggling with rampant price rises and non-existent growth, a toxic combination known as stagflation.—AFP

Inflation 'shock' punishes Eurozone economy in June: survey

ECONOMIC growth in the eurozone plummeted in June, a key survey showed on Thursday, as high prices took the wind out of the strong recovery from the deep lows of the coronavirus pandemic.

The closely-watched monthly purchase managers' index (PMI) by S&P Global fell from 54.8 in May to 51.9. A figure above 50 indicates growth.

The slowdown, caused by a “cost-of-living shock”, is “the most abrupt recorded by the survey since the height of the global financial crisis in November 2008”, excluding the pandemic lockdown, said Chris Williamson, Chief Business Economist at S&P Global.

Since the beginning of the year, the European economy has recovered strongly from the lifting of restrictions linked to the Covid-19 pandemic, which revived tourism to countries like Spain and Greece as well as transport.

It also benefited from household spending, as consumers burned through savings accumulated during many months of confinement, offsetting the negative impact of the war in Ukraine.

But in June, the “tailwind” of this pent-up demand “is already fading”, Williamson warned.—AFP

Int'l travel fair to be held in China's Yunnan

THE 2022 China International Travel Mart (CITM) will be held from 22 to 24 July to 24 in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, the event organizers said Thursday.

Exhibitors from more than 70 countries and regions are expected to participate in the event either online or offline. More than 200 culture and tourism-related institutions and enterprises across China will take part, the organizers told a press conference held in Beijing.

Housing some 2,500 booths in an exhibition area covering 70,000 square meters, the fair will feature different exhibition zones with themes including sports tourism, overseas tourism and smart tourism. For the first time, the fair will include a special zone for museums, such as the Palace Museum and the National

Museum of China, to showcase traditional Chinese culture and the country's efforts in the cultural heritage protection. Founded in 1998, the CITM has grown into one of the largest and most influential tourism fairs in the Asia-Pacific region. —Xinhua



Ships are seen at a port in Batangas Province, the Philippines on 18 Nov 2021. Under the latest regulations, the Philippines is now open to fully vaccinated international visitors. **PHOTO: XINHUA/ROUELLE UMALI/FILE**

Major US banks can weather severe economic downturn: Fed

THE largest banks operating in the US market have sufficient resources to withstand a severe economic downturn and continue providing financing to American families and firms, the Federal Reserve said Thursday.

The Fed subjected 33 banks to its annual "stress test" exercise, to gauge whether they would be able to weather a steep global recession.

In the hypothetical crisis, financial markets plummet, commercial real estate and corporate debt markets face substantial strain, US unemployment reaches 10 per cent and the economy contracts by 3.5 per cent.

The results "showed that banks continue to have strong capital levels, allowing them to continue lending to households and businesses during a severe recession", the Fed said.

The scenario for this year's test was even bleaker than the one used last year, but the outcome was the same, showing all the banks would maintain a sufficient "cushion" despite total projected losses of \$612 billion, according to the report.

"Despite the larger post-stress decline this year... capital ratios remain well above the required minimum levels throughout the projection horizon" of nine quarters, the report said.

The stress tests, implemented in the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis, apply to banks with at least \$100 billion in total assets, including the top tier designated as "global systemically important banks". —AFP

CHANGING DISTRIBUTOR OF REGISTERED PESTICIDE

This is a notification of the change of distributor of below pesticides, registered by **Bayer AG**, under the Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, from **Y Agro Solution Co., Ltd.** to **Marga Min Co., Ltd.** Any objection to this change can notify to Joint Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein, within 14 days.

Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. Type	Reg. No.
Ronstar 250EC	Oxadiazon 250g/l EC	Full	F2014-353
Aliette 80WG	Fosetyl-aluminium 80% WG	Full	F2015-853

Bayer Thai Co., Ltd. (Myanmar Branch)-PH: 01-8382710 (Ext.40600)

UK retail sales drop on high inflation

BRITISH retail sales by volume dropped in May as soaring inflation caused consumers to limit spending, especially on food, official data showed Friday.

Sales fell 0.5 per cent compared with a rise of 0.4 per cent in April, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said.

April's data was sharply revised lower after an initial estimate showed retail sales had jumped 1.4 percent.



British retail sales by volume dropped in May as soaring inflation caused consumers to limit spending. **PHOTO: AFP / TOLGA AKMEN**

"Retail sales fell in May driven by a decline in food sales," said Heather Bovill, deputy director

for surveys and economic indicators at the ONS.

"Feedback from supermarkets suggested customers were spending less on their food shop because of the rising cost of living."

She added that department stores and companies selling household goods in May reported "consumer reluctance to spend due to affordability worries and higher prices".—AFP

Power-saving reward points worth 2,000 yen to be given to households

THE Japanese government said Friday it will provide power-saving points worth 2,000 yen (\$15) to households if they take part in a power-saving programme. In

the run-up to a House of Councillors election next month, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida revealed earlier this week the government will introduce the reward points system

to reduce the burden on households of rising electricity prices propelled by Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine. Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiji Kihara told reporters Fri-

day that additional points will also be awarded to households in line with the amount of power actually saved. But he did not say when the program will start.—Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V VAN ETERNITY VOY.NO. (2206)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V VAN ETERNITY VOY.NO. (2206)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-2** 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 ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD

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www.gnlm.com.mm

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09 454 237 515

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Japan Air Self-Defence Force chief of staff Shunji Izutsu (L) and Philippine Air Force chief Connor Anthony Canlas pose for a photo on 23 June 2022, at Clark Air Base north of Manila. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan, Philippines eye space as next area of defence cooperation

SPACE technology and surveillance could be the next step toward air defense cooperation between Japan and the Philippines in response to China's increasing military activities in the Indo-Pacific, a senior Japan Self-Defence Forces officer said Thursday.

"Unfortunately, seas and skies are no longer a safe place," Shunji Izutsu, chief of staff of the Air Self-Defence Force, said, speaking in English, during a visit to the Philippines as the

two countries advance defence cooperation in the face of Beijing's militarization of disputed outposts in the South China Sea.

"Both nations, the Philippines and Japan, are engaging in increasing surveillance capability (and have) interest in engaging in the space situation awareness," Izutsu said in a joint news conference with Connor Anthony Canlas, chief of the Philippine Air Force, at the Clark Air Base in the country's north.

"Surveillance and awareness are very important for securing our national security," Izutsu said.

Canlas said Tokyo-Manila relations are "getting stronger" as they expand from what was a purely economic partnership before to "military and defence".

Both officials also agreed technology sharing could include software use for operating air defense radars and information gathered through satellites.—Kyodo

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Kyiv says will host AU chief in Ukraine

AFRICAN Union chief Macky Sall will visit Kyiv soon, Ukraine's foreign minister said, adding that he hopes the trip will help step up pressure on Russia to end its invasion.

The war in Ukraine has threatened food security in many African countries by preventing exports of grain and fertilizer. Rising fuel and cereal costs are further straining vulnerable nations.

Sall, Senegal's president and current AU chair, visited

Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi this month to discuss the issue.

He did not visit Ukraine, but said he intended to.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Monday spoke to AU members via video-link and accused Russia of holding Africa hostage with its blockade.

Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said he hoped Sall's visit to Kyiv would pile pressure on Russia.

"I am convinced that President Macky Sall can play an important role as the current chairman of the African Union," Kuleba said in an interview published Thursday in the Senegalese newspaper Le Quotidien.

Ukraine hopes to provide Sall with the "necessary objective information to strengthen the voice of the African Union, in particular to ask Russia to stop the military aggression against Ukraine", he added.

— AFP



Ukraine says their troops will 'hold on as long as necessary'. **PHOTO: AFP/ AHMAD SAHEL ARMAN**

Russian gas threat revives German nuclear power debate

GERMANY should extend the lifetime of its nuclear plants to avoid an "extreme scenario" in which a Russian gas stop could wipe 12 per cent off the economy, a government advisor said

Thursday.

Prolonging the operational lifetime of Germany's remaining reactors could "create some breathing space", Veronika Grimm, a member of the gov-

ernment's council of economic advisors, told the Funke media group.

Germany turned its back on nuclear energy following the Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan in 2011, with its last three plants set to go offline at the end of the year.

But the debate over prolonging the life of nuclear in Germany has been reopened amid fears Russia could cut off gas supplies as retaliation against the West over its backing for Ukraine following Moscow's invasion.

In an "extreme scenario", the German economy could shrink by 12 per cent if Russia turned the taps off, Grimm said.

— AFP



Germany turned its back on nuclear energy following the Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan in 2011, with its last three plants set to go offline at the end of the year. **PHOTO: AFP/ LENNART PREISS**

High prices in Yemen due to Ukraine crisis

HIGHER prices because of the conflict in Ukraine are contributing to unrest and insecurity in Yemen, challenging poorly funded aid efforts, UN humanitarianians said.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said on Wednesday that aid agencies remain concerned that the humanitarian crisis in Yemen will deteriorate sharply in the coming months due to economic problems, including a weaker currency and higher prices due to the Ukraine crisis, Xinhua news agency reported.

"Unrest and insecurity are already mounting in some areas due to long-standing

frustrations over currency depreciation, rising commodity prices, lack of services and jobs, decreasing aid and other issues," the office added.

"We urge all donors to increase their contributions to the Yemen response plan right away to avoid further deterioration."

The UN humanitarian response plan for Yemen for 2022 is only 26 per cent funded, it said.

OCHA said hunger is at the highest point since the escalation of the conflict two years ago, with more than 19 million people hungry, including more than 160,000, who are facing catastrophic conditions on the verge of famine. —AFP

Commonwealth meets in shadow of migrant, rights row

A summit of Commonwealth leaders opens Friday in Rwanda as the host nation comes under scrutiny over its rights record and a migrant deal with Britain threatens to overshadow the meeting.

A bitter contest is also looming for the leadership of the 54-nation club of mainly former British colonies as it grapples with its changing identity and future relevance.

The Commonwealth represents one-third of humanity spanning parts of Africa, Asia,

Europe and the Americas but some of its most prominent leaders are skipping the summit, sending envoys in their place.

Prince Charles, representing Queen Elizabeth II as head of the Commonwealth, made the first visit of any British royal to Rwanda for the gathering, which culminates in two days of leadership meetings.

He will meet on the sidelines on Friday with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who has been promoting his much-criticized deal to expel

migrants to Rwanda since arriving in Kigali Thursday.

The scheme involves Britain deporting asylum-seekers thousands of miles away to Rwanda and has been fiercely opposed by the church, rights groups and -- reportedly -- Charles himself.

Johnson — who discussed the plan with its other architect Paul Kagame at a meeting with the Rwandan president on Thursday — said he would defend the proposal to Charles and other critics.—AFP



Flags of the Commonwealth flying in Parliament Square, London.
PHOTO: WIKI/AFP

Investigation underway into jet's fiery crash landing in Miami



A handout picture provided by the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue shows a Red Air jet after catching fire while landing at Miami International Airport on 22 June 2022 in Miami, Florida. Investigators were headed to Miami Wednesday after a passenger jet's landing gear collapsed and it caught fire as it landed at the US city's international airport, authorities said.

PHOTO: AFP/HANDOUT

INVESTIGATORS were headed to Miami Wednesday after a passenger jet's landing gear collapsed and it caught fire as it touched down at the US city's international airport, forcing 140 people to flee the burning and

mangled aircraft.

Three people were hospitalized after the crash of Red Air Flight 203 late Tuesday, according to Miami-Dade fire officials, but no deaths or serious injuries have been reported among those

on board.

Dramatic video footage showed people being evacuated from the McDonnell Douglas MD-82 aircraft, lying askew on the runway with its nose crumpled as thick black smoke billows from its body.

Red Air, a Dominican budget carrier which only launched in November last year, said the plane was arriving from Santo Domingo when it met with "technical difficulties".

"Red Air #203 from Santo Domingo had its landing gear in the nose of the plane collapse, which seems to have caused a fire," said a statement on the Miami International Airport's Twitter account. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the US government agency in charge of probing civil aviation accidents, tweeted that its team would arrive in Miami on Wednesday.—AFP

Mexican president under pressure over priest murders

THE murders of two priests this week in Mexico have put President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on the defensive over his government's failure to significantly reduce violent crime.

Lopez Obrador hit back at his critics on Thursday, days after Javier Campos, 79, and Joaquin Mora, 81, were gunned down trying to protect a man seeking

refuge in a church in the northern state of Chihuahua. "We're not going to change the strategy. Let them continue with their smear campaigns," the leftist leader told reporters. Lopez Obrador has championed a "hugs not bullets" strategy to tackle violent crime at its roots by fighting poverty and inequality with social programmes, rather than with the army.

The murder on Monday of the two Jesuit priests as well as the man seeking sanctuary — tour guide Pedro Palma — sparked shock and dismay, including from the United Nations and Pope Francis. There was also strong criticism from opponents of the government, including former right-wing president Felipe Calderon.—AFP

Mystery deepens over fate of Hong Kong's Jumbo Floating Restaurant

MYSTERY over the fate of Hong Kong's Jumbo Floating Restaurant deepened Friday after its owner stirred confusion over whether the financially struggling tourist attraction had actually sunk while being towed away from the city last week.

On Monday Aberdeen Restaurant Enterprises released a statement saying the vessel had capsized on Sunday near the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea after it "encountered adverse conditions" and began to take on water.

"The water depth at the scene is over 1,000 metres, making it extremely difficult to carry out salvage works," it added. On Thursday night, Hong Kong's Marine Department put out a statement saying it had only learnt of the incident from media reports, and had immediately requested a report from the company.

The department said the report was delivered on Thursday, saying the restaurant had capsized but that "at present, both Jumbo and the tugboat are still in the waters off Xi-sha islands," using the Chinese name for the Paracels.

Hours later an AFP journalist was contacted by a spokesman representing the restaurant who said the company had always used the word "capsized" not "sank".

Asked directly if the boat had sunk, he said again the statement had said "capsized", and did not explain why it had referred to the depth of the water when mentioning salvage. The South China Morning Post reported a similar conversation with a spokeswoman for the company, in which they insisted the boat had "capsized", not "sank", but refused to clarify whether it was still afloat.—AFP



The Jumbo Floating Restaurant was originally believed to have sunk in the South China Sea after being towed away from Hong Kong. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



SPORT

David Htan joins Yangon United for second time



Former Shan United player David Htan holds the insignia of the Yangon United after signing the contract with the team. PHOTO: YUFC

MYANMAR National League club Yangon United have recalled former Yangon United centre-back player David Htan from Shan United, according to

the team's announcement. Yangon United are recruiting local players for the new season and has signed David Htan as the sixth player.

Yangon United have signed David Htan until the end of the season, with all players signed during the pre-season transfer window on a one-year deal, the team officials said.

David Htan played for Yangon United from 2009 to mid-2018 and moved to Shan United in the 2018 season. David Htan moved to Shan United until the end of the 2020 season and returned to Yangon before the start of the new season.

Yangon United is now having local players during the pre-season transfer window, including Phone Thitsar Min (goal), Kyaw Min Oo, Thiha Htet Aung, Hein Zeya Lin, Htet Phyo Wai and David Htan. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Myanmar women's national team takes training with 30 preliminary players

THE Myanmar women's team is taking training with 30 preliminary players for the 2022 ASEAN Women's Championship.

The Myanmar women's team has previously fielded only 26 preliminary players but has now added four more players to the 30-man preliminary squad.

The Myanmar women's team is making final preparations for the ASEAN Women's Championship in the first week of July and will select the final

players in the coming days.

The team is headed by Daw Thet Thet Win as the interim head coach and players who competed in the Viet Nam SEA Games.

The Myanmar women's team is made up of senior players as well as young players.

Team Myanmar started training for the tournament on 7 June, and captain Khin Malar Tun, who played for a Thai club, has rejoined the team.

The 2022 ASEAN Women's Championship will be held in the Philippines from 4 to 17 July, with a total of 11 teams competing.

According to the fixtures, Thailand is placed in Group A together with the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, Malaysia, and Singapore.

Myanmar is placed in Group B with Viet Nam, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, and Laos. — 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.

Tantrums and tactics turned Lukaku's Chelsea dream into a nightmare

ROMELU Lukaku arrived at Chelsea heralding his move as a dream come true, but less than a year later the Belgian striker is set to rejoin Inter Milan as one of the most expensive flops in Premier League history.

Lukaku was hailed as the final piece of Thomas Tuchel's Chelsea jigsaw when he was signed from Inter Milan for a club record £97.5 million (\$119 million) last August. But everything that could go wrong did go wrong for the 29-year-old in his disastrous second spell with the Blues.—AFP

FIFA increases squads to 26 players for 2022 World Cup

FIFA will allow countries to select up to 26 players for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, increasing the maximum squad size by three for the 21 November-18 December tournament.

"The number of players to be included on the final list has been increased to at least 23 and a maximum of 26," FIFA said in a statement. World football's governing body said the decision to expand squads was made "given the need to retain additional flexibility due to the unique timing" of this year's competition, which will interrupt

the European club season.

FIFA also took into account the "broader context of the disruptive effects caused by the Covid-19 pandemic on squads before and during tournaments".

UEFA adopted similar changes for Euro 2020 last year, meeting a demand from coaches who feared they could lose players due to coronavirus.

National teams had named squads of 23 players at the World Cup and European Championship ever since the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea.—AFP



FIFA will allow countries to select up to 26 players for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, increasing the maximum squad size by three for the 21 November-18 December tournament. PHOTO: AFP