EASE TOO MUCH RELIANCE ON REFRIGERATION FACILITIES PAGE-8 (OPINION)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

An emphasis must be placed on shaping Nay Pyi Taw as Green and Clean City in a long run plan as well as green and clean cities in other regions and states with great farsightedness: Senior General

MYANMAR is covered by 52 per cent of forest area in 2000 and 42.19 per cent in 2020, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the monsoon tree-growing ceremony for 2022 along both sides of Sabei Road to Maravijaya Buddha Image in Dekkhinathiri Township of Dekkhina District in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General said, the globe was covered by 6.21 billion hectares of forest area in 17th and 18th centuries, declining to 3.87 billion hectares in 2000 according to the records of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. Although Southeast Asian countries possessed 7 per cent of the global forest area in 2020 but they lost some 9.4 million hectares of forest areas between 2010 to 2020.

As the United Nations released the UN Decade Declaration (2021-2030) for ecosystem restoration, it mentions enhancement of restoration for deterioration of ecosystems for fighting climate change, prevention of lossing millions of species, food sufficiency, water supply and firm livelihoods.

Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects growing of sapling along both sides of Sabei Road to Maravijaya Buddha Image in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw on 26 June.

Myanmar is covered by 52 per cent of forest area in 2000 and 42.19 per cent in 2020. Hence, relevant ministries, region and state governments, social organizations and citizens were urged to further lessen forest coverage area, stop deforestation, conserve natural forests, re-establish forests, ban change of utilizing forest land into other items, and effectively conserve permanent forest areas and outside areas under the forest policies.

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An emphasis must be placed on shaping Nay Pyi Taw as Green and Clean City in a long run plan as well as green and clean cities in other regions and states with great farsightedness: Senior General

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Nowadays, the globe faces urban population density and expansion of industrial areas. Hence, a special emphasis is being placed on conservation of green spaces on both sides of roads, parks and urban forests for prevention of environmental pollution.

Nurturing and conservation of urban forest area aims to ensure happiness and health of the people, increase public recration centres, control water circle of urban area, manage underground water in order to supply the proper drinking water. Moreover, creation of pleasant environment for tourists and businesses, mitigating climate change and natural disasters, prevention of air pollution, and conservation of fertile soil and landscapes will benefit the life on land of the world.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla plant Mesua Ferrea saplings at designated places at 2022 Monsoon tree-growing ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 June.

Today's ceremony was held on Sabei Road leading to Maravijaya Buddha Image of Nay Pyi Taw. Perennial plants were grown on both sides of the road for greening works and the road is being built as a four-lane facility. An emphasis must be placed on shaping Nay Pyi Taw as Green and Clean City in a long run plan as well as green and clean cities in other regions and states with great farsightedness.

In his conclusion, the Senior General urged new generation youths, ethnic people, departmental organizations and internal and external organizations to participate in greening tasks of the nation as a national duty. Then, the Senior General and wife and the Vice-Senior General and wife planted Mesua ferrea saplings at the designated places.

Council members and their wives, the council secretary and wife, the joint secretary and wife and officials together with staff and students participated in the tree-growing ceremony.

The Senior General then inspected growing of saplings at the ceremony.

At today's ceremony, a total of 652 saplings including Mesua ferrea, star-flower and gold mohur saplings were planted in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.—MNA

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Mesua Ferrea saplings at 2022 tree-growing ceremony on 26 June.

People and departmental personnel participate in 2022 tree-growing ceremony in Dekkhinathiri Township on 26 June.

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

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.)

SAC Chairman Prime Minister inspects progress in building Maravijaya Buddha Image

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects progress in tasks to build Maravijaya marble Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 June.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected progress of building Maravijaya Buddha Image which would be the largest marble Buddha image in Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday morning.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Swa Lin, Lt-Gen Nyo Saw and senior military officers reported to the Senior General on implementation of the guidance of the Senior General on his inspection tour, progress of carving the Buddha image, construction of the water fountain roundabout and the Ceti of stone plaque chambers, carving of stone inscription with the use of modern machinery, preparations to build Nagayon Pagoda and publishing of Tri Pitakat treatises.

In his reponse, the Senior General said that Tri Pitakat treatises must be published in meeting the international standards. Donors must be urged to participate in sponsorship of publishing the treatises. Officials need to supervise construciton of chambers for stone plaques to be resiliance of climatic conditions and long term existence.

The Senior General inspected construction of rough throne for the image, carving of stone inscriptions with the use of modern technologies, completion of Mingala Bridge in Yadanabon era style, construction of retaining walls, completion of Thudhamma public rest houses, and progress of Mucalinda lake and stone plaque chambers and left necessary instructions.

Construction tasks of the Buddha image such as conveyance of marble rocks to be carved into Maravijaya Buddha Image, carving of stone inscriptions with the use of CNC machines, construction of stone plaque chambers, carving of stone plaques with the use of CNC machines and progress of Thudhamma public rest houses, Sasana Beikman Aggadhipati Visugama ordination hall, Mucalinda Lake, water fountain roundabout, Mingala Bridge in Yadanabon era style and others, accounting for some 40 per cent.—MNA

MoC loan includes not only cooperative society members but rice farmers

THE Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development will provide loans to the cooperative society members as well as rice farmers for the socio-economic development of the rural people, said Union Minister U Hla Moe.

The Union Minister made the remarks during a meeting with local farmers, and cooperative society members from Taungsun and West Daungyap villages at Munaing Village Hall in Chaungzon Township yesterday morning.

"Our Ministry is concerned about the problems of rice cooperative societies and rice farmers. We are assisting their needs as much as possible. Any business needs to be constantly monitored," the Union Minister said.

He added that farmers will also be able to form new cooperative societies to benefit those who actually do business.

Yesterday morning, the Union Minister and party visited the Weaving and Vocational Training School in Mudon Township.

Afterwards, the Minister and party met with local people and members of the Green Emerald Project and discussed agriculture, livestock and trade activities are monitored.

Then, he went to Thanban Village, Hlaingbwe Township and provided fertilizers to the cooperative society member farmers and fulfilled their needs.—MNA

Union Minister for Cooperative and Rural Development U Hla Moe inspects products of Weaving and Vocational Traning School in Mudon Township on 26 June.

Seized narcotics worth over $ 642 million incinerated in major cities on int'l day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut and party press the button to incinerate seized narcotic drugs in Mandalay on 26 June.

NARCOTIC drugs worth over 642 million US dollars were burned in Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi yesterday, marking the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Some 79 kinds of narcotic drugs and precursor chemicals confiscated this year were destroyed at the ceremonies following the COVID-19 guidelines set by the Ministry of Health.

At the drug incineration ceremony in Mandalay attended by member of the State Administration Council Chairman of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut and party, a total of 16 narcotic drugs and nine precursor chemicals worth K316.77 billion (over US$ 171.23 million) confiscated from Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region, Kachin State, and upper and middle part of Myanmar were destroyed at the ceremony.

The ceremony held in Yangon Region was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and party. A total of 26 items of narcotics and seven kinds of precursor chemicals worth over K 356.68 billion (over US$ 192.80 million) confiscated from Yangon Region, Ayeyawady Region, Rakhine State, and the lower parts of Myanmar were destroyed at the ceremony.

A similar ceremony held in Taunggyi, Shan State, a total of 18 kinds of narcotics and 40 items of precursor chemicals worth over K 515.36 billion (over US$ 278.57 million) confiscated near Pinson village, Namhu village-tract, Taunggyi Township, Shan State, were destroyed at the ceremony.

In accord with the guidance of the Chairman of the State Administration Council, the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and the Anti-Narcotics Police have stepped up efforts to carry out drug control activities, and large quantities of narcotics and precursor chemicals were seized and destroyed.—MNA

The documentary photo show Police Brig-Gen Tin Ko Ko explaining incineration of seized narcotic drugs in Taunggyi Shan State on 26 June.

MoALI Union Minister inspects agricultural and livestock activities in Ayeyawady Region

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo, accompanied by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win, held a meeting with directors-general from departments, region-level department officials at the Panhlaing sluice gate project area near Moemakha village in Nyaungdon Township on 25 June. The meeting discussed flood prevention activities in the rainy season and taking measures of natural disasters, issues related to increase seeds, inputs and technical sharing to improve agriculture and livestock prevention, and private sector investment promotion.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and officials observed the private agricultural and livestock activities, and production of high-value shrimp-based instant products in Maubin township. During the visit, the Union Minister had a cordial discussion with entrepreneurs on the use of commercial lands in line with the law, requirements to comply with market standards for exports and commercial scale production of fish amino.

Union Minister for MoALI and Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win discuss flood prevention in monsoon at Panhlaing Sluice Gate project hall on 25 June.

Next, the Union Minister discussed the working conditions of the farmers and inspected agricultural production and crop profitability with the farmers in Wataw village monsoon rice field. At Fisheries Institute (Twantay) in Twantay Township, they discussed the need to upgrade it to a college in the future.

In the 2020-2021 financial year, over 229 million visses of freshwater fish were produced from Yangon Region and more than 332 million visses of fish from Ayeyawady Region. Of them, waste and animal feed utilization accounted for 30 per cent, 10 per cent for exports and 60 per cent for domestic consumption.—MNA

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Meeting on expansion of using Baht/Kyat and Yuan/Kyat in border trade held

DEPUTY Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe, Secretary of the Central Committee for Ensuring the Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods and officials discussed the expansion of Yuan/Kyat and Baht/Kyat usage in Myanmar-China and Myanmar-Thailand border trade, yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanma Economic Bank, local private banks and Thai banks such as Siam Commercial Bank, Bangkok Bank, and Kasikorn Bank started the use of local currencies, Yuan/Kyat/Baht in Myanmar-China and Myanmar-Thailand border trade. The use of Baht/Kyat started in Myawady and Tachilek.

The meeting focused on the expansion of the use of Baht/Kyat in Myeik and Kawthoung and the use of Yuan/Kyat in Chinshwehaw.

The meeting discussed the establishment of a ground task force to work with state governments, local traders, Ministry of Commerce, Customs Department and banks and implement standard of procedures and banking agreement fast in order to start the work in the first and second week of July. In addition, they also discussed plans for Myanmar banks to accept remittances of Myanmar workers in Thai Baht through Thai banks in Thailand and issue them to their parents and relatives in Myanmar.

Deputy Governor of CBM Daw Than Than Swe attends meeting on use of Yuan/Kyat and Baht/Kyat at border trade areas on 26 June.

Under the collaboration of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Planning and Finance, and the Central Committee, the expansion of regional trade through the use of Yuan/Kyat/ and Baht/Kyat and the reduction of exchange rate risks have been carried out since the 2021-2022 FY.

Within the Yuan/Kyat pilot period, from January 2022 to the third week of June 2022, export revenue was Yuan 197.464 million, import payment was Yuan 77.699 million, making the surplus Yuan 119.765 million.

Within the Baht/Kyat pilot period, from March 2022 to the third week of June 2022, export revenue was Baht 1,540.46 million, import payment Baht 1,137.95 million, making the surplus Baht 402.51 million. In addition, permission was granted for worker remittance, and revenue as of third week of June 2022, was 29.548 million Baht.

The Payment Mechanism implemented by foreign banks was discussed several times by the Central Bank of Myanmar, and issues related to Baht/Kyat and Yuan/Kyat payments are coordinated by the relevant Bank of Thailand, Chinese banks, and Thai banks. Liquidity Support, Trade Financing and Settlement Time were clearly defined to convert trade surplus, and agreements were signed.—MNA

CRIME

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods, auto parts and vehicles seized

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

Under the instructions of the Kayin State of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force, a combined team at the Thingan-nyinaung checkpoint confiscated a total of 680 cement bags worth K4.08 million from two trucks (approximately K36 million), consumer goods and foodstuffs worth K3.8238 million from a Toyota Hiace vehicle (approximately K15 million) and foodstuffs and three unregister motorcycles (approximately K1.2156 million) from a vehicle (approximately K15 million) on 24 June.

In addition, at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint confiscated car tyres and turbo chargers and two trucks totally worth K89.3898 million—K1.93 million tyres that were not included the number of the Import Declaration (ID) and turbo chargers (approximately K1.4 million) that exceed the number of ID from two trucks heading from Myawady to Yangon on 25 June.

Similarly, an on-duty team at Myanmar Industrial Port's container checkpoint carried out inspections under the management of the Customs Department. They confiscated garment estimated worth over K65.84 million without any declaration in the Import Licence on 25 June. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, an on-duty team at Mayanchaung checkpoint carried out inspections under the management of the Customs Department. They confiscated auto spare parts estimated worth over K3.44 million without any document from a passenger vehicle heading from Myawady to Yangon on 25 June. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Under the instructions of the Sagaing Region of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force, a combined inspection team led by the Forest Department made inspections. They seized a total of 0.8474 tonne of illegal timbers estimated worth over K84,740 in Tamu township. The action was prosecuted under the Forest Law.

On 26 June, under the instructions of the Bago Region of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force, a combined inspection team led by the region Forest Department made inspections. They seized a total of 2.4216 tonnes of illegal teak sawn timber estimated worth over K1.59 million in Bago and Thayawady districts. The action was prosecuted under the Forest Law.

Seized bags of cement are seen aboard truck in Thingan-nyinaung checkpoint on 24 June.

Therefore, 17 arrests estimated at over K160.36 million were made on 24, 25 and 26 June, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

3 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 26 June, total figure rises to 613,556

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,556** after **3** new cases were reported on 26 June 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,530** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.

COVID-19 vaccine is being injected to those of priority groups in regions and states for prevention and control of the disease. Up to 25-6-2022, a total of **29,847,651** people above 18 have been vaccinated. A total of **5,359,991** people under 18 have been vaccinated. —MNA

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Opinion seeks on new $ 8.9 billion Muse-Mandalay railway project

A motor road section in Muse-Mandalay highway.

THE US$ 8.9 billion worth of new Muse-Mandalay railway project includes 124 bridges and 60 tunnels, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation asked for comment on the environmental management plan for its construction.

The Muse-Mandalay railway project was approved by the Ministry of Transport and Communications in October 2018. Myanma Railways and China Railway Eryuan Engineering Group Co Ltd (CREEC), and China Railway Group Limited has signed an MoU to conduct the feasibility studies of the railway project.

The request was made to the Department of Environmental Conservation on 16 June according to paragraphs 39, 66, and 80 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedures for the project under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation,

The project includes the construction of a 409.96-kilometer electric railway and construction of 11 sub power stations. It will also include related power lines.

In 2019, land surveys for the railway project were completed and the cost of the project is estimated at 8.9 billion.

When completed, the Muse-Mandalay railway will connect Mandalay to the commercial hub of central Myanmar via Muse on the Sino-Myanmar border and be part of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor.

The Sino-Myanmar Economic Corridor connects Kyaukpyu on Myanmar's west coast, Yangon, the economic capital and Muse to Mandalay by express train and it aims to connect with trade promotion infrastructure.

Comments on the programme can be sent to eia.ecd@gmail.com by 16 August this year, officials said.—TWA/GNLM

COVID-19 electronic record for vaccination available online

THE Ministry of Health has announced that an electronic version of the COVID-19 vaccination can be downloaded from the Ministry of Health's official website.

The electronic version of the COVID-19 vaccination, which includes a QR code that can be used with any mobile phone or tablet for international travel will be available online from 7 April. Applicants must have completed a full course of COVID-19 vaccination.

According to the Ministry of Health, immunization records must be registered and people must have a vaccination record with a QR Code and Check ID. Online applicants are required to provide their name, address, phone number, father's name, and Passport number.

People will need to fill in the check ID issued in Myanmar language, phone number, etc. Once this information is filled in, each applicant will have to pay K5,000 via mobile payment and K200 transfer fee. Mobile payment is okay for CB Pay, Myanmar Citizen Pay, UAB Pay and KBZ Pay, officials said.—TWA/GNLM

Applications for the Korean language proficiency test to be admitted online

KOREAN language proficiency test (EPS-TOPIK, Computer Based Test) application will be admitted online, and the date of application will be announced in advance, according to the statement of the Government Overseas Employment Agency.

This year, the 14th EPS-Topik Manufacturing and Construction and the 15th Agriculture and Livestock will be held by recruitment point system. Applicants with PJ or PV passport will be accepted for the exam. When applying for a job, those who pass the exam will be required to present PJ passport with at least one-year validity.

It is also learnt that body fitness and colour blind test will also be conducted.

The application submission and the detailed schedule of the exam can be found in the state-owned newspaper, the website of the Labour Ministry, www.mol.gov.mm, and the Facebook page POEA-EPS.

Only information released by the Government Overseas Employment Agency regarding the exam schedule is valid, and anyone who meet the exam eligibility criteria can apply, and everyone who has successfully passed are guaranteed to go to work in the Republic of Korea, according to the statement.

Only the Government Overseas Employment Agency is sending workers to ROK by EPS system, and a total of 130 workers were sent on 20-6-2022.—TWA/GNLM

Seized narcotics worth over $ 192 mln incinerated in Yangon on int'l day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking

NARCOTIC drugs worth over 192 million US dollars were burned in Hlinethaya, Yangon yesterday, marking the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Some 33 kinds of narcotic drugs worth over USD 192 million and precursor chemicals confiscated this year were destroyed at the ceremonies following the COVID-19 guidelines set by the Ministry of Health said Yangon Region Police Force Commander Police Brig-Gen Myo Min Htike.

Various kinds of narcotic drugs are being incinerated in Yangon City on 26 June.

A total of 1.5074 kilos of opium, 162.924645 kilos of heroin, 65,417,325.5 stimulant tablets, 7,599.50294 kilos of Ice, seven opium plants, 897.72 kilos of opium speciosa extraction, 40 ecstasy tablets, 195 bottles of Morpheme, 3,125 bottles of Fentanyl, 1,345.92231 kilos of Ketamine, 3,998 tablets of Sedil, 2.4 Litres of Cough Syrup, 69.672 kilos of Methylamine Hydrochloride, 4,089.9918 kilos of Sodium Cyanide, 1,677.6 kilos of Nitric Acid and other chemicals worth of over 192 million of USD were destroyed.

The narcotics were also incinerated in Yangon Region, Taninthayi Region, Bago Region Ayeyawady Region, Rakhine State, Mon State, and Kayin State. Among the cases arrested by No 1 Border Guard Police Force Command and the Expressway Police Force, 5,914 cases have been decided by the court, said Police Brig-Gen Myo Min Htike.

In addition to Yangon Region, 25 types of drugs worth K316.77 billion and 18 types of drugs worth over K515.36 billion were also burnt in Mandalay Region and Shan State yesterday.—TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Dried chilli pepper price rallies to K7,500 per viss

THE prices of dried chilli pepper (Shankyun and Moe Htaung varieties) registered sharp upward moves to K7,500 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg).

The prices surged from K4,500 per viss recorded on 1 June to K7,500 per viss in the third week of June, reflecting an increase of over K2,000 per viss within over 20 days.

The price rise is attributed to the strong demand by Thailand when local production of fresh chilli pepper declines, said an official of U Thein Win commodity depot in Mawlamyine city.

"India cannot export chilli pepper to Thailand due to heavy rainfall and low production. So, Thailand purchases chili peppers from Myanmar again," he added.

Additionally, high input costs such as fertilizer and fuel oil for farming machinery are also contributing factors to the sharp rise in prices.

A truck with load of chilli pepper bags arrives at Bayintnaung brokerage.

Cultivation of chilli pepper varieties that are primarily demanded by China costs K2.5 million per acre on their own farmland and K2.5 million for rental management. The chilli pepper can be harvested every 15 days up to six months. Yield is estimated at 100 viss per acre in the early season. It can produce 400-500 viss in maximum.

The prices of chilli pepper are expected to remain high on the back of robust demand tracking high input cost and fuel oil, traders shared their opinions.

Myanmar's chilli pepper is primarily sent to Thailand and China via cross-border trade channels, while it is shipped to Viet Nam through maritime trade.

It is commonly grown in Ayeyawady, Mandalay and Magway regions and Shan State.

The export varieties of fresh chilli peppers are 692, 777, 999, Demon, Sunshine and Lucky one.—NN/GNLM

Exports of aquaculture products top $113.5 mln as of 17 June

Female workers are working at fish processing cold storage for production of fish products.

THE export value of Myanmar's fish and fishery products between 1 April and 17 June of the current financial year 2022-2023 amounted to over US$113.5 million, which indicated a decrease from $6.59 million in the corresponding period of last financial year 2020-2021, the Ministry of Commerce's data indicated.

During the close season for fishing, there was low inventory in the domestic market so the prices slightly increased.

Myanmar put a three-month (April-June) stop to the fishing season in Myanmar sea. However, 30 per cent of fishing trawlers are ruled out one month earlier than usual for the local self-sufficiency and export markets. Therefore, fishing businesses that generate foreign income have resumed in June.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is focusing on boosting production, exploring new markets, increasing export items, enhancing the livelihood of local people, providing financial assistance to the farmers, promoting the fish consumption of the people and tackling the challenges together with all the stakeholders.

Moreover, Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) is striving for the pedigree and genetic improvement for the sustainable utilization and the fish and shrimp research centre to disseminate the information to the farmers for the fishery sector development.

The marketable marine products, especially fish, shrimp, eel and crab from Taninthayi and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine State are primarily exported to foreign markets.

Myanmar normally exports marine products, such as fish, prawns, and crabs, to markets of 40 countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and countries in the European Union.

The Chinese market constitutes about 65 per cent of Myanmar's fishery exports, accounting for US$254 million out of overall fishery export value of over $850 million in the FY 2019-2020. At the present time, China shut down the border areas in wake of the COVID surge in Myanmar. The federation is turning to the Bangladesh market with export potentials at present.

There are 480,000 acres of fish and prawn farms across the country and more than 120 cold-storage facilities in Myanmar.—KK/GNLM

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

Ease too much reliance on refrigeration facilities

WORLD Refrigeration Day is a great opportunity for all peoples to celebrate the tremendous contribution that refrigeration and air conditioning makes to societies. This includes enabling agricultural and food systems to harvest, store, transport and sell the foods for nutrition.

The significant day is established by the World Refrigeration Day Secretariat in Derbyshire, England on 26 June, it was created to raise awareness about the importance of refrigeration technologies in everyday life and to raise the profile of the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat-pump sector.

> As such, all users avoid too much reliance on the refrigeration facilities not to be outcome side effects. Only when all the global people carefully use refrigeration facilities will they all avoid bad consequences.

In October 2018, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers-ASHRAE pledged support for World Refrigeration Day. In February 2019, the United Nations Environment Programme pledged support at the UNEP national ozone officers meeting in Paris. From then on, the significant day has been held since 26 June 2019.

Such a day focuses attention on the significant role, and technology plays in modern life and society. For example, medical treatments should be given to the patients with the help of refrigeration. Chilled vaccines are delivered safely to millions in need. The refrigeration eases the low-carbon heating solutions which may keep people warm. It also manages hygienically safe conditions of foods for all consumers of the world.

The cold chain links producers and growers across the world to the domestic refrigerator in kitchens, and it is essential for so much more than food. Vaccines must remain chilled until they are used by medical professionals around the world, and the cold chain is essential for blood transfusions and organ donor transport and storage.

Refrigeration facilities provide the conditions all the peoples require for health, comfort, worker productivity, manufacturing, and essential environments for food, pharmaceuticals, and digital data. Opportunities within the industry abound for young people with a wide range of career aspirations. Cooling technologies need to be implemented in order to expand life-required environmental conditions while meeting sustainability requirements of international climate and ozone protection accords.

Every system may have some weaknesses. Although refrigeration is good in some sectors, its bad consequences cannot be avoided causing global warming as well as climate change because of the emission of greenhouse gas. As such, all users avoid too much reliance on the refrigeration facilities not to be outcome side effects. Only when all the global people carefully use refrigeration facilities will they all avoid bad consequences. ■

European festivals should not be scrapped due to monkeypox: WHO

The WHO urged festival organisers to raise awareness through effective communication, detect cases early, stop transmission and protect people at risk.

THE World Health Organization said Friday that European summer festivals should not be cancelled due to the monkeypox outbreak but should instead manage the risk of amplifying the virus.

A surge of monkeypox cases has been detected since May outside of the West and Central African countries where the disease has long been endemic. Most of the new cases have been in Western Europe.

More than 3,200 confirmed cases and one death have now been reported to the WHO from 48 countries in total this year.

"We have all the summer festivals, concerts and many other events just starting in the northern hemisphere," Amaia Artazcoz, the WHO's mass gatherings technical officer, told a webinar entitled "Monkeypox outbreak and mass gatherings: Protecting yourself at festivals and parties".

South Korea reported its first imported case of monkeypox on 22 June, becoming the latest of some 40 countries – and the first in East Asia – to have identified the disease. **PHOTO: DAILYNEWS.CO.TH/AFP**

The events "may represent a conducive environment for transmission", she said.

"These gatherings have really close proximity and usually for a prolonged period of time, and also a lot of frequent interactions among people," Artazcoz explained.

"Nevertheless… we are not recommending postponing or cancelling any of the events in the areas where monkeypox cases have been identified."

Sarah Tyler, the senior communications consultant on health emergencies at WHO Europe, said there were going to be more than 800 festivals in the region, bringing together hundreds of thousands of people from different countries.

"Most attendees are highly mobile and sexually active and a number of them will have intimate skin-to-skin contact at or around these events," she said.

"Some may also have multiple sexual contacts, including new or anonymous partners. Without action, we risk seeing a surge in monkeypox cases in Europe this summer."

Risk awareness

The UN health agency recommends that countries identify events most likely to be associated with the risk of monkeypox transmission.

The WHO urged festival organisers to raise awareness through effective communication, detect cases early, stop transmission and protect people at risk.

The outbreak in newly-affected countries is primarily among men who have sex with men, and who have reported recent sex with new or multiple partners, according to the WHO.

People with symptoms are advised to avoid attending gatherings, while people in communities among whom monkeypox has been found to occur more frequently than in the general population should exercise particular caution, it says.

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

Meg Doherty, from the global HIV, hepatitis and sexually-transmitted infection programmes at WHO, said: "We are not calling this a sexually-transmitted infection.

"Stigmatising never helps in a disease outbreak," she added.

"This is not a gay disease. However, we want people to be aware of what the risks are."

SOURCE: AFP ■

Seafarers' Day honours maritime journeys and voyages

The United Nations has underlined its support for the men and women working at sea, whose immeasurable contributions help to keep global trade moving.

SECRETARY-GENERAL António Guterres highlighted both their critical role, as well as the challenges they face, In his message to mark the Day of the Seafarer on Saturday.

"The world counts on seafarers," he said.

"Ships transport a remarkable 90 per cent of the world's commodities — from grains and energy, to consumer goods and much more. Without ships and the women and men who work on them, economies would stall and people would starve."

Pandemic challenges

However, seafarers have faced immense challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UN chief listed some of these issues, which include contracts extended long beyond their expiry dates and maximum periods of service, and problems related to vaccinations, medical care and shore leave.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) continues to advocate for seafarers during the pandemic by urging countries to designate them as key workers.

Kitack Lim, the IMO Secretary-General, stated that without seafarers, there would be no shipping.

Sharing the journey

The theme for this year's international day celebrates maritime journeys and voyages, providing a chance "to recognize and pay tribute to seafarers everywhere, whatever their voyage", he said.

As part of an IMO campaign, seafarers from around the globe are using social media to share images and information about what truly resonates with them, whether a positive experience or challenging circumstances.

"Shipping and the call of the oceans, form a way of life," said Mr. Lim. "It is a meaningful, important career that provides a solid foundation for life and offers endless opportunities to learn and progress."

A greener future

The international day is also an opportunity to look to the future, and for the UN Secretary-General, this means listening to seafarers.

"They know better than anyone their needs and what this industry needs to do to address key challenges. This includes the expansion of social protection, better working conditions, addressing the crew-change crisis, adopting new digital tools to enhance safety and efficiency, and making this industry greener and more sustainable," he said.

Ships transport a remarkable 90 per cent of the world's commodities – from grains and energy, to consumer goods and much more. Without ships and the women and men who work on them, economies would stall and people would starve. **PHOTO: CAI YANG / XINHUA**

The UN chief concluded his message by calling for renewed commitment to supporting seafarers everywhere, and honouring their knowledge, professionalism and experience.

SOURCE: UN NEWS ■

ARTICLE

Thakin Myo Hey Dobama

Migrant workers on challenging days

By Kaung Aung

I would like to give credit for an event called Myanmar Music Day which falls on 27 June, from which this article is unexpectedly taken. Myanmar Music Day is also marked among the International Days; therefore, I am so proud of it. Additionally, I was more delighted when I realized the history of the date (27 June) which is designated as Myanmar Music Day. The Myanmar Music Association chose the date at a meeting held on 4 June 2013 to honour the Dobama national song at the Dobama Asiayone or the We Burmans Association (anti-British nationalist group) conference which was held on 27 June 1936.

The Dobama song was composed by YMB Saya Tin or Thakin Tin. Thakin Ba Thaung, Thakin Thein Maung, Thakin Hla Baw, Thakin Ohn Pe, Thakin Kyaw Sein Tun, Thakin Thardoe and Thakin Phoe Ni outlined a few ideas as well. The Dobama Asiayone conducted political campaigns with the Dobama song to awaken patriotic spirit among people and promote national interest. It was a hit song and a must-play in national movements.

This song gives everyone goosebumps. People cannot resist singing along by raising their arms and clenching their fists. It evokes a patriotic spirit which is hidden inside the heart of every Myanmar people and ignites courage. It is an art of Myanmar's music from nationalism to political power. I like to give my respect to those officials from the Myanmar Music Association who served in 2012 and set Myanmar Music Day on 27 June when the Dobama song was marked as the anthem of the Thakin movement.

While I am delightfully throwing back those remarkable memories and looking forward to nationalism based on Myanmar Music Day, the news spreading on social media ruins my ecstasy. What kind of events make my happiness fade away? The news headlined "47 Myanmar citizens hiding at a rubber plantation near the Malaysia-Thailand border arrested.

I feel sorrow when I read the headline. When I see a picture of Myanmar people squatting and lifting both arms on their heads on the roadside, my heart aches. Behind them, foreign police holding arms were watching them over. Most importantly, they all are young people. When I continue reading, I realize why they got arrested. They illegally crossed the border and entered Thailand. Then, they were attempting to leave for Malaysia. Malaysia's night security force apprehended them on 18 June and transferred them to the police station in Bukit Kayu Hitam town. There are 40 males and seven females.

The news also mentioned that the Tanah Merah Immigration office detained 78 Myanmar males, 23 females and two children on 19 June, totalling 103 Myanmar citizens. Thailand's authorities have been inspecting Myanmar migrant workers entering Thailand in various forms. They handed over 155 Myanmar convicted workers on 17 June. I noticed this kind of occurrence in the media. Why does illegal immigration happen in all forms?

The answer is simple. Lack of job opportunities in the domestic market, the imbalance between income and spending and struggling for a living are contributing factors to illegal immigration. When Thailand is stepping up to revive the economy after COVID-19, the demand for labour is increasing and Myanmar's young people eye that opportunity. The majority of Myanmar migrant workers are in Thailand. According to a 2020 survey of the United Nations, 3.7 million Myanmar migrant workers were recorded. Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand account for 70 per cent. At present, Thailand still has a labour demand for about 800,000 workers, according to overseas recruitment agencies. A 2019 International Organization for Migration (IOM) survey indicated that Myanmar migrant workers sent US$2.8 billion back to their home country, which contributes four per cent of GDP.

The Bangkok Post newspaper reported that there were at least 68,000 migrants via the border in November and December 2021 in Thailand and the majority of them were Myanmar citizens. The illegal entry resulted in an arrest. The news stating the authorities seizing the illegal migrants can be seen in daily newspapers. The illegal migration brokerage fees cost about 17,000-22,000 Baht per one. Even if they managed to pass the border without arrest, they were exploited with low wages. Additionally, they always live in fear of being caught and facing a series of difficulties. There were nearly 4,000 Myanmar citizens detained for illegally entering Thailand in 2022. Next, the illegal migration brokers made those Myanmar citizens en route to Malaysia hide in the forest of Thailand's border as Thai authorities were searching for the areas after a Thailand citizen was killed. Myanmar citizens hiding in the forest faced robbery and sexual assaults in May 2022, Thailand's media reported. Similarly, I am so saddened to hear the news of Myanmar migrants in Malaysia and Indonesia struggling with difficulties.

On the other hand, immigration affects the labour supply, which leads to a decline in labour force participation. Another lamentable case is a citizen working in Guangdong Province, China who could not stand the hardships anymore, went to Kunming city and turned himself in for repatriation. He had to spend K3 million in Myanmar to return to his home country, he openly said. Everyone loves to live in their motherland. Unfavourable conditions and financial struggles pushed them to work abroad inevitably.

Although they are labelled as migrant workers, they have to experience wage discrimination and labour exploitation. Dobama song lyrics meaning "Behave like a master. Thakins. We're Thakins. Dobama... Live with pride like the spirited Wild Yak. Dobama" are totally opposite of the situations of migrant workers.

I like to genuinely encourage them to choose a legitimate path to work overseas.

The State officially sent 364 workers to Thailand via the No 2 Myawady-Mae Sot Friendship Bridge on 15 June under an MoU system between Thailand and Myanmar. On 14 June, 128 workers were sent to South Korea through airlines serving Yangon to Incheon International Airports, including 34 workers for re-entry jobs, 21 new recruitments in construction and 73 new workers in the agriculture industry. The local overseas recruitment agencies have also signed up about 3,000 workers to send them to Thailand under the MoU system so far starting from the second week of May.

The migrant workers have to hold an Overseas Worker Identification Card (OWIC). I wrote this article to motivate Myanmar citizens to connect with the authorized overseas employment agencies under the 1999 Overseas Employment Law and work legally under an MoU system.

Translated.

■

PANDEMIC WORLD

COVID-19 cases rise 23 pc in Britain, with London a hotspot

BRITAIN'S new COVID-19 cases have jumped by 23 per cent in just a week, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported Friday. ONS said that in the week ending 18 June, around 1,740,000 new cases were detected nationwide, up from more than the 1.4 million the previous week. ONS' study showed one in 40 people in England had COVID-19, compared with one in 20 in Scotland, one in 30 in Northern Ireland and one in 45 in Wales.

Regionally, London had the highest rate of infection in England with 2.9 per cent, followed by North West England with 2.6 per cent. "The Omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5 are fuelling another wave of infections, our third already this year," Stephen Griffin, associate professor in the School of Medicine at the University of Leeds, told Xinhua. "The rate of reinfection with these variants is also dramatically increased and prevalence is increasing across all ages.

A commuter rides a bicycle between two red buses in central London on 27 January 2022. Commuters in England went back to work as coronavirus restrictions imposed to tackle the Omicron variant were lifted, with masks no longer required and vaccine passports shelved. **PHOTO: JUSTIN TALLIS / AFP**

This highlights the ability of these viruses to evade antibody immunity and the rapidity with which they are causing waves across the globe is concerning," the virologist said. "We remain in a situation where even the NHS is being told by the government that protections aren't necessary. — ANI

Greece announces 2nd COVID-19 booster for people over 30 as new cases rise

Tourist disembark after a boat ride in the old town of Chania on Crete island on 20 April 2022 as the tourist season has started on the island pandemic. **PHOTO: LOUISA GOULIAMAKI / AFP**

GREECE is offering a second COVID-19 booster shot for people aged 30 and above beginning next week.

According to Greek national news agency AMNA, the country's vaccination authorities reiterated a "strong recommendation" that those aged 60 and above get a second booster shot. Appointments for that age category have been available since early April this year.

The announcement came as the number of new daily infections has been rising in June.

Greece confirmed 10,474 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours on Thursday. Moreover, 17 deaths were reported in the last 24 hours, and 88 patients were on ventilators in hospitals nationwide.

The Greek national healthcare system is not under pressure from the coronavirus, nor is it expected to be under pressure through the end of summer, Greek Health Minister Thanos Plevris said on Wednesday in an interview with national broadcaster ERT.— Xinhua

Universal Beijing Resort resumes operations

THE Universal Beijing Resort resumed operations on Saturday as the latest COVID-19 resurgence subsides in the city.

The resort, which opened in September 2021, includes the Universal Studios Beijing theme park, Universal CityWalk Beijing, and two hotels.

With caps on daily visitor numbers and strengthened COVID-19 prevention and control measures in place, the theme park resumed services on Saturday, with the CityWalk and one hotel reopening on Friday, the resort said.

The resort temporarily closed its theme park and the CityWalk on 1 May amid a COVID-19 outbreak that began in the Chinese capital on 22 April.

As the latest resurgence of COVID-19 infections subsides, Beijing is loosening it's related response restrictions and steadily returning to normal.

The city reported one new local infection during the first 15 hours of Saturday, according to the Beijing municipal health commission.— Xinhua

Tourists visit the Universal CityWalk at the Universal Beijing Resort in Beijing, capital of China, 25 June 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vietnam reports 657 new COVID-19 cases

VIETNAM recorded 657 new COVID-19 cases on Saturday, up by 4 from Friday, according to its Ministry of Health.

All the new infections were domestically transmitted in 36 provinces and cities. The Vietnamese capital Hanoi was the pandemic hotspot with 169 new cases recorded on Saturday, followed by the northern Bac Ninh province with 53 and the northern Phu Tho province with 45.

The infections brought the total tally to 10,742,891 with 43,084 deaths. Nationwide, 9,642,514 COVID-19 patients, or nearly 90 per cent of the infections, have recovered. — Xinhua

Omicron-based shots' response improves

PFIZER Inc and BioNTech SE said on Saturday that a booster dose of updated versions of their COVID-19 vaccine, modified specifically to combat the Omicron coronavirus variant, generated a higher immune response against that variant.

Advisors to the US Food and Drug Administration are scheduled to meet on Tuesday to discuss whether to update COVID-19 vaccines for the fall.

The updated shots are likely to be redesigned to combat the Omicron variant of the coronavirus, experts say.—AFP

S Korea reports 6,790 new COVID-19 cases

SOUTH Korea recorded 6,790 new COVID-19 cases as of midnight Friday compared to 24 hours ago, bringing the total number of infections to 18,319,773, the health authorities said Saturday.

The daily caseload was down from 7,227 in the previous day, hovering below 10,000 for the 16th consecutive day, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA).

For the past week, the daily average number of confirmed cases was 7,057. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

RCEP deepens China-ASEAN economic and trade cooperation

ON 27 May, a cargo ship loaded with Malaysian manganese ore arrived at Beibu Gulf Port in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The ore was sent to the smelting workshop of South Manganese Group Ltd., which has the longest manganese industry chain in the world. There, it was made into electrolytic manganese dioxide before being sold domestically and exported to Japan as a raw material within new-energy batteries.

This particular case of cross-border trade, industry and sale illustrates the power of the recently instituted Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement in bringing economic benefit to China and its regional partners.

Containers are stacked together for shipment at a port in Guangxi. A new Chongqing-Guangxi-Singapore link will provide quicker access to Southeast Asia and beyond for goods from central and western areas of China. **PHOTO: ASIA NEWS PHOTO/XINHUA**

The RCEP has helped reduce the tariff on manganese ore in Malaysia from 3 per cent to 2.4 per cent, making the industrial chain connecting China, ASEAN and Japan more competitive in the international market, and promoting the development of the regional economy.

The RCEP agreement, the world's largest free trade deal to date, came into force on the first day of 2022. Since then it has brought tangible dividends to economic and trade cooperation between China and ASEAN countries.

Customs data shows that, in the first quarter, China's imports and exports to ASEAN reached 1.35 trillion yuan (202.2 billion US dollars), an increase of 8.4 percent year on year, accounting for 14.4 per cent of China's total foreign trade.

During the period, trade between China and ASEAN accounted for 47.2 per cent — or nearly half — of China's foreign trade with RCEP partners, according to the data.

With the RCEP agreement, ASEAN has once again overtaken the EU to become China's largest trading partner. — Xinhua

East African Community unveils regional bio-economy strategy

THE East African Community (EAC) on Friday unveiled the regional bio-economy strategy aimed at making use of the region's abundant natural resources, the EAC said in a statement.

The 2021/2022-2031/2032 strategy will enable the EAC member states to use underutilized agricultural waste materials to produce value-added products with applications in many sectors such as food, health, energy and industrial goods, said the statement. The statement said among key interventions proposed in the strategy is the creation of new forms of sustainable bioenergy and the conversion of waste materials to useful products.

The strategy further seeks to ensure the transformation of economies and place innovation in bio-based products and processes at the centre, with a bio-based circular economy as the organizing framework, said the statement. In addition, the strategy will contribute immensely through effective, efficient and sustainable production and use of bio-based materials, products, processes and business models to drive the sustainable development in the region, according to the statement. —Xinhua

Summer travel misery ahead as industry workers in revolt

A spiral of worker strikes in Europe's crucial aviation sector and cancelled flights at a time when millions of travellers are looking to escape for the summer, threaten the sector's tentative recovery.

Airports and airlines are buckling under the pressure of demand pent up during the pandemic that has been unleashed on understaffed and stretched operations across Europe.

Airports and airlines are buckling under the pressure of demand pent up during the pandemic. **PHOTO: ANP/AFP**

Cabin crew

A coordinated strike by Ryanair flight attendants in five European countries has thrown a spotlight on volatile labour relations at low cost airlines.

"It's June and colleagues are already exhausted," said Damien Mourgues, SNPNC trade union representative at Ryanair.

"Our basic salary is 854 euros ($900) with variables of 8.50 euros per hour" flown, he said. In Spain, "we have a basic salary of only 950 euros" and "when you don't fly, you earn 950 euros, that's all," complained Pier Luigi Copellon, a steward based in Barcelona for 14 years.—AFP

Vietnam may replace China as factory of the world in near future

A worker inspecting a production line inside a Malaysian-invested plastic factory at the Que Vo industrial park in Northern province of Bac Ninh. **PHOTO: HOANG DINH NAM/AFP/FILE**

OWING to greater opportunities with cheaper prices over land purchasing rights, labour wages, and operational expenses for factories and warehouses, Vietnam may replace China as the factory of the world in near future. As Omicron flare-ups in China's manufacturing hubs, like Guangdong Province and Shanghai, disrupted supply chains, Vietnams Q1 economic figures appear to show promising outlook amid the pandemic, reported Global Times. According to Vietnams General Statistics Office, Vietnams economy expanded by 5.03 per cent in Q1 of 2022, compared with the same period of last year, surpassing China which grew 4.8 per cent.

Whats more, Vietnams foreign trade rose to USD 176.35 billion in Q1, a year-on-year rise of 14.4 per cent.

In comparison, China's Q1 foreign trade rose 10.7 per cent in yuan terms. Moreover, foreign investors and other foreign-owned businesses are pouring money into the Vietnamese market. Recently, Vietnamese media reports that business mogul Li Ka-shing invested billions in Vietnam's infrastructure after retreating from the UK, reported Global Times.—ANI

French energy giants urge consumers to cut back

CONSUMERS should start cutting back on their energy use immediately, the bosses of France's three big energy companies urged Sunday, warning of social tensions next winter unless reserves are replenished.

"The effort has to be immediate, collective and massive," Patrick Pouyanne of TotalEnergies, Jean-Bernard Levy of EDF and Catherine MacGregor of ENGIE wrote in an op-ed piece in the JDD weekly.

The call came after the French government said this week it aimed to have its natural gas reserves at full capacity by autumn as European countries brace for supply cuts from major supplier Russia with the Ukraine war dragging on, and would build a floating terminal to receive more gas supplies by ship.

The three energy bosses said in the article that European energy production was further hampered by hydro-electric production suffering from drought.

"The surge in energy prices resulting from these difficulties threatens our social and political fabric and impacts families' purchasing power too severely," they said, adding: "The best energy is the one we don't use." — AFP

Less than 3% of Japan firms exiting Russia, lowest among G-7: survey

Photo taken 19 March 2022, shows a closed McDonald's restaurant at a large shopping complex in Vladivostok, Russia. **PHOTO: KYODO**

LESS than 3 per cent of Japanese companies operating in Russia have decided to withdraw following its invasion of Ukraine, the lowest proportion among the Group of Seven nations, a recent survey shows.

A considerable number of Japanese companies were cautious about exiting from Russia, with many only suspending operations in the hope of resuming business in the future, the analysis of the survey said.

Only 4, or 2.4 per cent, of the 168 Japanese companies operating in Russia had decided by 19 June to cease business in the country, according to analysis by Teikoku Databank Ltd. based on the survey conducted by the Yale School of Management in the United States covering around 1,300 major companies worldwide.

The figure was far lower than the around 48 per cent of British companies that have announced their withdrawal from Russia, followed by about 33 per cent of Canadian companies and around 29 per cent of US enterprises.

Italy had the second-lowest proportion of companies withdrawing from Russia at around 5 per cent, the survey showed. — Kyodo

Airbus to set up China research centre to boost innovation

An Airbus A350-900 arrives at the Baoan International Airport in Shenzhen, South China's Guangdong province, 6 January 2022. **PHOTO / XINHUA**

AIRBUS will establish the Airbus China Research Center in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, to strengthen the company's footprint and innovation partnerships in China, the company announced Friday.

The Airbus and Suzhou Industrial Park signed a framework agreement on Friday on the establishment of the center. The new move by Airbus is aimed at reaffirming its long-term commitment to cooperating with and investing in China, according to Airbus China.

"China not only has a promising aviation market, but also has advanced technological advantages in many fields," said George Xu, executive vice president of Airbus and chief executive officer of Airbus China.

"Airbus hopes to jointly contribute to the high-quality development of China's aviation industry by taking advantage of the high-quality business environment, unique industry chain and talent pool here," Xu said.

The Airbus China Research Center is located in China's Yangtze River Delta, one of the country's economic hubs. It will carry out research work on advanced technologies, such as hydrogen energy infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, and the aviation industry's upgrading with digitalization and intelligence. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka reduces amount of holding foreign currency to USD 10K

AMID the looming economic crisis, Sri Lanka on Saturday limited the amount of foreign currency an individual can hold to USD 10,000. Sri Lanka's central bank amended limit on foreign currency possession from 15,000 US dollars to 10,000 to attract foreign currency into the formal banking system, reported Daily Mirror Online. An amnesty period of 14 working days effective from 16 June is granted for persons holding foreign currency notes, during which they can deposit them into a foreign currency account or sell them to an authorized dealer, according to the central bank. At the end of the amnesty period, the central bank said, it will initiate actions against anyone who violates the order, in terms of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Act, reported Xinhua.

Sri Lanka has been facing crippling foreign currency shortages, which has made it hard to import essential items.

Meanwhile, a team of high delegations representing the US Department of the Treasury and the US Department of State will be visiting Sri Lanka on Sunday. Members of the delegation included Deputy Assistant Secretary of Treasury for Asia Robert Kaproth and Ambassador Kelly Keiderling, who is also the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, Daily Mirror reported.

The visitors will meet with various political representatives, economists, and international organizations, the US embassy said in a statement. According to the statement, during their meetings, they will explore the most effective ways for the US to support Sri Lankans in need. —ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V VENUS C VOY.NO. (2216S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V VENUS C VOY. NO. (2216S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-6-2022** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (059N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (059N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Sri Lanka to limit fuel for private vehicles as fuel suppliers delay shipments

Motorists queue along a street to buy fuel at a Ceylon petroleum corporation fuel station in Pugoda, some 50 km from Colombo on 23 June 2022. **PHOTO: ISHARA S. KODIKARA / AFP**

SRI Lanka will not receive shipments of petrol, diesel and crude oil, scheduled for this week and next week, Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekera said on Saturday.

The minister said that suppliers have informed state-owned fuel importer and distributor Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) that they will not make the scheduled deliveries due to banking and logistic reasons.

Wijesekera said public transportation, power generation and industries would be given priority until the next shipments arrive.

Therefore, limited stocks of diesel and petrol will be distributed to a few gas stations throughout next week.

The minister urged the general public not to queue up for fuel.

He also said that refinery operations will also be halted until the next crude shipment arrives.

"We are working with all new and existing suppliers. I apologize for the delay and inconvenience," he said. — Xinhua

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

NEWS in brief

Ukraine reports 'massive' attack from Belarus

TWENTY rockets targeted the village of Desna in the northern Chernigiv region, Ukraine's northern military command said in a statement, adding that infrastructure was hit, but no casualties had yet been reported.

Belarus has provided logistic support to Moscow since the February 24 invasion, particularly in the first few weeks, and like Russia has been targeted by Western sanctions – but is officially not involved in the conflict.

"Today's strike is directly linked to Kremlin efforts to pull Belarus as a co-belligerent into the war in Ukraine," the Ukrainian intelligence service said.

The strikes came ahead of a planned meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin meets his Belarussian counterpart and close ally Alexander Lukashenko in Saint Petersburg on Saturday.

Russia's foreign ministry on Friday condemned the decision by Brussels to grant Ukraine official EU candidate status as a move to "contain Russia" geopolitically.

The decision "confirms that a geopolitical monopolisation of the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) space is continuing actively in order to contain Russia," foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement. –AFP

Russian forces control Azot plant: pro-Moscow separatists

RUSSIAN and pro-Russia forces have taken control of the Azot chemical plant in the battleground eastern Ukrainian city of Severodonetsk and "evacuated" more than 800 civilians sheltering there, pro-Moscow separatists said Saturday.

The forces have "taken full control of the Azot plant industrial zone," a separatist representative Andrei Marochko said on Telegram, a day after Ukraine announced it would withdraw its troops from the key city.

Another separatist spokesman, Ivan Filiponenko, said that around 800 civilians who had taken refuge in the plant during weeks of fighting had been "evacuated".–AFP

Russians 'fully occupy' Severodonetsk, focus shifts to Lysychansk

RUSSIA'S army has "fully occupied" the key Ukrainian city of Severodonetsk after weeks of fighting, its mayor said Saturday, an important strategic win for Moscow as it seeks to gain full control over the east of the country.

The industrial hub of Severodonetsk has been the scene of weeks of running battles, but the Ukrainian army said Friday that its outgunned forces would withdraw to better defend the neighbouring city of Lysychansk.

"The city has been fully occupied by the Russians," mayor Oleksandr Striuk said on Saturday.

A few hours earlier, pro-Moscow separatists said Russian troops and their allies had entered Lysychansk, which faces Severodonetsk across the river.

"Street fighting is currently taking place," a representative of the separatists, Andrei Marochko, said on Telegram, in a claim that could not be independently verified. —AFP

The east of Ukraine has been subjected to an extended barrage from Russian missiles. **PHOTO: AFP**

Moscow to send Belarus nuclear-capable missiles within months: Putin

RUSSIA will deliver missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads to Belarus in the coming months, President Vladimir Putin said yesterday as he received Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko.

The 9K720 Iskander is a mobile short range ballistic missile system produced and deployed by the Russian military. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ VITALYKUZMIN.NET /AFP**

"In the coming months, we will transfer to Belarus Iskander-M tactical missile systems, which can use ballistic or cruise missiles, in their conventional and nuclear versions," Putin said in a broadcast on Russian television at the start of his meeting with Lukashenko in Saint Petersburg. He also offered to upgrade Belarus' warplanes to make them capable of carrying nuclear weapons, amid soaring tensions with the West over Ukraine. —AFP`

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Alleged mastermind behind 2008 Mumbai attacks in Pakistan custody

PAKISTAN authorities have taken into custody Sajid Mir, one of the alleged masterminds behind terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, in 2008, and who authorities had once said was dead.

The senior official of the Lashkar-e-Taiba militant group was convicted of terrorism financing and sentenced to 15 years and six months in prison in June, a lawyer dealing with terror financing cases said Friday.

An anti-terrorism court in Lahore also imposed a 400,000 rupee ($1,900) fine on him. It is unclear whether the court dealt with the terror attacks specifically. An armed group attacked multiple locations in Mumbai in November 2008, such as hotels and a railway station, killing 166 people, including one Japanese. The US Federal Bureau of Investigation alleges Mir was the chief planner of the attacks. — Kyodo

Indian firefighters attempt to put out a fire as smoke billows out of the historic Taj Mahal Hotel in Mumbai on 27 November 2008, one of the sites of attacks by alleged militant gunmen. **PHOTO: INDRANIL MUKHERJEE/AFP**

Iran, EU say nuke talks to resume in days

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (R) shakes hands with European Union Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell during their meeting in Tehran, Iran, on 25 June 2022. **PHOTO: IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

IRAN and the European Union announced here on Saturday the resumption of international negotiations in Vienna in the coming days to revive the Iranian nuclear pact.

Making the remarks at a joint televised press conference with the visiting European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said his country is prepared for the resumption of Vienna nuclear talks in the coming days.

The Iranian top diplomat said that he had detailed, in-depth talks on Iran's demands with Borrell, and that "we are ready to resume negotiations in the coming days."

The economic benefit of the Iranian people from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is important to the Iranian government and any issue that fails to secure Iran's economic interests will not be acceptable to the government of President Ebrahim Raisi, he noted.

"We will try to resolve the problems and differences that exist in the course of the talks that will resume soon," he said, expressing the hope that the American side will take "realistic and fair action this time" in a run for a possible agreement.

For his part, Borrell said the talks will resume "quickly" and "immediately" in an effort to "solve the last outstanding issues."— Xinhua

US Supreme Court eliminates constitutional right to abortion

THE Supreme Court ruled to eliminate the constitutional right to abortion Friday, overturning a landmark 1973 decision in a highly divisive move that could become a key issue in the November midterm elections.

"The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion," Justice Samuel Alito wrote in the 6-3 ruling on a case regarding the constitutionality of a Mississippi law that bans abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy. "The authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives." The top court ruling means US states can decide on abortion regulations, likely leading to abortion bans in roughly half of them, according to The Associated Press.

"It's a sad day for the court and for the country," President Joe Biden said just hours after the ruling was issued by the nine-member court, which has six conservative justices. "With this decision, the conservative majority of the Supreme court shows how extreme it is, how far removed they are from the majority of this country. They have made the United States an outlier among developed nations in the world," the Democratic president said. Under Biden's predecessor Donald Trump, a Republican, three conservative judges made their way to the Supreme Court, including one who filled a vacancy created in 2020 by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a liberal icon.— Kyodo

Pro-choice and anti-abortion demonstrators gather outside the US Supreme Court in Washington. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Charles says Commonwealth nations free to chart own course

PRINCE Charles told Commonwealth leaders Friday that the choice to become a republic or abandon the queen as head of state was theirs alone, and expressed "personal sorrow" at Britain's legacy of slavery.

The British heir to the throne addressed the opening of a Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Rwanda as the host nation faced scrutiny over its rights record and a much-criticised migrant deal with the UK.—AFP

Ancient civilizations call for int'l cooperation

HEADS of friendship associations from China, India, Egypt and Greece held an online dialogue on Friday under the theme of "Upholding Justice and Achieving Common Development."

The event concluded with a joint declaration calling for international cooperation to promote world peace and development.

"We agree that it is the common aspiration of peoples of all countries to pursue peace, seek development and promote cooperation, and work together to build a community with a shared future for mankind," read a joint declaration signed by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), India-China Friendship Association (ICFA), the Egypt-China Friendship Association and the Belt and Road Associates in Greece.—Xinhua

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Sri Lanka to limit fuel for private vehicles as fuel suppliers delay shipments

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Kyel Gyi to face Min Htet Aung in final of Shwe Aung Lan Traditional Boxing Tourney

THE second day of the quarter-finals of the Shwe Aung Lan Myanmar Traditional Boxing Tournament was held on 26 June. The tourney will feature 26 bouts, including two challenging fights.

Saw Ba Hein (Cement Factory) and Chit Win Wyne (Zarni Thway) competed in the 60-kilo quarter finals as the opening match of the second day of "SKYNET Shwe Aung Lan" Myanmar Traditional Boxing Tournament.

The two men fought hard and did not lose until the fifth round, so in the judges' decision, all three judges declared Saw Ba Hein as a winner, who had advantages throughout the fight.

Min Kyaw Za (Zwekabin Land) and Lin Htet Aung (Taunggale) competed in the 60-kilo quarter-finals and all three judges decided Min Kyaw Za as a winner as both fighters did not lose or win until the 5th round.

In the 63.5-kilo quarter-final match between Saw Daweik (Taunggale) and Emwe (Dragon King), Saw Dawweik could not continue the fight after the first round and Emwe won and advanced to the semi-finals.

In the 63.5-kilo quarterfinals, Salai Chan Myae Ko (Aeknyaw) fought against Thet Win Aung (Shwe Thaton), and Thet Win Aung advanced to the semi-finals.

In the 67-kilo quarterfinals, Man Min Aung (Cement Factory) and Min Htoo Htoo (Taunggale) fought and Man Min Aung won the second round by 30 seconds.

In the 67-kilo quarter-final match, Saw Tun Win Aung (Aung Naing Thu) fought against Kabar Shah (AMT 2) but there was no knock out until the fifth rounds and all three judges declared Kabar Shah as a winner by points.

In the 70-71 kilo semi-final match, Saw Min Aung (Taunggale) met Kyel Gyi (G3G) and all three judges declared Kyel Gyi as a winner by points.

The semi-finals will be held on 3 July and the final will be held on 10 July. Kyel Gyi will take on Min Htet Aung in the final match.—TWA/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.

Myanmar U-16 team prepares for international tournaments

MYANMAR U-16 boy's football team is currently preparing for international tournaments, according to the Myanmar Football Federation. The team is taking training with 30 preliminary players and headed by U Aung Zaw Myo. The Myanmar U-16 national team will compete in the ASEAN U-16 Championship to be held in Indonesia from 31 July to 13 August, followed by the 2023 Asian Cup U-17 Championship in Saudi Arabia from 1 to 9 October.

The youth team will play tune-up matches against Myanmar National League II clubs and U-19 State and Region teams as part of preparation for the international tourneys.

Out of seven friendly matches, the team has won one match, drew three and lost three as well.

The Myanmar U-16 team won Yangon U-19 team in their second friendly match and drew 3-3 in the first leg match. The youth team also played against Myanmar National League club Rakhine United with a 0-0 draw and League-2 Club Dagon FC with a 2-2 draw.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Bale confirms MLS move to Los Angeles FC

WALES captain Gareth Bale confirmed his move to Major League Soccer's Los Angeles FC on Saturday following his departure from Spanish giants Real Madrid.

Bale confirmed his plans to join LAFC in a post on Twitter following widespread reports earlier Saturday about the move. "See you soon, Los Angeles," the 32-year-old wrote. An accompanying video showed Bale wearing an LAFC shirt and cap.

Earlier the Los Angeles Times said Bale will be eligible to play for LAFC from July 1.ESPN reported that Bale will fly to Los Angeles at the end of next week to sign a deal which runs to the end of this season, with an option for an additional year. Bale was once the world's most expensive player and has spent the last eight seasons with Real Madrid, winning three domestic championships and five Champions League titles.—AFP

Wales forward Gareth Bale has joined Major League Soccer's Los Angeles FC. **PHOTO: AFP**