

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.

Age limit extended for candidates for entrance tests of DSA, DSTA, DSMA, DSMA (Female)

THE age limit of entrance tests for cadets of the Defence Services Academy, Defence Services Technological Academy, Defence Services Medical Academy, and Defence Services Medical Academy (Female) was extended to six further months due to requests of the people.

The age limit in applications for these academies was amended that the age of candidates must be between 16 and 18 years and six months old on 1 January 2023 instead of between 16 and 18 years old on 1 January 2023 mentioned in the previous announcements. — MNA

Myanmar maritime trade surges by \$1.3 mln as of 17 June

THE value of Myanmar’s maritime trade between 1 April and 17 June in the current financial year 2022-2023 soared to US\$5.38 billion, reflecting a sharp rise of \$1.3 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Sea trade rose from \$4.07 billion during the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

While maritime exports were valued at \$2.239 billion, imports were registered at \$3.142 billion. Both exports and imports have risen as against the year-ago period.

Myanmar’s sea trade generated \$19.8 billion out of an overall trade value of \$29.5 billion in the previous FY2020-2021, the Ministry of Commerce’s statistics indicated.

Terminals in Yangon Port received over 250 cargo ships in the past five months (Jan-May), according to Myanma Port Authority.

The turnaround time at the Port was designated as approximately three days,

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One container vessel is pictured loading and unloading cargoes at Yangon Port.

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Special appeal tribunal hears 3 special civil appeal cases

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Judges of the Union Supreme Court U Aung Zaw Thein, U Kyi Thein, U Khin Maung Gyi, U Tin Hon,

Daw Khin May Yi, U Thaung Naing, U Thein Ko Ko, Daw Thin Thin Nwe was convened yesterday morning in room No 1 of the Supreme Court of the Union.

A total of special civil appeal cases No 37/ 2020 (Ayeeyawady), 42/2020 (Yangon) and 19/2021 (Yangon) were heard in line with COVID-19 prevention and control guidelines. —MNA

K120 million Village Development Projects to cover 12 villages in Taninthayi Tsp

THE Department of Rural Development will implement village development projects in 12 villages in Taninthayi Township, Myeik District, Taninthayi Region in the 2022-2023 financial year, with a K120 million contribution from the government, said U Soe Yei Lwin, head of the township department.

The government allocates K10 million for each village and contributes K120 million to 12 villages—East Tharaphon village, Theinkun village and Theiphyu village, Letaungyar village, Kywehteingon and 6th-mille village, Myaymaon village, Santhit village, Yephyu village, Kamaline village, Chaunglamu village and Banlamut village.

The department will provide technical and financial assistance to the villagers to carry out infrastructure building projects such as construction of roads and bridges and water supply.

The villagers can take part in drafting the project plans with a view to ensuring the socio-economic development of the rural community.

Between 20 and 25 June, feasibility of the project, inspection tour, project launch and formation of the committee were conducted by two teams led by U Soe Yei Lwin accompanied by engineers. The projects are slated to kick off in July 2022. Once the projects are completed, it will bring about benefits to 14,660 rural people from 2,873 households, he said.—Myint Oo (Myeik)/GNLM



12 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 27 June, total figure rises to 613,568

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,568** after **12** new cases were reported on 27 June 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,532** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.—MNA

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“Cooperatives Build a Better World”
“ကမ္ဘာလောက ပိုမိုကောင်းမွန်ရေး သမဝါယမများက တည်ဆောက်ပေး”

Public Notification

1. The Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to effectively curb corruption.
2. The ACC used SMS on the mobile phone to ask the public who seek services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via Short Code No “1111” for feedbacks, including the Public Feedback Programme-PFP.
3. According to the PFP, the right replies of the citizens via Short Code No “1111” will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.
4. Therefore, the public should make a reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at Short Code No “1111” and such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission
Answer “1111” to fight against corruption
Answer “1111” to improve services
Let’s work together to eliminate corruption towards prosperity

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

Tatmadaw will implement harmoniously with the people for national politics

WE, soldiers, always have to safeguard our three main national causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the National Solidarity, Perpetuation of National Sovereignty as a national duty for the Union in which over 100 ethnic people live. National affairs mean safeguarding national interests, and religion, , traditional culture and customs. Let the nation be led by any political system or any government, as our national policy, Tatmadaw has to maintain the Three Main National Causes concerning all nationalities. I would like to urge that Tatmadaw will implement harmoniously with the people for national politics.

(Excerpt from the message sent by Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing on the occasion of 74th Anniversary Union Day which fell on 12 February 2021)

Union Minister for International Cooperation receives Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing of the Ministry of International Cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received Mr Chen Hai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at

the Union Minister Office of the Ministry of International Cooperation at 1 pm on 27 June 2022. During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on the matters regarding promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation and regional situation. — MNA



Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai calls on U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for International Cooperation, yesterday.

MoE Union Minister inspects basic education high schools in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Education Minister Dr Nyunt Pe inspects one of the classrooms in Nay Pyi Taw.

UNION Minister for Education Dr Nyunt Pe accompanied by Deputy Ministers Dr Zaw Myint and U Zaw Win and Director-General U Kyaw Swa Thwin of Basic Education Department inspected Basic Education High Schools No 9 and No 11 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning and encouraged teachers and students. The Union minister called on the students not only to take care of their health and study hard but also to attend school regularly and follow the school rules and regulations. Then, he urged the students to strive to be educated with full patriotism, good character and good

manners. Afterwards, the Union minister instructed that if teachers and students have any problems during the school opening period, they have to immediately report to relevant departments so that assistance can be provided as soon as possible. He encouraged educational families to work together for the 2022-2023 Academic Year to be successfully completed. The Union Minister also viewed the completed buildings, playground and sports equipment, the greening of school environment and teaching and learning and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

Myanmar maritime trade surges by \$1.3 mln as of 17 June

FROM PAGE-1
under the guidance of the Myanma Port Authority and the cooperation of the ocean liners, exporters and importers. Therefore, the arrival of the

ships has increased. Myanma Port Authorities and Yangon inner terminals are providing services to ensure the fast and reliable cargo handling and withdrawal of the

containers for trade flow to return to normality. Earlier, the larger ships have draft problems preventing their sailing on the Yangon River. The draft extension is

up to 10 meters with the new navigation channel accessing to inner Yangon River. Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock,

forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials. — KK/GNLM

MOEP, MOE hold monsoon tree-growing ceremony 2022

A monsoon tree-growing ceremony 2022 of the Ministry of Electric Power and the Ministry of Energy was held at the Central Training Centre of the MOEP in Nay Pyi Taw at 8 am on 27 June.

First, Union Minister U Thaung Han of the Ministry of Electric Power and the Ministry of Energy, Deputy Minister for Electric Power Dr Aung Zeya and Deputy Minister for Energy U Thant Zin planted the *Mesua ferrea* saplings.

Afterwards, officials and departmental staff grew the *Mesua ferrea* saplings, teak

saplings, eucalyptus saplings, Siamese cassia saplings, Beechwood saplings, *Tabebuia aurea* saplings, *Thapyay* saplings, *Bauhinia acuminata* saplings, *Taungmayoe* saplings, Mahogany saplings, Mahua saplings, gold mohur saplings, *Pyinma* saplings, mango saplings, drumstick saplings, guava saplings in the designated places, and the Union minister and the party viewed the process, it is learnt. —MNA

Union Minister U Thaung Han and party view the staff planting the saplings.



Construction Deputy Minister inspects Lanthit Housing Project, Yangon



The MoC deputy minister meets the DUHD officials and departmental personnel.



DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Win Pe inspected the Yangon-Pathein Highway yesterday morning.

The deputy minister and party went to the Yangon Region Director Office of the Department of Urban and Housing Development, Ministry of Construction, and examined the implementation of housing projects in the Yangon Region and

the work process of the DUHD office at noon.

Afterwards, the deputy minister gave a speech to officials and departmental staff of the Department of Urban and Housing Development.

In the evening, the deputy minister arrived at the Lanthit Avenue Housing Camp, located at Plot No 3A/2, Ward 20 DY 3, the corner of the Phoneygi

Street and Lanthit Avenue, No 11 Ward in Lanmadaw Township and urged the responsible personnel to renew the old housing projects for the improvement of living standards in Yangon area and that ways should be found to give private companies and local people the opportunities. Then, he also visited project sites and gave instructions where necessary. — MNA

Yangon mayor inspects greening activities

YANGON Mayor U Bo Htay, in his capacity as chairperson of the Yangon City Development Committee, and officials inspected greening activities on the bank of Inya Lake on Pyay Road, Kamayut township yesterday morning.

The Yangon mayor also instructed responsible persons to build up and down stairs on the bank of Inya Lake and remove the rubbish and silt.

He also inspected the cleaning work and pruning of trees to ensure the safety of

power lines on Parami Road gave necessary instructions.

In addition, the Yangon mayor and officials inspected cleaning activities in the 12 Ward of Hline Township and the construction of the pedestrian pathways in the vicinity of the Thamaing College.

After that, the Yangon mayor inspected the construction works in Insein and Mayangon townships and made necessary instructions to meet the standards. — MNA



Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Floating solar power project to be implemented in Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory



An aerial view shows one similar floating solar power project in one foreign country.

THE Floating Solar Power Project will be implemented in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Union Territory in the 2023-2024 financial year, according to the Ministry of Electric Power.

The project will be implemented at the Paunglaung Dam, Yan Aung Myin Dam, and Chaung Ma Gyi Dam in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, and the tender was called for 18 solar power plant projects on 15 June. Local and foreign

entrepreneurs have been invited through a tender system to implement the pilot project in the 2022-2023FY.

Nationwide electricity consumption increased from 34 per cent in 2016 to 50 per cent by the end of 2019. It reached 55 per cent in 2020, and the Ministry of Electric Power expect that electricity will be available all over the country by 2030.

To improve the distribu-

tion of electricity and to be able to generate electricity continuously and stably throughout the year, the Ministry is working on power plant projects such as hydropower plants, solar power plants, natural gas and thermal power plants.

Myanmar's first solar power plant is located in Minbu Township, Magway Region, and the second one is located in Thazi Township, Mandalay Region. — TWA/GNLM



Royal Thai Navy men are seen giving helping hands to two Myanmar fishers.

Thai Navy rescues two Myanmar men from drowning

THAI Navy rescued two Myanmar fishermen after their boat sank in Thai waters, according to the statement of the Royal Thai Army.

The fishing boat heading to the Ranong fishing port sank near Phee Island in Thai waters in the strong wind on

26 June.

Thai soldiers from the Sarani island inspection camp found two Myanmar men in the sea during their patrol and saved them, it said.

Thai officials took these two men to Kawthoung township. — TWA/GNLM



Potato prices highest in June compared to same period of last 2 years

THE potato price on 27 June 2022 is the highest compared to the same period of last two years.

In the Yangon market, the price was the highest on 21 January 2021 as the Shan potato was priced at K2,300-2,500-2,850 per viss while the Chinese potato was K2,150 per viss.

On 1 December 2021, Shan potato was K1,550-2,000-2,250-2,350 per viss and the Chinese potato was K1,700 per viss, according to the data.

The small size Shan potato was priced at K1,700 per viss while the large size was K2,200 per viss and the Chinese potato at K1,350 per viss between early January to 22 January 2022.

The prices of local and foreign potatoes were not much



Bags of potato are unloaded at the Bayintnaung Wholesale Centre on 27 June.

different in June 2022 in the Yangon market, according to Yangon potato wholesale cen-

tres.

On 27 June 2022, Shan Heho potato fetched K1,500-

1,600-1,600-1,600 per viss and the Chinese potato K1,650 per viss while Bangladesh potato K1,450 per viss.

The Yangon market received Chinese and Bangladesh potatoes.

All the local and foreign potato prices in the Yangon market are only K1,500 per viss.

On 28 June 2021, Shan Heho potato price was K550-690-730-680 per viss and K780 per viss of Chinese potato while K570-600-550-530 per viss of Shan Heho potato and K600 per viss of Chinese potato on 27 June 2020.

During the same period of three successive years, the potato price was the highest on 27 June 2022 and the price was higher about K1,000 per viss compared to the same period

of 2022 and 2021.

On 22 September 2020, the large size potato was priced at K800 per viss and it rose to K1,450 per viss on 23 September.

On 24 September, the large size potato price dropped to K1,000 per viss. The Chinese potato price was K950 per viss on 28 September 2020, and the price was below K1,000 in the remaining months of that year.

Although the potato price was the highest in three years on 27 June 2022, it was not the record price, said Ko Aung Chain, a potato seller.

In mid-2022, the potato price was around K1,500-1,600 per viss. The potato is mainly cultivated in Aungban, Heho and Sinphyukyun, Loikaw and Tatkon regions. — TWA/GNLM

MoC arranges import of essential anti-COVID-19 equipment



The imported anti-Covid medical supplies in Chinshwehaw.

THE Ministry of Commerce supervises the import of necessary medical supplies as well as anti-COVID-19 devices critical to the COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities through border trade posts, international airports and seaports.

A total of 26,850 PPE suits were imported by a company and one vehicle through the Chinshwehaw Border Trade Camp

yesterday.

Officials from relevant departments provided necessary facilities to beef up the standard operating procedures-SOP for the import process.

The public can browse the Ministry's Website — www.commerce.gov.mm — for notifications on the importation of medicines and related accessories. — MNA

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 936 people from Tamway Township in Yangon Region, 10,758 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 2,822 people from seven townships in Rakhine and Chin States, 2,824 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, and 89 people from Toungoo Township in Bago Region, respectively.

Similarly, healthcare offi-

cials gave the vaccines to 7,252 students from twenty six Townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 5,765 students from eight townships in Rakhine and Chin States yesterday.

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



A student in Toungoo Township in Bago Region gets COVID-19 vaccine shot.

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, consumer goods, medicines, restricted chemicals and vehicles seized

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

Under the instructions of the Chairman of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force, an on-duty team at the container terminal of Asia World Port made inspections on 25 June, according to information.

They confiscated household

appliances worth K10,545,000 that were different from the Import Declaration (ID). The effective action was prosecuted under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, on the same day, a combined team led by Ayeyawady Region Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Myanmar Police Force confiscated K1.2 million worth of medicines without the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and



Seized goods in Kachin State.



Seized illegal foodstuffs in Kayin State.

Standards (IR) of FDA in the Thazin village-tract of Ngwehsaung township. The action was taken under the Food and Drug Administration Procedures.

Similarly, the on-duty team made inspections at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint under the Kayin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force on 26 and 27 June.

They captured K1,080,000 worth of foodstuffs without any official documents from a vehicle heading from Myawady to

Yangon on 26 June.

In addition, K2 million toilet accessories without any declaration in the Import Declaration (ID) from a truck heading from Myawady to Yangon on 27 June.

The actions were taken under the Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, a team led by the Myanmar Police Force made inspections under the supervision of the Kachin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force at the Nant-saung combined checkpoint.

They captured 2,400 kilo-

grammes of restricted chemicals like Ammonium Nitrate worth K2.4 million from a truck heading from Mandalay to Phakant. The action was taken under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

In addition, on 27 June, a team led by the Myanmar Police Force captured a Toyota Ipsum car (approximately K3.5 million) in Homalin township and a Mark II car (approximately K2.5 million) in Sagaing township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

A total of 7.8792 tonnes of illegal timbers at an estimated value of K3,445,050 were seized in Bago and Thayawady districts under the supervision of the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

Therefore, 12 arrests estimated at K26,670,050 were made on three consecutive days from 25 to 27 June, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Arrangements made to be able to buy fertilizer at cheaper rate

THE purchase of fertilizers at cheaper rates in agriculture sector was discussed in meeting with fertilizer producers at Bago Region Government Office.

At the meeting, Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win said that the socio-economic lives of rural farmers could be improved only if the inputs needed for agriculture could be purchased cheaply and easily.

The purpose of the meeting was to make it easier for farmers to buy the necessary fertilizers, he said.

He added that farmers should get accustomed to using natural fertilizers in agricultural sector.

Officials from CPP Myat

Min Co Ltd, Royal Greensmart Co Ltd and Myanmar Agro Eagle Co Ltd explained the operation of fertilizer factories, production and requirements and Bago Region government officials and regional level officials raised questions.

Then, the Chief Minister said that farmers could produce safe agricultural products for consumers without reduction of the per-acre yield by using locally produced organic fertilizers that are cheaper than using imported ones.

Relevant departments must scrutinize and inform the selection of organic fertilizers produced in the region according to the crops grown, he added.

He called for the use of



The meeting between the Bago Region chief minister and fertilizer producers in progress.

organic fertilizers at the village level and the establishment of

model plantations at the village level to create a strong mar-

ket for chemical-free crops. —MNA

Summer rice seed production on over 1,300 acres completed in Mandalay Region



Ninety-six farmers and ten private companies were involved in the seed production of rice crops in 16 villages in 6 townships.

SUMMER rice seed production is implemented on more than 1,300 acres in three districts of the Mandalay Region in the 2022-2023 Financial Year, said assistant director Daw Min Min Thwin who is in charge of seed section under the Mandalay Region Agriculture Department

A total of 1,429.5 acres of seed production farms were earlier targeted in six townships of the Mandalay Region. The project started at the end of February and March, covering 811.5 acres in Mandalay Dis-

trict, 483 acres in PyinOoLwin and 10 acres in Yamethin townships; totalling 1,304.5 acres.

“Seed production of rice crops was carried out in Mandalay, PyinOoLwin and Yamethin districts. The department is cooperating with private institutions on seed production. The seed varieties are Shwethweyin, Shwemanaw, Super Hnankauk, Sin Ekari 3, Sinthuka, 90-day variety and Manaw Thuka. The harvest of summer paddy seed farms will begin in the end-June and July. Last year, 6,532 acres

of summer paddy produced certified seeds,” she elaborated.

Ninety-six farmers and ten private companies were involved in the seed production of rice crops in 16 villages in six townships. The regional government provides a subsidized rate of urea fertilizer (for half a bag of urea per acre). The department also contributes agricultural inputs and seeds under the Union Government’s scheme. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Dollar value touches over K2,100 at exchanges despite CBM reference rate of K1,850

THE unofficial exchange rate against the US dollar reaches over K2,100 on the over-the-counter market although the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) set the reference exchange rate at K1,850, according to local forex traders. To strengthen the Kyat value in the local forex market, the CBM set the exchange rate margin within 0.5 per cent of the reference rate for the transaction, selling or buying, according to a notification issued by the CBM on 9 November.

Consequently, financial institutions including the banks and informal money exchanges set a dollar value at K1,850 for buying and K1,855-1,899 for selling.

Nevertheless, the dollar was traded only between K2,105 and 2,115 on 27 June in the informal financial market.

The CBM sold US\$95 million at its auction market within three months this year for edible oil, fuel oil and pharmaceutical sectors, to govern the market volatility. A total of \$443.8 million were sold at an auction rate in 2021 as well. Last 28 September 2021, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K3,000 in the black market and consequently, the pure gold reached a record high of K2.22 million per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme) in history. Under the guidance of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, the Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market was formed on 17 December 2021 as gold and currency market stability play a crucial role in the trade facilitation.

The objectives of the committee are inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation, checking if there is compliance with payment rules or in the domestic market, and proceeding against those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere with the free and fair operation of the market under the existing laws, by-laws and regulations in line with the official directives, illegal procurement of foreign currency, illegal trade and taking legal actions against price manipulators. Furthermore, the officials concerned will crack down on those people involved in charging a percentage for money withdrawals at banks as shadow money. — NN/GNLM

OPINION

Shape healthy workplaces for insured workers

PROVIDING health care services aims to ensure the health and fitness of employees as well as create healthy workplaces in order to operate manufacturing of products without interruption of process in full swing.

Among hundreds of thousands of workers across the nation, a total of 1,107,338 workers have joined the Social Security Board as insured workers to primarily enjoy healthcare rights. Meanwhile, 33,868 workplaces in the entire nation have connected with the medical treatment programmes of the SSB.

The Social Security Board under the Ministry of Labour primarily arranges health care services for insured workers. Those insured workers have rights to take medical treatment and provisions for workplace rights such as taking leaves, pharmaceutical supplies and cash assistance for pregnant women and babies.

Only when the insured workers are healthy and fit will they serve their assigned duties as well as will their workplaces be healthy. If so, they will utilize their strengths based on vigorous efforts in processes of workplaces without delay to secure greater success in operations.

depending on their diseases.

Plans are underway to set up more social security clinics across the nation for enabling the insured workers to have easy access to health care services in time, according to the SSB of the Ministry of Labour. The sites will be chosen close to residential areas, factories, workshops and hostels where the majority of workers reside.

Up to now, the Social Security Board cooperates with Care Well Medical Company Ltd in the establishment of SSB Care Well Clinics at Nawade Housing and Shwelinpan industrial zone in Hlinethaya, Mingaladon and at industrial zone-3 of Shwepyitha townships.

Moreover, insured worker patients have to enjoy the right of receiving medical treatments at three Workers' Hospitals, 96 social security clinics, 57 departmental clinics, one traditional medicine clinic and two mobile clinics in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, regions and states in addition to services of 24 capitation payment clinics and seven free for service payment clinics.

Only when the insured workers are healthy and fit will they serve their assigned duties as well as will their workplaces be healthy. If so, they will utilize their strengths based on vigorous efforts in processes of workplaces without delay to secure greater success in operations.

Let's Combat Together Against Narcotic Drugs Posing Serious Danger to the Country

By Aung Shinn

NARCOTIC drugs and psychotropic substances pose one of the common enemies of mankind. To present its brief history, the opium poppy originated in the Mediterranean region in the Neolithic era around 5000 BC and purchasing and collecting opium began around 3400 BC. Although people started to use opium for medical purposes, in the beginning, it has been widely used for recreational purposes from around the 11th century onwards.

The records say the recreational use of opium was noted in the 15th century in China, a neighbour of Myanmar. Since the harmful effects of opium became obvious, China initiated the opium prohibition starting in 1729. China also attempted to stop opium smuggling leading to the confrontation with Britain that imported opium into China. The First Opium War (1839-1842) and Second Opium War (1850-1864) between China and Britain were significant instances. However, China was defeated in the wars losing some parts of its sovereign territory including ports. As a result, China had been destroyed with opium by Britain in the name of free trade. The saying 'luo hou jiu yao ai da,' which literally means, 'if you are backward, you will take a beating' was left among the youths of Chinese along with the lessons learnt from the opium wars. Hence, 26 June, the day when the viceroy born in Fujian province burnt down and destroyed the opium



Seizure of heroin and stimulant tablets worth over K1 billion (USD 0.54 million) in Mohnyin township of Kachin state.

smuggled by Western merchants just before the First Opium War in China was recognized as the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Similarly, in Myanmar, the use and growing of opium became widespread as a result of British colonial rule. From the perspectives of historical background, legislation, religion, and socio-culture, Myanmar has never been a society that encourages the use of narcotic drugs. Opium, intoxicating brew, intoxicating preparation of fermented glutinous rice, and alcoholic drinks were strictly prohibited during the reign of Myanmar kings. Moreover, using alcoholic drinks and narcotic drugs is also forbidden in the Five Precepts of Buddhism practised by

the majority of Myanmar people. From Myanmar's sociocultural perspective, those who use illegal drugs are generally named 'opium-eater (opium-addict)' and become self-conscious in society. Nevertheless, the use of opium and illicit drugs notably became outspread in Myanmar during the colonial era as the British government officially permitted the growing of opium poppy and its production.

However, since the time of Independence, successive administrations of Myanmar have steadily taken measures of anti-narcotic drugs deemed as a national duty. Operation Nga Ye Pan (the hell flower), Operation Taung Yan Shin, Operation Taung Htake Pan and Operation Mae

Lone conducted in the 1960s were particularly significant. Moreover, the phase 1 to 14 of Operation Moe Hein were conducted from 1976 to 1988. During Operation Moe Hein, 69 military officers sacrificed their lives and 451 were injured. The 1993 Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law was amended in line with international standard and norms and it was enacted in 2018. So far, a total of 34 special operations against narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances have been conducted. In addition, long-term and short-term projects are being implemented by formulating strategies and tactics for the anti-narcotic drug measures.

The record-breaking seizures of illicit drugs witnessed in the time of the State Administration Council in the combined efforts of the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and Anti-Narcotic Task Force are tremendously gratifying. The seizures of narcotic drugs strongly prove that the State Administration Council is taking steady steps on the implementation of the Five-Point Roadmap and at the same time, emphasizing the anti-narcotic drug measures.

According to the statistics showing the seizures of narcotic drugs at the time of the State Administration Council, from January to December 2021, a total of K 970.289 billion (USD 524.48 million) worth of illicit drugs

were confiscated. In 2022, there occurred 699 drug-related cases in January alone with seizures of over K113.9 billion (USD 61.57 million) worth of illicit drugs including opium, heroin, ICE (crystal meth) and stimulant tablets. In February, there were 556 drug-related cases in total with the seizures of narcotic drugs which has an estimated value of K130.5 billion (USD 70.54 million). Moreover, there were 655 cases in March and illicit drugs which hold the estimated value of over K117.3 billion (USD 63.4 million) were confiscated. In April, there were 525 cases and illicit drugs with an estimated value of over K175.1 billion (USD 94.65 million) were also seized.

In an interesting case, it was reported that a Japanese Yakuza leader and three Thai associates, who had planned to trade anti-aircraft weapons, small arms and explosives with a large amount of heroin and methamphetamine from Ethnic Armed Organizations-EAOs in Myanmar, were arrested in the US. This is the undeniable fact that humiliates the EAOs claiming they have never been involved in the illicit drug business. The opium poppy cultivation along with illicit drug issues and the existence of many armed groups as well as the low rate of development are deeply interrelated in Myanmar.

In May 2022, ICEs (crystal meth) worth around K16 billion (USD 2.79) transported to Kayin state from Shan state were confiscated in Hpa-an Township of Kayin State. Similarly, around five million stimulant tablets which have an estimated value of K5 billion (USD 2.7 million) being transported from Shan state to the Yangon region were seized in Mingaladon township. Moreover, a large quantity of heroin, which has an estimated value of K7,425 million (USD 4 million), was confiscated in Seik Mu village, Phakant township of Kachin State and 44 kilograms of heroin worth K660 million (USD 3.5 million) were also seized in Nawngkhio Township of Shan State. In the same month, ICE (crystal meth) with an estimated value of K6.2 billion (USD 3.35 million) to be shipped

to Malaysia was also seized in the North Okkalapa Township of Yangon. Furthermore, a large quantity of Ketamine worth around K500 million (USD 0.27 million) was confiscated in Kunhing Township of Shan State while other illicit drugs, were seized in Phakant, Mudon, Bhamo and Myeik townships. It is notable that narcotic drugs which have an estimated worth of over K39.8 billion (USD 21.5 million) were seized in the month of May.

In the past, the opium trade had been openly conducted under the title of free trade during British colonial rule. But it is now the time when the synthetic drug producers and dealers without borders are producing and selling the drugs, that will lead to the extinction of humans, using advanced technologies. Hence, the countries weak in law enforcement with many armed groups accordingly become major hot spots for pro-

enforcement units but also the conscientiousness and activities of every individual are critically important. Moreover, broad awareness campaigns are crucially required so that people can deeply perceive that not only can the narcotic drugs destroy the life of every individual but they also cause a serious risk of entire extinction of mankind.

The security forces concerned are well deserved to be appreciated for their relentless

Table Showing the Seizures of Narcotic Drugs in 2021 and 2022

Sr.	Narcotic Drugs and other Related Drugs	2021 (From January to December)	2022 (From January to December)
1.	Opium (kg)	2,632.00975	357.12439
2.	Heroin (kg)	2,526.1091141	556.385992
3.	Stimulant tablets (tablet)	198,188,715	116,466,952
4.	ICE (Crystal Meth) (kg)	13,815.77542	10,271.96854
5.	Marijuana (kg)	503.7159631	244.50676
6.	Kratom (kg)	3,088.21317	784.46996
7.	Kratom powder (kg)	1,058.480551	250.68048
8.	Ecstasy tablets (tablet)	146,414	11,438
9.	Sulphuric acid (litre)	18,340	4,600
10.	Ammonium Nitrate (litre)	74,434	87,350
Total worth (K million)		970,288.9714	576,416.6651
Total worth (USD million)		524.48	311.58

Note: The total worth of narcotic drugs including other related drugs was calculated at the rate of K1,850 per USD.

The table shows the figures for narcotic drugs seized in 2021 and 2022 during the time of the State Administrative Council. Overview of the aforementioned table shows that the value of illicit drugs seized in the first five months of 2022 has already surpassed half of the total value of the seizures in 2021. It obviously proves that anti-narcotic measures are speeded up in good momentum by the State.

The monthly seizures of illicit drugs clearly denote the relentless efforts of the State Administration Council Government to eradicate narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. On review of the seizures, a larger quantity of synthetic drugs has been seized rather than opium and heroin. It shows the shift towards the production, trafficking and use of synthetic drugs which can be easily made by chemical substances without opium.



Seizure of ICE (crystal meth) with an estimated value of K6.2 billion (USD3.35 million) to be shipped to Malaysia in North Okkalapa township of Yangon.

ducing drugs and psychotropic substances. Against the backdrop of the situation, it is worth wondering whether such countries are likely to become the victims of the neo-colonialism of mankind's extinction.

Therefore, in combatting the danger of narcotic drugs, not only the strength of law

efforts to prevent the narcotic drugs from reaching the people and the youths in Myanmar society. Now, let me conclude by urging every individual of the people to prevent and combat narcotic drugs by joining hands together with conscientiousness.

TECH/ ENVITON WORLD

Ailing oceans in the spotlight at major UN meet

A long-delayed UN conference on how to restore the faltering health of global oceans kicks off in Lisbon Monday, with thousands of policymakers, experts and advocates on the case.

Humanity needs healthy oceans. They generate 50 per cent of the oxygen we breathe and provide essential protein and nutrients to billions of people every day.

Covering more than two-thirds of Earth's surface, the seven seas have also softened the impact of climate change for life on land. But at a terrible cost.

Absorbing around a quarter of CO2 pollution — even as emissions increased by half over the last 60 years — has turned sea water acidic, threatening aquatic food chains and the ocean's capacity to pull down carbon.

And soaking up more than 90 per cent of the excess heat from global warming has



Ocean Rebellion activists hold banners reading "As the sea dies we die" and "Don't touch my bottom" as they stage a protest in Terreiro do Paco in Lisbon on 27 June 2022, before the UN Ocean Conference opening. **PHOTO: AFP**

spawned massive marine heatwaves that are killing off precious coral reefs and expanding dead zones bereft of oxygen.

"We have only begun to understand the extent to which cli-

mate change is going to wreak havoc on ocean health," said Charlotte de Fontaubert, the World Bank's global lead for the blue economy.

Making things worse is an

unending torrent of pollution, including a garbage truck's worth of plastic every minute, according to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

On current trends, yearly

plastic waste will nearly triple to one billion tonnes by 2060, according to a recent OECD report.

Wild fish stocks

Microplastics — found inside Arctic ice and fish in the ocean's deepest trenches — are estimated to kill more than a million seabirds and over 100,000 marine mammals each year.

Solutions on the table range from recycling to global caps on plastic production.

Global fisheries will also be under the spotlight during the five-day UN Ocean Conference, originally slated for April 2020 and jointly hosted by Portugal and Kenya. "At least one-third of wild fish stocks are overfished and less than 10 per cent of the ocean is protected," Kathryn Matthews, chief scientist for US-based NGO Oceana, told AFP.— AFP

Israel to invest 880 mln USD in climate technology innovation

ISRAEL'S Ministry of Environmental Protection announced on Sunday that the country will invest 3 billion shekels (about 880 million US dollars) to facilitate innovation in climate technologies.

The decision is aimed at accelerating innovation in Israel's climate tech ecosystem to support Israel's efforts to address the climate issue, according to the ministry.

Major quantitative goals to support climate innovation stated in the decision are expected to be met by 2026.

These goals include the

doubling of climate tech applied studies, patents, startup companies, and pilot projects carried out on state infrastructure, increasing the number of fundraising deals and Israeli venture capital funds specializing in climate technologies, and the promotion of joint research with other countries.

The plan also includes the use of satellites to monitor climate change and environmental hazards, and the establishment of a technology incubator to promote projects, according to the ministry. — Xinhua

NASA blasts off from Australian Outback in 'historic' launch

NASA'S first-ever launch from a commercial site outside of the United States blasted off from Australia's Outback late Sunday, in a "historic" moment for the country's space industry.

In the first of three planned launches from the Arnhem Space Centre, the rocket, carrying technology likened to a "mini Hubble" telescope, lifted off — blasted about 350 kilometres (218 miles) into the night sky.

"It is a momentous occasion for us as a company in particular, but it's historic for Australia," Equatorial Launch Australia CEO Michael Jones told AFP ahead of the lift-off.

Jones, whose company owns and operates the launch site in the far north of Australia, described it as a "coming out" party for the country's space industry and said the chance to work with NASA was a milestone for commercial space firms in the country.

After a series of rain and wind delays, the suborbital sounding rocket soared into



This handout image released by NASA shows a rocket, carrying technology likened to a "mini Hubble" telescope, lifting off from Arnhem Space Centre in Australia late on 26 June 2022. NASA's first-ever launch from a commercial site outside of the United States blasted off from Australia's Outback late on 26 June, in a "historic" moment for the country's space industry. **PHOTO: NASA / AFP**

the sky to study x-rays emanating from the Alpha Centauri A and B systems. After reaching its apogee, the rocket's payload was to capture data on the star systems before parachuting back to earth.

According to NASA, the launch offers a unique glimpse of the distant systems and unlocked fresh possibilities for scientists.

"We're excited to be able to launch important science missions from the Southern Hemi-

sphere and see targets that we can't from the United States," Nicky Fox, NASA's Heliophysics Division director in Washington, said on announcing the mission.

Jones said the unique location had made preparations hard, with years of work to get regulatory approval and the need to haul rockets on barges to the launch site — about 28 hours drive from Darwin in northern Australia.—AFP

China's new telecom carrier launches 5G services

CHINA Broadnet, or China's fourth telecommunication operator after China Mobile, China Unicom and China Telecom, has formally launched 5G services.

The launch event was held at the Museum of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and attended by Huang Kunming, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee

and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee. The service launch marks a breakthrough in the integration of national cable TV networks and 5G integrated development and early successes in developing a new "cable plus 5G" integrated development paradigm for China's radio and TV networks.— Xinhua

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Relaxed new mask usage guidelines barely spread among Japan public

MORE than a month has passed since the Japanese government relaxed its guidance on mask usage to reflect subsiding fears of the coronavirus, yet its call for removing masks whenever possible has not caught on widely among the public.

There has never been a mask mandate in the country, but more than two years of the pandemic has made mask-wearing the polite thing to do, even as heat-related illnesses are emerging as a concern as Japan readies for a boiling summer.

Experts say many people are unaware the government has been proposing since 20 May that masks can be taken off in certain circumstances, which may remain so until a well-known figure like Prime Minis-

ter Fumio Kishida outlines the new guidelines publicly.

The recommendation for outdoor mask usage now only applies to those conversing within two meters of each other. But most people continue wearing them outside regardless of circumstances.

The government has made some efforts to increase public awareness of the changes, creating leaflets and planning to broadcast the message through commercials.

There have been multiple cases of children who wore masks during gym classes being sent to hospital due to heat exhaustion or heatstroke.

The education ministry has asked schools to let schoolchildren go maskless during phys-



Masked people walk in central Tokyo on 13 June 2022. PHOTO: KYODO

ical activities, and for younger children to take masks off on their school commutes.

For indoor masking, the public's embrace of looser mask "rules" is even slower. Masking

is now unnecessary for those keeping more than two metres apart when there is hardly any conversation.

However, announcements in public spaces continue to call

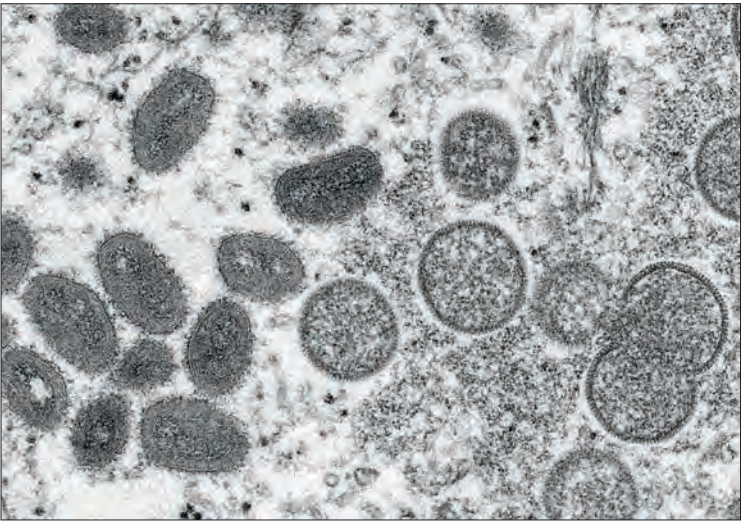
for strict mask-wearing, as companies remain vigilant against the coronavirus.

East Japan Railway Co, whose train service includes the Tokyo metropolitan area, continues to ask passengers to wear masks at all times. The company said its announcements will "remain unchanged unless there is a request from the government".

According to an online survey conducted in May by Laibo Inc., around 40 per cent of the 708 respondents said they believe mask-wearing requests can end, but nearly 90 per cent said they would continue wearing them.

More than 48 per cent said they would stop doing so if a "wonder drug" against COVID-19 was made.—Kyodo

WHO says monkeypox outbreak not yet global emergency



An electron microscopic image shows monkeypox virus particles. (Image courtesy of US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention) PHOTO: KYODO

THE World Health Organization decided on Saturday not to declare the outbreak of monkeypox a global emergency for the time being, even as the number of confirmed cases in non-endemic countries continues to grow.

WHO head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was advised in his decision by a committee of international health experts that convened for an emergency meeting on Thursday, Tedros said in a statement.

The 16 experts decided by consensus that the situation does not constitute a Public Health Emergency of Interna-

tional Concern, though there were "differing views among the committee," Tedros said.

The outbreak nevertheless clearly represents an "evolving threat" that needs a collective response, he said.

According to the WHO, the monkeypox virus is endemic in parts of Africa where it has been noted to cause disease, including fatalities, for decades.

Infection cases in Europe and the United States have been on the rise since May, while in Asia, the first cases were confirmed over the last week in Singapore, South Ko-

rea and Taiwan.

Since the beginning of May, more than 3,000 cases have been reported to the WHO from 47 countries.

The majority of confirmed cases in non-endemic countries are male and most of them occur among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men in urban areas, it says.

The disease is spread through close physical contact.

Pregnant women and children are at risk of becoming severely ill if infected.

Symptoms include fever, extensive rash, skin lesions and swollen lymph nodes following an incubation period of five to 21 days.

Although monkeypox can be deadly, it is treatable. Smallpox vaccines are used against the disease, but WHO says mass vaccination is not required nor recommended at this stage.

The name of the virus refers to its discovery in a monkey during an animal experiment in Denmark in 1958. The first transmission to a human was confirmed in 1970.—Kyodo

Peru facing fourth wave of Covid-19: government

PERU'S government on Sunday declared that a fourth wave of Covid-19 infections had begun to hit the country, which has one of the highest mortality rates from the virus in the world.

"We are currently in a fourth wave, as we have seen the increase (of cases)... in different provinces of our country, such as Junin, Arequipa, Cusco and the capital," Health Minister Jorge Lopez told local broadcaster RPP radio.

According to official figures, infections increased from 1,800 per week at the beginning of the month to more than 11,000 in the last week.

The increase has not so far

led to a significant rise in hospitalizations or deaths.

At least 65 per cent of the country's eligible population have received three doses of a Covid-19 vaccine, with more than 80 per cent having received at least two doses.

Those aged over 40 are eligible to receive a fourth dose.

Peru experienced its third wave of the pandemic between the end of 2021 and February 2022, with a peak of almost 50,000 infections per day on average in the third week of January.

There are currently 833 hospitalized patients with Covid-19 in the country, down from a record 15,547 in March 2021.—AFP



A health worker prepares to inoculate a child with a dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine against COVID-19 during a vaccination campaign in Lima, on 25 January 2022, amid the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

ECONOMY

WORLD

India, EU resume free trade talks after nine-year gap

INDIA and the European Union resumed talks Monday on a free-trade deal after a nine-year gap, as Western countries seek to wean New Delhi off its close economic ties to Russia.

Dubbed the “tariff king” by ex US president Donald Trump, India has become more open to lowering trade barriers in recent years and is negotiating pacts with several other countries.

The Asian giant has refused to condemn Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, even increasing oil purchases from its long-standing strategic ally and biggest supplier of arms.

The European Union is India’s second-biggest trading partner after the United States but talks with the bloc broke down in 2013 over issues including tariff reductions and patent protection.

Merchandise trade hit an all-time high of \$116 billion in 2021-22, with India’s exports to the 27-member European Union hitting \$65 billion, according to New Delhi.

“Both sides are aiming for the trade negotiations to be broad-based, balanced and comprehensive, based on the principles of fairness and reciprocity. There will also be discussions on resolving the Market Access Issues which are impeding bilateral trade,” India’s commerce ministry said earlier this month when announcing the first round of talks in Delhi, which were due to run until Friday.

India in February signed a major economic partnership agreement with the United Arab Emirates and in April agreed an interim free-trade deal with Australia, aiming to finish off a full pact by the end of the year.

India is also in trade negotiations with Canada, Israel and Britain. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on a visit in April that Britain and India hoped to nail down an accord by October.

— AFP

Turkey’s troubled lira rallies on ‘backdoor capital controls’



A picture taken on 7 December 2021 in Istanbul shows Turkish lira banknotes. **PHOTO: AFP**

TURKEY’S beleaguered lira extended its biggest rally of the year on Monday in response to a new rule that effectively forces many banks to part with some of their foreign currency.

The banking regulation — announced after the market had closed on Friday night — represents Turkey’s latest attempt to prop up the lira without raising the main interest rate.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s pressure on the central bank to keep borrowing costs well below the rate of inflation has sparked an economic crisis that has seen the lira slump and prices explode.

Erdogan rejects conventional economics and affirms that high interest rates cause inflation instead of slowing it down.

The annual rate of consumer price increases now officially stands at 73.5 per cent. Independent economists believe it could be nearly double that figure.

The dollar dropped to 16.1 liras early Monday before recovering slightly and trading around the 16.7 mark.

The US currency was worth around 17.4 liras before the measure was announced.

It stood at 7.4 liras at the start of last year and 5.9 liras in January 2020.

Turkey’s real interest rate of minus 59.5 per cent provides a major incentive for consumers to spend money before it loses value and for banks to convert their holdings into dollars and euros.

The new rule attempts to put a stop to that by limiting banks’ foreign-denominated assets.

It requires banks with more than 15 million liras (\$900,000) in foreign currency — should that figure represents more than 10 per cent of their assets or annual sales — to sell their dollars and euros before issuing any more loans.

The measure meant that some big banks whose lira loans matured Monday had to sell their foreign currencies in order to make the payments.

BlueBay Asset Management economist Timothy Ash called the regulation “backdoor capital controls”.

The banking regulator clarified Sunday that the measure did not apply to individuals or independent entrepreneurs. — AFP

Cambodia organizes consultation workshop on economic diplomacy in new normal

CAMBODIA on Monday organized a national consultation workshop on economic diplomacy in the new normal, aiming at promoting the effective implementation of the strategy in the post-COVID-19 pandemic era.

Supported by the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Special Fund, the hybrid workshop was attended by some 170 stakeholders in person and dozens of the country’s ambassadors and consuls-general abroad via video link.

Ouch Borith, minister attached to Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen and foreign ministry’s standing secretary of state, said the economic diplomacy strategy (2021-2023) was essential to help develop the country’s economy.

“The strategy is crucial to help boost the economic growth, to reduce reliance on external aid, and to promote the interest of Cambodia in the region and in the world,” he said.

Borith added that the strategy was designed to attract more foreign direct investment, to further boost bilateral and multilateral trade growth, and to lure more tourists to the Southeast Asian nation.

“Taking this opportunity, I’d like to express my profound thanks to the people and government of China for having provided a great amount of assistance to Cambodia for national development in the regional, sub-regional, LMC, and bilateral frameworks,” he said. — Xinhua

Barcelona to host Mobile World Congress until 2030



Visitors wearing virtual reality (VR) headsets sits on a mechanical ride on SK Telecom’s stand on the opening day of the MWC (Mobile World Congress) in Barcelona on 28 February 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE Mobile World Congress, the telecom industry’s biggest annual gathering, will be held in Barcelona until 2030, extending its current contract by six years, organizers said Monday.

The event, which draws more than 100,000 people to Barcelona, has been held in Spain’s second largest city since 2006.

The existing agreement between the GSMA association that hosts the congress and local authorities ran until 2024.

“We are thrilled to announce that MWC will remain in Barcelona through to 2030,” said GSMA director-general Mats Granryd said in a statement.

“Barcelona is so intertwined in the MWC experience, it’s hard for me to think about one and not the other,” he added

The gathering was one of the first events to be cancelled in 2020 as Covid-19 started to sweep across the world. A scaled back edition was held in 2021 in June instead of February as is usually the case, with many events staged online. — AFP

East China city sees 2,440 China-Europe freight train trips

THE eastern Chinese city of Hefei, Anhui Province, has handled 2,440 China-Europe freight train trips since 2014.

The total trade value generated by the railway service has exceeded 10 billion US dollars since 2014, according to Hefei International Land Port Development Co, Ltd, which is in charge of the freight train operations.

Goods such as tea, home appliances, auto parts and robots have been transported via the service, the company added. — Xinhua

Markets extend rally as rate hike fears subside

ASIAN and European markets rallied again Monday, building on last week's advances and following a strong performance on Wall Street as speculation that inflation may have peaked tempered expectations about central bank interest rate hikes.

With prices surging at a pace not seen in a generation, finance chiefs have been forced to lift borrowing costs and wind back their ultra-loose monetary policies in recent months, sending a chill across trading floors.

But a string of weak data has led many investors to believe that inflation may have plateaued or is about to, giving room for

banks to be less hawkish.

The prospect that rates will not go as high as initially expected helped send Wall Street stocks higher Friday, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq ending up more than three per cent.

And Asia continued last week's rally.

Hong Kong led gainers, climbing more than two per cent thanks to a strong performance in Chinese tech firms. Indications that China's crack-down on the sector could be coming to an end added to the upbeat mood in the city.

Tokyo, Shanghai, Seoul, Singapore, Sydney, Manila, Bangkok, Mumbai



A woman walks past Exchange Square which houses the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in Hong Kong on 27 April 2022. PHOTO: AFP

and Wellington were also well up.

London, Paris and Frankfurt were all up in early trade.

"Market conviction

that perhaps the Fed won't now hike rates as aggressively as previously feared and/or that rate cuts before the end of 2023 are now an even more realistic pros-

pect if recession-like conditions lay ahead, have had a big hand in last week's improvement in risk sentiment," said National Australia Bank's Ray Attrill.

He added that the rally had helped pare about two-thirds of the losses suffered in a painful sell-off from 9 to 16 June.

While Fed chiefs continue to flag further big interest rate hikes in the pipeline, expectations for a prolonged period of increases have waned, which has in turn taken some heat out of the dollar.

Bitcoin has also won some support, after falling to as low as \$17,600 last week for the first time since December 2020.

"There's a feeling that things aren't as bad as we thought they were going to be," Carol Pepper, of Pepper International, told Bloomberg Radio.— AFP

New private financial exchange opens in Japan, first in 12 years



Osaka Digital Exchange Co President Kimio Mikazuki (C) takes part in an opening event for the commencement of trade in Tokyo on 27 June 2022. PHOTO: KYODO

A new private financial exchange, hoping to be an alternative for the Tokyo Stock Exchange, opened Monday in Japan, be-

coming the third such exchange and the first to be launched in 12 years in the country, the operator said.

The Osaka Digital

Exchange or ODX offers trading of stocks and exchange-traded funds from 8:20 am to 4 pm on weekdays, longer than the TSE's trading hours of 9 am to 3 pm, with a plan to introduce next year blockchain, an advanced technology for preventing data hacking.

Online financial giant SBI Holdings Inc. owns a 70 per cent stake in ODX's operator, Osaka Digital Exchange Co, through its wholly owned subsidiary SBI PTS Holdings. Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group Inc. holds a 20 per

cent stake with the remainder equally split between Nomura Holdings Inc. and Daiwa Securities Group Inc.

"We would like to boost momentum for investment in collaboration with the Tokyo Stock Exchange and others," Kimio Mikazuki, president of Osaka Digital Exchange, said at an opening event at the company's Tokyo head office.

Mikazuki also expressed a willingness to contribute to efforts at turning its namesake, Osaka, into an international financial centre.— Kyodo

China's industrial profits see narrowed decline in May

PROFITS of China's major industrial companies saw a narrower decline in May as factories have restarted production lines amid improving business activities, official data showed Monday.

Major industrial firms, each with business revenue of at least 20 million yuan (about 2.99 million US

dollars), saw their profits decline 6.5 per cent from a year earlier last month, narrowing from 8.5-per cent contraction in April, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed.

Zhu Hong, a senior statistician with the NBS, attributed the slower contraction to effective

epidemic control, recovering business activities and progress achieved in smoothing logistics in the country.

In May, revenues of these major firms went up 6.8 per cent year on year, a faster growth pace compared with April, laying a solid foundation for profit improvements.

During the January-May period, these industrial firms raked in around 3.44 trillion yuan in total profits, up 1 per cent year on year, NBS data showed.

The revenues of these major firms went up 9.1 per cent year on year to 53.16 trillion yuan during the first five months.— Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS FENJA VOY.NO. (033W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS FENJA VOY.NO. (033W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22011S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V X-PRESS MEGHNA VOY.NO. (22011S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-6-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S X-PRESS FEEDERS LINES

G7, NATO summits face deeper cracks despite projected unity

A series of major Western diplomatic gatherings began with the Group of Seven (G7) leaders' meeting in the German mountain resort of Schloss Elmau on Sunday, while thousands of protesters marched in Munich.

Leaders who are attending the three-day G7 summit and those who will show up at the upcoming 2022 NATO summit in Spain are trying to present a show of unity on the Ukraine crisis. Yet the reality is that the closed club is faced with internal differences that are hard to iron out and a Cold War mentality that goes against the trend of the times.

DISPUTES REMAIN

Before the start of the G7 meeting on Sunday, German Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who holds the G7's rotating presidency and is hosting the gathering, met with US President Joe Biden and the two leaders underlined "the unity of the West."

"The G7 nations must continue to close ranks," Scholz said.

In a statement issued on



(From L to R) European Council President Charles Michel, Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz, US President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, stand for a group photo during the Group of Seven (G7) Summit in Schloss Elmau in south Germany's Bavarian Alps on 26 June 2022. Leaders of the G7 kicked off their three-day annual summit on Sunday in Schloss Elmau in south Germany's Bavarian Alps amid lower expectations and protests. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Sunday afternoon after having discussions with other leaders, Scholz mentioned global difficulties, including declining growth rates, rising inflation, shortages of raw materials and supply chain disruptions.

Earlier, officials from Ger-

many and Britain were reported to push for temporary waivers on biofuels mandates to mitigate soaring food prices. However, Germany had to drop the thought during the summit due to reported resistance from the United States and Canada.

Apart from the food crisis, the dispute over climate actions also grabbed headlines.

A 40-page communique, released in May after G7 climate, energy and environment ministers met in Berlin, said the G7 agreed to achieve "predomi-

nantly decarbonized electricity sectors" by 2035. However, the ministers failed to set a date for phasing out coal-powered energy due to objections from the United States and Japan.

The substantial effort to reduce carbon emissions remains a highlighted difficulty for G7 leaders at the summit, as the world's major industrialized economies, which are primarily responsible for the pollution warming the planet, continue to clash on coal.

POUR FUEL ON FIRE

At the beginning of this year, Germany listed several priorities for the G7 summit, such as striving for a sustainable planet, economic stability and healthy living. Now, the Russian-Ukraine conflict has moved to the top of the summit's agenda. Before the summit, Scholz said that G7 leaders would highlight their support for Ukraine "for as long as necessary". Biden tweeted that the G7 would ban Russian gold imports, "a major export that rakes in tens of billions of dollars for Russia."—Xinhua

Iran says to hold indirect talks with US on nuclear sanctions



Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh holds a press conference in Tehran on 9 May 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

IRAN said Monday that its indirect talks with the United States would resume this week in a Gulf country, as part of wider efforts to revive the 2015 nuclear deal.

The negotiations will be separate from broader talks in Vienna between Iran and major powers that are mediated by the EU, the bloc's top diplomat Joseph Borrell said Saturday

in Tehran.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said the talks would focus on the lifting of sanctions imposed by Washington on Tehran and be held "in a Persian Gulf country in the coming days, later this week".

Iran's Tasnim news agency, quoting an unnamed foreign ministry source, reported sepa-

ately that Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri would visit Qatar on Tuesday for "negotiations on lifting sanctions", and that the US-Iranian indirect talks would be held there.

The landmark nuclear deal has been hanging by a thread since 2018, when then US president Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from it and began imposing harsh economic sanctions on America's arch enemy.

US President Joe Biden's administration has sought to return to the agreement, saying it would be the best path ahead with the Islamic republic.

"What we will do in the coming days does not concern the nuclear dimension but existing differences (and) the lifting of sanctions," Khatibzadeh said.

"I hope that we will see positive results emerge from these talks," he told reporters.

"If Washington comes with answers, then we can do the work quickly ... The ball is in Washington's court."—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia adds 43 Canadians to blacklist over sanctions

RUSSIA on Monday banned 43 more Canadians from entering its territory, in response to sanctions imposed by Ottawa over Moscow's offensive in Ukraine.

The new blacklist published by the Russian foreign ministry includes Suzanne Cowan, leader of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party, and Mark Carney, former governor of the Canadian and British central banks.

Senior civil servants, political advisers and members of civil society are also penalized.

The foreign ministry in Moscow criticized the "belligerent Russophobia" of Trudeau's government.

It said the new bans were in retaliation for Canada's introduction in May of new sanctions targeting the heads of Russian companies and members of their families.—AFP

Ukraine terminates 2 nuclear safety deals with Russia

UKRAINE terminated two agreements with Russia concerning cooperation in the field of nuclear safety, Ukraine's state-run nuclear energy operator Energoatom said in a statement on Monday.

Kyiv withdrew from the agreement between the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety of Ukraine and the Federal Nuclear and Radiation Safety Survey of the Russian Federation on cooperation in the sphere of nuclear and radiation safety signed on 19 September 1996.—Xinhua

Gov't urges energy saving in Tokyo as demand surges amid hot weather

THE government called on households and businesses in Tokyo and surrounding areas to reduce electricity usage between 3 pm and 6 pm Monday due to heightened demand as Japan braces for a lengthy and hot summer after an early end to the rainy season.

The call came a day after the industry ministry issued its first-ever power supply advisory urging people in Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc.'s service area to take energy-saving steps such as turning off lights that are not in use.

As the capital braces for potential shortages of increasingly expensive energy, Japan's weather agency announced Monday that the rainy season



People wearing masks walk outside JR Tokyo Station amid high temperatures on 27 June 2022. PHOTO: KYODO

in Tokyo and neighbouring areas appears to have ended, marking the shortest season since data became available in 1951.

But, despite the calls for

power saving, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry is still urging continued and appropriate use of air conditioners due to the heightened risk of heatstroke.

TEPCO's service area covers Tokyo and eight nearby prefectures, including eastern Japan's Kanto region which endured record-high June temperatures on Saturday and Sunday. High atmospheric pressure has continued into Monday and numerous regions in the service area are expected to see temperatures of 35 C or higher.

The power supply advisory is issued when an area's reserve power supply capacity ratio is projected to fall below 5 per cent. The lowest level necessary for stable supply is said to be 3 per cent. For Monday, the reserve rates are forecast to be 4.7 per cent from 4 pm to 4:30 pm and 3.7 per cent from 4:30 pm to 5 pm.— Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Thousands of demonstrators rally in Madrid against NATO summit

THOUSANDS of demonstrators rallied here on Sunday to call for peace and protest against a NATO summit to be held here this week.

Social, antimilitarist and pacifist movements from around the world gathered to show support for a congress concluded here on Saturday by an anti-NATO group, and its latest declaration calling for peace.

Jose Luis Centella, president of the Communist Party of Spain, told Xinhua that "many, thousands of people are demonstrating today in Madrid for peace, for a multilateral world so that Spain can live in harmony."

While mentioning the drastic increase in Spain's military spending, Paloma, another protester, called for attention to "other problems such as the closure of emergency services, and outpatient clinics and hospitals which are more saturated every day, but there is no money for that." — Xinhua

S Korea still committed to dialogue with DPRK: minister

A South Korean minister in charge of inter-Korean affairs said Monday that the country was still committed to dialogue with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

"We remain firmly committed to addressing all inter-Korean issues through dialogue," South

Korean Unification Minister Kwon Young-se told a press conference with foreign correspondents in Seoul. "In that sense, our government will engage in consistent efforts to achieve change in the inter-Korean relations, which are in a stalemate, through the embracing of the path of di-

alogue," said Kwon. South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol, who was inaugurated on 10 May, said at his inaugural ceremony that if the DPRK stops nuclear development and genuinely embarks on denuclearization, his government will be prepared to work with the international community to pres-

ent an "audacious plan" that can improve the DPRK's economy.

The minister said South Korea wished to realize peaceful unification on the Korean Peninsula through the peninsula's denuclearization and the normalized relations between the two Koreas. — Xinhua

S African police seek clues after 21 teens die in bar



Police and investigators put on protective clothing before going into a township pub in South Africa's southern city of East London on 26 June 2022, after 20 teenagers died. PHOTO: AFP

POLICE in South Africa were combing a township tavern for evidence on Monday after the mysterious death of 21 teenagers after a night out.

Most of the victims, some as

young as 13 years, were found dead inside a popular bar in the southern city of East London. Some died later in hospital.

They bore no visible signs of injury, sparking speculation

among local officials and politicians that this was a case of under-age drinking that went tragically wrong.

Special investigators from Pretoria have been rushed to the scene.

"The detectives will be resuming their work at the crime scene today," regional police spokesman Thembinkosi Kinana told AFP.

Many of the victims are thought to have been students celebrating the end of their high-school exams, officials said.

Autopsies are being conducted to see if the deaths could be linked to poisoning.

"Post-mortems (were) completed by last night and the bodies will be released to their families today," said Yonela Dekeda, provincial spokeswoman for the

health department.

Forensic analysis will be conducted this week.

"Samples were taken and were on first flight today to Cape Town, where the tests will be conducted," said Unathi Binqose, a government official on safety.

Drinking in South Africa is permitted for over-18s.

But in township taverns which are often located cheek-by-jowl with family homes, safety regulations and drinking-age laws are not always enforced.

President Cyril Ramaphosa is among those who have voiced concern.

The teenagers reportedly "gathered at a venue which, on the face of it, should be off-limits to persons under the age of 18," he said. — AFP

Ecuador could halt oil production in 48 hours due to protests: official

ECUADOR could suspend oil production in 48 hours if the nationwide indigenous protests and road blockades continue, the South American country's Ministry of Energy and Mines said on Sunday.

The hydrocarbon sector was adversely affected by road blockades and the seizure of oil wells in the country's Amazon region, it said.

"If this situation continues, the country's oil production would be suspended in 48 hours due to acts of vandalism, oil well taking-over and road closures. It has not been possible to transport the supplies and diesel necessary to maintain the operation," said Xavier Vera, Ecuadoran energy and mines minister.— Xinhua

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Gov't urges energy saving in Tokyo as demand surges amid hot weather

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SPORT



Head Coach Daw Thet Thet Win sees the team training session ahead of the AFF Women's Championship 2022. PHOTO: MFF

MFF appoints Daw Thet Thet Win as Myanmar women's team head coach

DAW Thet Thet Win, a former women's national team coach, will be the head coach of the Myanmar women's team, which will compete in the AFF Women's Championship 2022 to be hosted by the Philippines, according to the statement from the Myanmar Football Federation.

Daw Thet Thet Win has been the head coach of the Myanmar women's team since 9 June and is currently training

the team with 35 preliminary players.

The Myanmar women's team will compete in the ASEAN Women's Championship from 2 to 17 July.

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

Head Coach Daw Thet Thet Win coached the Myanmar women's team as the interim head coach for the 2016 Olympic Women's Football Championship.

In 2018-2019, she led the Myanmar U-19 women's national team and successfully qualified for the first and second stages of the tournament, qualifying for the 2019 Asian Under-19 Women's Football Championship.

Daw Thet Thet Win also served as an assistant coach under Dutch coach Rogers and Japanese coach Kumada. — 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.

Djokovic survives scare to win 80th match at Wimbledon

DEFENDING champion Novak Djokovic overcame a scare to notch up his 80th Wimbledon win on Monday with a four-sets victory over Kwon Soon-woo of South Korea. Six-time champion Djokovic triumphed 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 under the Centre Court roof. But the top seed was made to work after falling a break down in the opening two sets against his 81st-ranked opponent — losing the second of those.

Djokovic be-

comes the first player, man or woman, to record 80 singles wins at all four Grand Slam tournaments. "Now we have got to 80, let's get to 100," said Djokovic, a 20-time Grand Slam title winner.

"I didn't play any lead-up tournaments before Wimbledon so you always feel less comfortable. "Kwon stays close to the lines, hits clean forehands and backhands so I had to find a way to go through him. —AFP



Serbia's Novak Djokovic shakes hands with South Korea's Kwon Soon-woo after their men's singles tennis match on the first day of the 2022 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, on 27 June 2022. PHOTO: ADRIAN DENNIS / AFP

Shan United trounces Maha United 5-1 in MNL

SHAN United beat Maha United 5-1 on the third day of the Myanmar National League 2022 season at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Two-time MNL champions Shan United were happy with massive goals at the start of the season.

Shan United, who recruited foreign players, had the advantage over Maha United and won with a decisive result.

Both teams could not score until the 30th minute, but in the remaining 60 minutes, there were six goals.

Shan United took the lead in the 32nd minute with a long-range shot from Matsaki.

But two minutes later, Maha United got the equalizer and Thura Min Naing scored.

Maha United got the equalizer immediately but could not control the draw. Sa Aung Pyae Ko scored the

second goal in the 41st minute and Shan United took the lead with two goals at the end of the first half.

In the second half, Shan United played under more pressure and goals were scored by Ye Min Thu in the 70th minute, Stable King in

the 77th minute and Matsaki in the 86th minute.

The first match of the fourth day will be held at 3 pm on 29 June at Thuwunna Stadium with Rakhine United taking on ISPE FC. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



Maha United player (yellow) attempts to pass the Shan United defence during the third match of the Myanmar National at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 27 June 2022. PHOTO: MNL