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.

State Administration Council holds Waso robe offering ceremony 2022

THE Waso robe offering ceremony 2022 of the State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar took place at Sasana Maha Beikman building in the precinct of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday morning and it was attended by State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla.

First, the Senior General offered meals in the emerald alms-bowl, fruits, flowers, water and oil lights to the Buddha image in the building.

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Tatmadaw donates 2,789.25-carat ruby to the State

A CEREMONY to donate a large piece of ruby weighing 2,789.25 carats by the Tatmadaw to the State took place at the hall of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister said that a youth who loves the State and the Tatmadaw offered the Tatmadaw to donate a large piece of ruby inherited by his parents and forefathers to the Tatmadaw. When officials checked the piece of ruby, it is a precious one. So, the Tatmadaw donated it to the State. Likewise, in the time of the State Law and Restoration Council in 1990, the State accepted the donation of a piece of 496-carat ruby and one more piece of 1,907-carat ruby in 2013. Today's donated piece of ruby is a large size weighing 2,789.25 carats. The already-donated piece of ruby will be identified as the State ruby (NaSaKa Ruby).

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State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing looks into the rough ruby weighing 2,789.25 carats donated by Tatmadaw to the State in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

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Spread democracy!

We must spread democracy and must try to build an independent Myanmar through this system. Only democracy is suitable for independence as it is the only system that supports peace. So, democracy must be our goal!

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Bogyoke Aung San at the fourth State leaders meeting in August 1945)

Tatmadaw donates 2,789.25-carat ruby ...

The 2,789.25-carat ruby.

FROM PAGE-1

The piece of ruby does not have any flaw, and it is a rare one extracted from Mogok gems land of Myanmar. A plan is underway to give a deserved honour to the donor.

The Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the deputy minister reported on facts about the ruby. The Senior General and those present viewed the piece of ruby.

The 2,789.25-carat ruby donated by the Tatmadaw to the State has 9 in hardness and 3.99 in density. Its colour is red with a purplish tint. It is a significantly large piece of ruby produced from Mogok gems land. — MNA

Announcement on road closure on Martyrs' Day

1. Some roads in Yangon will be temporarily closed on 19 July during the 75th Martyrs' Day ceremony at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan Township, from 4 am to the end of the ceremony. During the ceremony, West Shwegondine Road from Yedashe Road, Dhammazedi Road from U Wizara-Dhammazedi Junction, Dhammazedi Road from Inya Myaing Junction, Martyrs' Road from West Shwegondine Road and U Wizara Junction, Martyrs' Road from U Htaung Bo Road and Martyrs' Junction, U Wizara Road from U Wizara Roundabout to U Wisara-Dhammaedi Junction, the northern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda (Thwaysaykan Road) will be closed, and divert routes will be arranged.
2. From 19-7-2022 to 21-7-2022, for the opening of the Bogyoke Aung San Museum from 5 am to 6 pm, Natmauk Road from Wingaba Junction, Natmauk Road from Pho Sein Junction, Bogyoke Museum Road from Ngahtetgyi Pagoda Road and the Junction, Bo Cho Road from Shwe Kyat Yat Junction, Bogyoke Museum Road from Saw Maha Junction, will be temporarily closed, and divert routes will be arranged.
3. From 19-7-2022 to 21-7-2022, for the flag-hoisting ceremony to be held at Ministers' Office from 5 am to 6 pm, Theinbyu Road from Bogyoke Aung San Street Junction, Anawrahta Road from Bo Myat Tun Junction, Maha Bandoola Road from Pansodan Junction, and Bo Aung Kyaw Road from Merchant Street Junction, will be temporarily closed.
4. Therefore, drivers are advised to drive on other suitable roads during off-road diversion during the ceremony.

Yangon City Development Committee

Announcement for opening reception centres to receive CDM staff, students and youths

THE State Administration Council has been striving for the all-round development of the country including economic, social, education and health sectors. In addition, security forces are performing their duties day and night so that the entire mass of national people in various regions across the Union should be able to lead their lives and earn their living in the peace of mind. The State Administration Council gives priority to achieving genuine and perpetual peace, building up the united strength of the national brethren.

In order to prevent the unnecessary loss of human resources, the State Administration Council has publicly invited the basic education staff who are absent from duty to resume their duties and those who take part in armed resistance under various names of groups, including PDFs, to return to the legal fold if they wish to, and is systematically receiving the returnees.

It is found that, due to the persuasion, instigation and coercion of CRPH and NUG terrorist groups, some CDM staff, students and youths went to the strongholds of some ethnic armed organizations and received training in arms, ammunition and explosives.

It is known that some of those who have completed the training no longer want to be involved in terrorist attacks and so they fled to the regions within and without the country and are working there for their living. When they see terrorist attacks with their own eyes, they cannot accept such terrible acts at all. On the other hand, they have come to believe in the government's five-point roadmap and its endeavour for durable peace. Moreover, they want to live peacefully in their hometowns again with their parents and relatives. Nevertheless, they cannot do so because of the coercion and intimidation by CRPH and NUG terrorist groups and their subordinates, it is learnt.

Therefore, the government is taking measures to be able to open reception centres in border areas for those who would like to return homes to their respective regions. Moreover, those wishing to return home can contact Tatmadaw units and police stations. It is guaranteed that they will be able to lead their daily lives peacefully.

Information Team
State Administration Council

State Administration Council holds Waso robe offering ceremony 2022

The Senior General and wife offer the Waso robe to Bhamo Sayadaw.

The Vice-Senior General and wife presents the Waso robe to the SSMNC Vice-Chair Sayadaw.

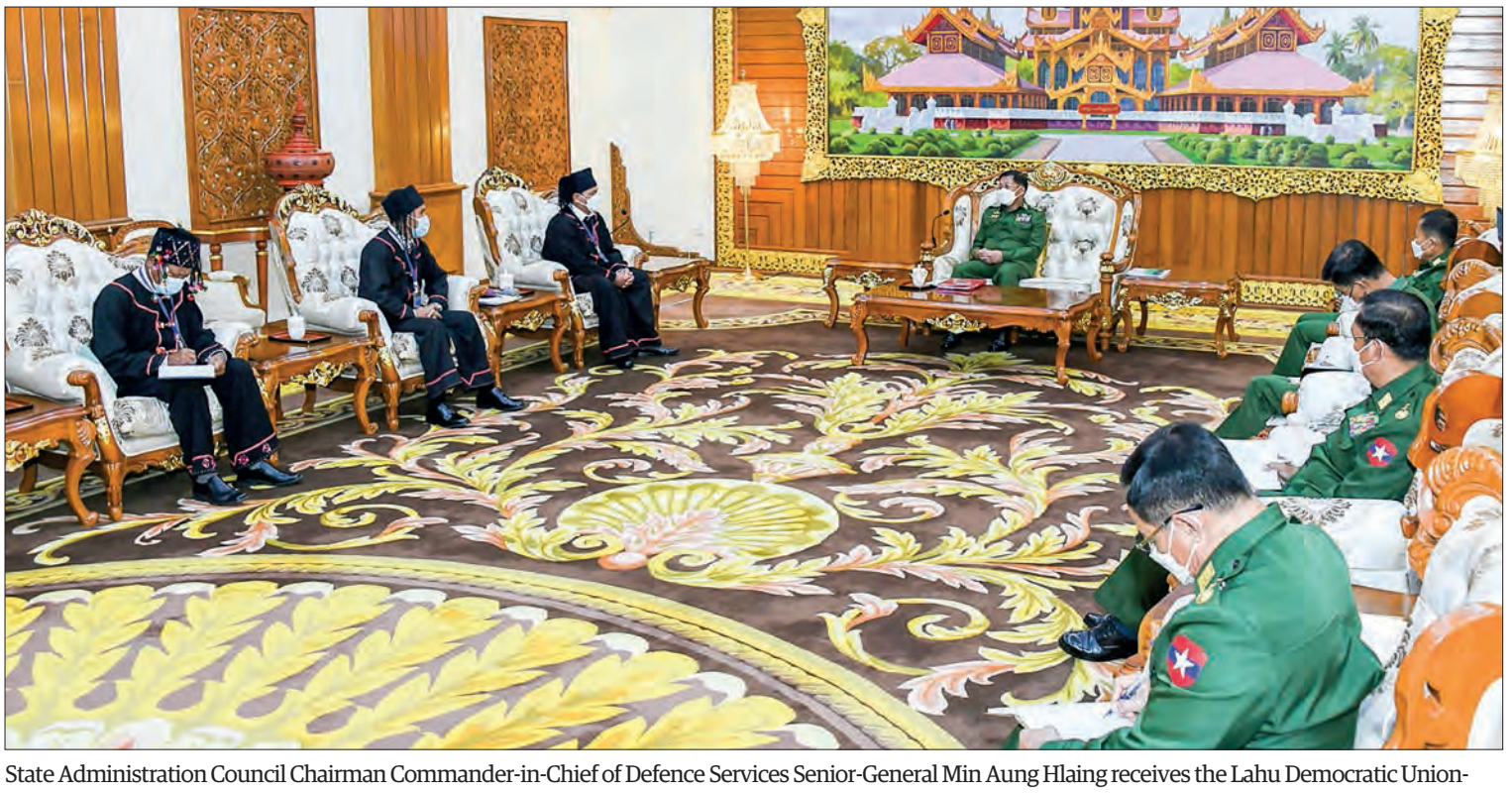
FROM PAGE-1

Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Nayaka of Bhamo Monastery in Mandalay Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa administered the Five Precepts. The Senior General and wife offered Waso robes and alms to Bhamo Sayadaw.

Vice-Chairman of SAC Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe donated Waso robes and alms to Vice-Chairman of SSMNC Presiding Nayaka of Meiktila Sasana Wepulla Pali Tekkatho Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kovida. Council members and wives, the secretary, the joint secretary and Union level persons offered Waso robes and alms to members of the Sangha.

The Vice-Chairman of SSMNC Meiktila Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained. After the ceremony, the Senior General and wife together with the congregation offered day meals to members of the Sangha. — MNA

SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with peace delegation led by Lahu Democratic Union-LDU General Secretary



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing receives the Lahu Democratic Union-LDU peace delegation in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 July 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received the peace delegation led by General Secretary of the Lahu Democratic Union-LDU Kyar Solomon at the parlour of Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning to talk about peace issues.

Also present at the talks were Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council members General Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae. The General Secretary of the Lahu Democratic Union-LDU was accompanied by Joint Secretary-2 Kyar Ya Kok and Central Executive Committee member Kyar Phu.

The Senior General explained efforts for exercising the multiparty democratic system in conformity with the people's desire, building the Union based on democracy and federalism, and situations of enhancing the education qualification for the people across the nation including ethnic regions as the emergence of well-versed human resources in implementing the democratic system.

The General Secretary and party of the Lahu Democratic Union-LDU expressed special thanks to the SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services for extending the invitation to the peace talks with the aim of restoring the peace across the nation, and similar attitudes over the topic of building the Union based on democracy and federalism and reported on regional development measures. Then, they openly exchanged views on discussions related to peace issues, education, health and regional development matters.

The Senior General presented gifts to the LDU General Secretary and the delegation who returned domestic products as gifts. They posed for documentary photos.

The peace delegation led by the General Secretary of the Lahu Democratic Union-LDU schedules to talk about peace issues with the Peace Talks Team and the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee with the participation of SAC members formed by the State Administration Council. — MNA

Further invitation to remaining groups to hold talks

DEMOCRACY as well as federalism requires equal rights. Talks will continue with the ethnic armed organizations to restore peace.

Good results came out from the talks with EAOs. Efforts will continue to restore peace by holding better talks.

Some EAOs cannot participate in the talks for various reasons. In line with the firm implementation of two political visions, the government further invites remaining groups to hold talks.

(The excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with ministers of Yangon Region government on 9 June 2022.)

MoI Union Minister attends 12th respect-paying ceremony to senior comedians, 3rd coordination meeting for film, music, theatre variety show

Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn addresses the third coordination meeting to organize the film, music and theatre variety show, in Yangon yesterday.

THE Myanmar Comedians Association (Central) performed the 12th respect-paying ceremony to senior comedians at MRTV Studio (A) on Pyay Road in Yangon yesterday.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Nyunt Win Swe, regional ministers, departmental officials, members of comedian associations and invitees attended the ceremony.

First, the young members sang the Theme Song of the Myanmar Comedians Association (Central) to start the event.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Union minister appreciated the holding of the respect-paying ceremony to the elderly.

He then said the Prime Minister recognizes the artistes as talented persons and also pays respect to the comedians. As art is inseparable from the people and so it should serve the people with art benefiting the country. Art can unite the people and the artistes play a crucial role and so great comedians should participate in such doings to make people feel happy.

The Yangon Region chief minister made a congratulatory speech and the Myanmar Comedians Association (Central) chairman explained the respect-paying ceremony.

Then, the Union minister handed over K2.5 million donated by the SAC Chairman Prime Minister and K14,750,000 by the SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister, SAC members, Union Ministers, the Yangon Region chief minister, the commander, deputy ministers and well-wishers to the Myanmar Comedians Association (Central) chairman.

The Union minister, the Yangon Region chief minister, the commander and regional ministers presented offertories to the senior comedians.

Then, the young comedians paid respect to the elderly and comedian U Paw Lay expressed thanks on behalf of senior comedians.

The senior comedians performed Anyeint.

Then, officials presented cash and gifts to senior comedians.

At noon, the Union minister attended the third coordination meeting on the holding of the film, music, and theatre variety show.

At the meeting, the Union minister said all should cooperate to hold the variety show successfully. The show is organized with two aims – to revive the falling art industry and to entertain the people reeling from COVID-19. Arrangements are being made to broadcast it starting from the first week of September.

Then, Work Committee Chairman Deputy Minister U Ye Tint and Vice-Chairman Yangon Region Advocate-General U Htay Aung, Chairman of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization U Kyi Soe Tun, Chairman of the Myanmar Music Association (Central) U Lwin Myint, the Myanmar Theatrical Performers Association (Central) Executive member U Htay Lwin and officials of the work committee and subcommittees coordinated the discussion and the Union minister concluded the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by the patrons and artistes of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, Myanmar Music Association (Central) and Myanmar Theatrical Performers Association, officials of TV channels and invitees. — MNA

12 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 7 July, total figure rises to 613,695

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,695** after **12** new cases were reported on 7 July 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,609** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

Palm oil prices plunge with 10 million tonnes remaining for 2 exporters in June

The photo shows the storage tanks for palm oil in Indonesia.

AT the end of June 2022, Indonesia and Malaysia, the world's largest exporters of palm oil, had a total surplus of around ten million tonnes, according to the foreign palm oil market data.

In those countries, when oil stocks are high, palm oil harvests are approaching and exports are increasing to reduce stocks.

As a result, crude oil and lubricant prices also fell sharply, from around 7,000 Malaysia ringgit (MYR) at the beginning of the year to 3,757 MYR on 6 July.

According to the Oil Association, the CIF price of CP8C MaxIV58 metric ton in May was US$1,736 per tonne in the Yangon oil market in the third week of May.

On 4 July, it was announced that the export of palm oil in Indonesia had increased.

The country's palm oil industry has allowed five times the amount of oil sold in the domestic market, up from seven times now.

Indonesia resigned on 23 May after a three-week ban on palm oil exports.

Exports have been temporarily suspended, causing the country's oil reserves to overflow.

As a result, oil refineries in the country have stopped buying palm oil, which has pushed down palm oil prices, making it difficult for palm oil growers.

The official said that the export quota of palm oil has been increased for the affected palm oil growers, according to Indonesian media.

Indonesia is allowed to export 2.4 million tonnes of oil and another 1.09 million tonnes.

As a result, rising foreign oil prices in the Yangon market are likely to fall again soon, according to local and foreign oil market analysts. — TWA/GNLM

Petrol prices fall below K2,000 per litre

DOMESTIC petrol prices dropped below K2,000 per litre, according to the statement issued by the Supervision Committee for Import and Distribution of Petroleum on 7 July.

On 7 July in Yangon, the price of 92 Ron was K1,835 per litre, 95 Ron K1,955 per litre, HSD (500 pm) K2,195 per litre, HSD (50 ppm) K2,225 per litre and HSD (10 ppm) K2,225 per litre.

In Mandalay, the price of 92 Ron was K1,880 per litre, 95 Ron K2,000 per litre, HSD (500 pm) K2,240 per litre, HSD (50 ppm) K2,270 per litre and HSD (10 ppm) K2,270 per litre.

In Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, the price of 92 Ron was K1,875 per litre, 95 Ron K2,000 per litre, HSD (500 pm) K2,240 per litre, HSD (50 ppm) K2,270 per litre and HSD (10 ppm) K2,270 per litre.

Reference wholesale prices for Yangon and Mandalay and reference retail prices for regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, are set and issued by the Supervision Committee for Import and Distribution of Petroleum. It is also learned that consumers can file complaints to the committee if there is any inconvenience in petrol purchase. — TWA/GNLM

Vehicles are pictured queuing for petrol at one filling station in Kamaryut.

YESC installs 367 lamp posts on traffic islands along Pyay Road

The installation of lamp posts is in progress on Pyay Road.

YANGON Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) under the Ministry of Electric Power has erected 367 lamp posts on the traffic islands along Pyay Road from the airport traffic light to Min Ye Kyaw Swa Road using the regional budget, according to the YESC.

The lamp posts are being put up on the traffic islands along Pyay Road with 6.71 miles long underground power grid to light up the city and reduce traffic accidents.

A total of 367 lamp posts with 765 bulbs will be installed in three phases, Phase I – from airport junction to Parami junction, Phase II – from Parami junction to Hledan overpass and Phase III – from Hledan overpass to Min Ye Kyaw Swa Road using the regional budget of the 2022-2023FY.

Moreover, seven additional 11-6.6/0.23 kV, 50 kVA transformers will be also installed, the YESC said. — TWA/GNLM

YCDC permits manageable, commercial-scale livestock breeding in 12 municipal areas

THE Yangon City Development Committee has granted licences for manageable- and commercial-scale livestock breeding in 12 townships in municipal areas to ensure food security.

The committee said they ban livestock farming except for four townships of Dagon Myothit, Mingaladon, Shwepyitha, Insein, Hlinethaya (East), Hlinethaya (West), North Okkalapa, Dala and Seikkyi-Kanaungto townships.

On 7 July, the officials of YCDC, Veterinary and Production Department, township administrator and Myanmar Police Force jointly inspected as they received information that there is illegal cattle trading in Yan Aung (b) Ward of Thingangyun Township.

They found out that nine cows are being farmed illegally in Thingangyun Township and the owners signed a pact not to do so in the presence of ward administrators and the cows were sent to the Ywathagyi animal shelter. — TWA/GNLM

Three slight earthquakes occurred in Myanmar

EARTHQUAKES struck Myanmar according to the reports of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

An earthquake of magnitude (3.5) Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about nine miles north-northeast of Gwa), latitude 17.73°N, longitude 94.64°E, depth (10) kilometres, about ten miles north-northeast of Gwa seismological observatory happened at 17 hours 23 minutes 12 seconds MST yesterday.

On the same day, a 4.2 magnitude earthquake with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about six miles east-northeast of Namsang), latitude 20.90°N, longitude 97.81°E, depth seven kilometres, about 52 miles east-northeast of Taunggyi seismological observatory occurred at 11 hours 28 minutes 29 seconds MST.

Similarly, A slight earthquake of magnitude (3.7) Richter Scale with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about 12 miles west of Langkho), latitude 20.35°N, longitude 97.81°E, depth ten kilometres, was recorded about 38 miles south of Namsang seismological observatory at 06 hours 53 minutes 48 seconds MST yesterday morning. — DMH/ GNLM

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 7 July 2022)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 8 July 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Sagaing, Mandalay, Regions and northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Magway Region and Kachin, eastern Shan, Chin States and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squall with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35) mph. Wave height will be about (7-10) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 July 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 July 2022: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8 July 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, foodstuffs, car parts, restricted chemicals, vehicles and unregistered motorbikes 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 made inspections at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint on 4 July, according to information.

Officials confiscated K27,150,000 worth of car parts that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a 22-wheel truck (approximately K80 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was filed under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, a combined team made inspections on vehicles heading from Hpa-an township to Mawlamyine at the Attaran Bridge (side of the Industrial Zone) of Mawlamyine township under the Mon State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force on 6 July.

They captured various fruits and foodstuffs worth K4,167,900 and restricted 5,950 kilogrammes of chemical – ammonium nitrate – worth K10,710,000 that were imported with duty free and without any official documents from a Honda Odyssey car (approximately K20 million), a Nissan Caravan car (approximately K25 million) and a Toyota HiAce car (approximately K25 million).

Seized goods in Mon State.

Officials confiscate timbers in Bago Region.

In addition, on the same day, a total of 1.5946 tonnes of illegal teak worth K1,052,436 were captured near the Lotus Tollgate on the Thaton-Hpa-an Road.

Afterwards, on 7 July, an unregistered motorbike (approximately K150,000) was confiscated in Shwebo township and four unregistered motorbikes (approximately K1 million) were captured in Khamti township. The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

In addition, a team led by the Forest Department conducted inspections under the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

Officials captured a total of 48.3982 tonnes of illegal teak, hardwood and other timbers worth K26,986,654 in the Bago, Pyay and Thayawady districts. The action was taken under the Forest Law. Therefore, 25 arrests estimated at K221,216,990 were made on 4, 6 and 7 July, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Woman convicted for trafficking Myanmar woman for forced marriage

THE Mawlamyine District Court sentenced a woman named Daw Rahima Bi who lived in Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State, for trafficking a 20-year-old woman, who lived in the same town, for forced marriage to a Thai man.

Daw Rahima Bi lured the girl into working at her shop in Thailand with the offer of 10,000 baht as a monthly salary and promised her to find another job if she didn't want to do so. However, after she had arrived in Thailand, she was forced to marry a Thai man, from which Daw Rahima Bi gained a financial profit.

A case was filed against her under Section 24 of the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Law at the Kyaikmaraw Township Police Station, and the court sentenced her to ten years in prison. — MNA

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Plan to rebuild Myeik's int'l fish auction market

LOCALS in Myanmar's southern Taninthayi coastal region heavily rely on the fisheries businesses, accounting for 70 per cent of the population in the coastal area. Long-term Conservation is needed for sustainable exploitation of marine resources.

Taninthayi Region shares a border with Thailand to the east and Andaman sea to the west. Taninthayi coastal region is strategically located and it is a belt of land accessible by road and sea. The region plays a pivotal role in the fishery sector. It is the main seafood supplier to Ranong, Thailand. Ranong and Mahachai markets are the fishery hub of Thailand and are run by Myanmar migrant workers and Myanmar's fisheries. There is no fish market in Myanmar despite being a fishery supplier to Thailand. The fishery hub emerged in Thailand decades ago.

The Fish Auction Market in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, was opened more than 20 years ago, with a view to creating a major fish market in Myanmar. Lack of government contributions hinders the Fish Market, rendering loss of marine resources, revenue loss from tax avoidance and unemployment.

"Fish Auction Market exists in Myanmar. Thousands of fishing trawlers and vessels are seen in Taninthayi Region. I would like to request the authorities concerned to help the fish market resume in order to generate revenue and create job opportunities for locals. Thailand's fisheries markets are heavily relying on Taninthayi's fisheries resources. Although we had a fish auction market, the lack of law enforcement obstructed the market. The Fish Auction Market in Myeik is not wholly-owned by the private sector. The Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation holds 30 per cent of the share, while ethnic entrepreneurs possess ten per cent of the share and a foreign enterprise grasps 60 per cent of the share. With the government's contributions, the Fish Auction Market will become alive again," said MD Daw Htay Htay Win of that market.

Myanmar's fisheries exports amounted to US$700-800 million per year. Meanwhile, Thailand generates over $7 billion from fisheries exports. Over 90 per cent of fisheries products in Ranong are supplied by Myanmar's Myeik Archipelago. Ranong market contributes 30 per cent of Thailand's fisheries export," said an official of Thailand's Department of Fisheries.

Only when the government helps reconstruct the Fish Auction Market can taxation be prevented loss and the massive outflow of human resources managed.

"To implement the Fish Auction Market successfully, government's contribution as well as scaling down a FOB system are required," U Maung Maung Soe, chair of the Myanmar Marine Association Federation gave his opinion.

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) gave the green light to bring in the capital of $70 million to the fish market. Ten million dollars have been put into the market but permission to pump in the capital expansion of $20 million was delayed.

"This market is aimed to eliminate the illegitimate trade including drug, arms and ammunition, fuel oil and food. This effort will eradicate tax evasion on fisheries resources and exploitation of the protected marine resources. The fish market is expected to generate a billion dollars in Taninthayi Region. Most importantly, it will create thousands of job opportunities for residents," Daw Htay Htay Win continued.

Thousands of Myanmar migrant workers are working for fish markets in Thailand. The work delay process under the previous administration happened in 2018. So, I earnestly request the government to implement this project, Daw Htay Htay Win added.

The International Fish Auction Market located at Inlaymyaing Industrial Zone in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, is prepped for resumption with jetties, docks, auction marketplaces, office facilities, cold storage and one-stop-service office from the respective departments. If the government proceeds with this project in line with existing laws, the International Fish Auction Market with massive job employment and revenue generation will emerge in Myanmar. —Myint Oo (Myeik)/GNLM

Agri exports set to earn dollars; rice exports allowed to proceed with Yuan

Starting from 4 July, export earnings for commodities except for rice and broken rice are paid in dollars.

FINANCIAL transactions of agricultural exports are instructed to be made only in US dollars, yet rice and broken rice exports are excluded from this directive at present and Yuan payment is available as before, U Min Thein, vice-chair of the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee notified the traders of the dollar payment for agricultural exports such as rice, corn, oil crops, beans and pulses.

"Transactions for exports through Sino-Myanmar border posts are converted from Yuan to US dollar, according to a directive dated 30 June. This action is effective on the other exports (rubber, onion, commodities and fisheries). Nonetheless, rice and broken rice exports are proceeding with Yuan at present," U Min Thein elaborated.

Starting from 4 July, export earnings for commodities except for rice and broken rice are paid in dollars.

On 14 December 2021, the Central Bank of Myanmar released a notification that the use of Yuan or Kyat in the bilateral transaction was officially allowed in the border areas between Myanmar and China to boost the bilateral cross-border trade, facilitate the trading and bilateral transaction, increase the use of domestic currency, in accordance with the objectives of the ASEAN Financial Integration.

After export earnings were earlier set to be paid in dollars instead of Yuan, the official exchange rate against the US dollar was set at K1,850.

At present, the dollar was valued at over K2,000 in the unofficial FX market, indicating a large gap in the currency exchange rate. This being so, we will observe the impacts on the agricultural products from this action, traders said.

Myanmar daily conveys approximately 10,000 bags of rice and broken rice to China through the Muse border. Other beans and pulses, rubber, food commodities, marine products and mango are also delivered to China. — NN/GNLM

OPINION

Create appropriate nature for children to be reliable citizens

PARENTS and guardians need to give the best advice to children for shaping their brighter future and teach them to improve their critical thinking. It is because every child has a beautiful future.

The nature of children is like a piece of wax which can be shaped depending on time and situation. Teachers and trainers can basically carve the life of children. The better their work is, the higher their critical thinking is. Hence, those children in their childhood should be nurtured for their best future.

Nurturing the children aims to improve their skills and knowledge in the practical field. Thanks to the training, children must have high skills and knowledge in conformity with their childhood to be able to consider how to solve the problems and how to approach the way to seek the solution. Actually, they need the assistance of parents or teachers to do so.

> Moreover, they will understand the root cause of happening the different opinions of the global people and its effectiveness for all. It is necessary to give advice to children in order to value the teachings and training. Consequently, well-trained children will be reliable citizens of relevant countries for shaping their futures and anticipations.

Hence, parents, guardians, teachers and trainers need to give teaching or training to children at an appropriate level. Such teaching must be simply useful for children. The teaching must comprise a thing that to error is human beings. They must be urged not to frighten the error or problem. They must be urged to bravely face the errors and problems but they are to be trained not to commit further mistakes for everything.

The scope of children must be widened to view and review every topic. At their childhood level, they must have the capacity to analyze advantages and disadvantages. The elders need to teach children to have a habit of following the relevant disciplines such as school disciplines, society disciplines and road disciplines.

They have to be trained on how to discard the undisciplined acts and how to attain knowledge about pollution in the environment triggered by undisciplined disposing activities. If the children have knowledge about disciplines in childhood, they will be good and able citizens as adults.

The children who have completed the training or teaching about nature of the world and environmental affairs will have improved skills to know the diversity of the world. Moreover, they will understand the root cause of happening the different opinions of the global people and its effectiveness for all. It is necessary to give advice to children in order to value the teachings and training. Consequently, well-trained children will be reliable citizens of relevant countries for shaping their futures and anticipations. ■

ARTICLE

Nature Is Inviting Us Every Day

By Yar Zar Myint Zan

EVERYONE wants to possess good health. As long as they live in the world, they want to be healthy, wealthy, and happy. It is not amazing that an enjoyable life cannot be obtained by everyone. Many of them are under the torture of their infirmity. To reduce or to escape such a situation, the following article will make you somewhat benefit, I think.

When you imagine a therapy session, what do you see? A calm office interior, or a quiet consulting room? While this may indeed be the typical setup for counselling, many therapists are now offering alternative environments to support their clients. And stepping outside of these traditional expectations enables professionals to bring the human/nature connection into the present.

Nature therapy, also known as walking therapy, wilderness therapy, and eco-therapy - is the practice of being outside surrounded by nature. This can be in any open space, whether that be in a garden, a park, or the countryside, and is usually facilitated by a therapist who will be there to support and help the growth of the client.

Of course, this concept is nothing new, although it is now gaining more popularity. Nature and the natural world is a wonderful resource, which has always been available to us, and it offers us the opportunity for a connection to enable us to gain clarity, create perspective, feel inner calm, and aid growth and healing. Trees, plants, animals, birds, the elements, and not forgetting the cycle of the seasons - all of these can be our teachers. They can mirror our feelings, and offer us the opportunity to increase our self-awareness.

Try nature therapy for yourself

Take a moment today to step outside - if you have a garden, you could head there, or to a local park if there's one nearby. Even if this is not possible, simply being outside in the fresh air can be a good starting point. Once outside, close your eyes and take several deep breaths.

Focus on listening to the sounds around you, and feel your body relaxing and responding to your breath. By removing ourselves from the confines and brick boundaries of a building, and instead of transporting ourselves outside into an open space and filling our lungs with fresh air, we can immediately feel the benefit and a sense of wellbeing.

With various activities available such as walking, observing, and meditating, we are able to involve all of our senses, which then helps us to develop our connection to the natural world that surrounds us - of which we are an intricate part. Often this is something we forget, or indeed we believe our busy lifestyles do not allow for it.

The next time you are out, perhaps for a walk or just sitting on a bench, you can make a conscious effort to notice the beauty of nature by listening to a bird sing, or maybe touch the trunk of an ancient tree; both these experiences connect our emotional attachment to that which surrounds us in nature.

This experience of connection may be further explained by studies that have been done using fMRI (Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scans to measure the brain's activity. When participants viewed various nature scenes, the parts of the brain that are associated with empathy and love were shown to light up, however when the participants then went on to view urban scenes, the parts of the brain associated with anxiety and fear were activated. This suggests that nature really does inspire feelings that connect us not only to one another but also to our environment. It is in this environment that we are able to work through our issues, and find our own unique potential and sense of wellbeing; the outdoors offers us a safe and inspiring space in which to do just this.

How does nature therapy differ from traditional, indoor therapy?

There are numerous scientific studies that have delved into the benefits of nature, with the payoffs including improved mood, motivation, concentration, and creativity, as well as our ability to problem-solve. There is even evidence from a 2016 study in Environmental Health Perspectives which suggest that exposure to green spaces can help you live longer!

Furthermore, our physical health also benefits as, amongst other things, our heart rate and blood pressure are reduced, with research published in the Journal of Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation finding that spending time in a horticulture therapy program following a cardiac event even supported patients' recovery.

Just by being outside, and perhaps walking at a gentle pace, this informal and less intense approach can feel less intimidating to the client, and they can often find it easier to begin talking about their feelings and experiences.

In fact, the act of walking itself can be meditative, and for some people, the talking element and opening up can be much easier when done side by side, rather than when facing one another. If speaking face-to-face is something that might concern or intimidate you, nature therapy could be a good avenue to explore to help you feel more comfortable.

Therapy outdoors also encourages natural and social interactions and a feeling of 'connection' with the wider world. This reconnection reminds us humans that we really are all part of the ecosystems around us, rather than separate from them. Here, I would like to mention my own experience with it. I have cardiovascular disease. I have had a little difficulty with breathing for about a few years. As soon as I knew it was in my body, first I consulted a doctor and got a treatment of chemotherapy. However, some pills make me disorders of the bowel as the period of taking medicine got long. Then I headed to our traditional medicine. It also did not also make my agony reduced.

Sometimes, even in the house, I walked frail. I thought it was not suitable I left it as it was. At last, I tried to walk into a room at my house. The room is about 36 feet in length. I walked there up and down for about 30 minutes. While walking, I got dizziness at the time of exercising for about 20 minutes but I went on walking. Then, I decided to get outside to walk. The road in front of my house is a concrete one. It is wide and smooth. At daybreak, there are no traffic and few passersby. I saw it was very convenient. I chose two lamp posts nearest to my house. Although it was not in the forest, in the park, or in the fields, it was also therapying outdoors. First, I could not walk for 30 minutes. I tried for 20 minutes, then 25 minutes. In 20 minutes, I could walk 12 up and down times between two lamp posts. I took notice that I did not get dizziness outdoors.

I would like to mention another example. It is a man who is 10 years older than me but he is much fitter than I am. His house is on the road that leads to the outside of the town. His family made a concrete lane around the fence of their house compound. As there are no big trees in the house compound, it is clear and can get enough fresh air. Every day when there is no rain, he walks around the house for about 30 minutes. He seems alert and fresh and whenever I see him always with a pleasant smile. He is now 77 but taking township-level duties.

All in all, we were born in Nature, live in Nature, and die in Nature. Although it is really natural, Nature is always inviting us every day. ■

Tedros urges Pfizer to make oral COVID antiviral available more widely

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF the UN World Health Organization (WHO) has called on drug manufacturer Pfizer to do more to ensure that its new COVID-19 oral antiviral medication is available quickly, to provide effective treatment to countries that may struggle to afford it.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus's appeal comes as confirmed coronavirus cases jumped nearly 30 per cent in the past two weeks, with increased infections in four out of six regions of the world.

Agreeing terms

"Our organizations are still trying to finalize with Pfizer the appropriate terms and conditions for low and middle-income countries", he told journalists, at his regular weekly briefing in Geneva.

"This is delaying access and some countries may choose to wait for a generic version of the antiviral, probably available only early 2023 and this will cost lives. I call on Pfizer to work closely with health agencies and countries to ensure its new oral antiviral is available quickly and effectively."

The UN health agency has been working with the Global Fund and UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, to help countries source antivirals when they become available.

These include allocations of Molnupiravir, which 20 countries have secured, and Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir, or Paxlovid, which 43 countries have expressed an interest in obtaining.

Variants 'driving waves' of infection

Overall, he said that in Europe and America, the BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants were "driving waves" of new infections, while in some countries, including India, "a new sub lineage of BA2.75 has also been detected, which we are following."

Four of six of the WHO sub regions saw cases rise last week, and increasing the challenge beyond access to new treatments, is a fall in testing across many nations, and the simple fact that vaccine protection "does wane".

Each wave of the virus, even if hospitalizations and deaths are down, leaves more people with long-COVID or post-COVID conditions, Tedros warned, putting an extra burden on patients, loved ones, but also "health systems, the wider economy and society at large."

It is essential to accelerate research and development into "next generation of vaccines, tests and treatments", he said, and WHO is working with scientists around the world, to make it happen.

'Scale and spread' of Monkeypox, concerning

On Monkeypox, Tedros said that he continued to be "concerned by the scale and spread of the virus".

There have now been more than 6,000 cases recorded in 58 countries, said Tedros, noting that it was "highly probable" that a significant number of cases were not being picked up because of limited testing.

Europe is the current epicentre of the outbreak, with more than 80 per cent of cases globally.

In Africa, cases are appearing in countries not previously affected, and record numbers have been confirmed in places which have seen monkeypox previously.

Vaccine developments

The WHO chief said the agency was working with countries and vaccine manufacturers to coordinate the sharing of vaccine shots, "which are currently scarce and need to be accessible to the most at risk people".

WHO is also working closely with civil society and the LGBTIQ+ community, especially to break the stigma around the virus and spread accurate and reliable information so people can protect themselves, he added.

A technician waits to collect vials containing vaccine after they pass through a machine that checks for bottling and vaccine substance deficiencies.
PHOTO: VIRAJ NAYAR FOR NPR/SERUM INSTITUTE/UN NEWS

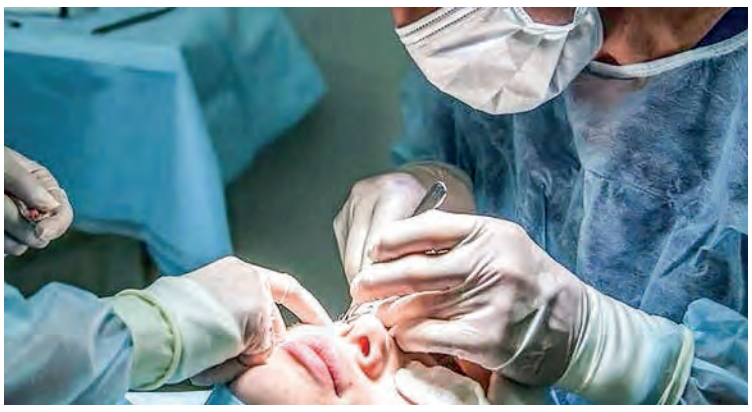
"I want to particularly commend those that are sharing videos online via social media channels talking about their symptoms and experiences with Monkeypox. This is a positive way to break down the stigma about a virus that can affect anyone."

SOURCE: UN NEWS

HEALTH/TECH/ENVIRON

WORLD

Russia's plastic surgery sector feels pinch from western sanction



Russia ranks ninth globally in the number of aesthetic procedures carried out annually — 621,600 in 2020, according to the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. **PHOTO: AFP**

WHEN it comes to looking good, Russian women are happy to splash out, even on a bit of nip-and-tuck plastic surgery.

But Western sanctions in the wake of Russia's military intervention in Ukraine mean that supplies of products such as botox and breast implants — largely imported from countries such as the United States and Germany — could become increasingly hard to get hold of.

Anastasia Yermakova, 37, is worried: she had her last injection of botox (botulinum toxin) in February to reduce facial wrinkles.

"My beautician assures us that she still has stocks of botox," she told AFP. "But I worry," she said, arguing that local botox replacements are of inferior quality.

Russia ranks ninth globally in the number of aesthetic procedures carried out annually — 621,600 in 2020, according to the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. And the Russian aesthetic medicines sector was worth $969 million in 2021, up two per cent from the year before, according to the Russian consultancy Amiko. Soon after President Vladimir Putin sent troops into Ukraine on 24 February, US drugmaker AbbVie, which is behind the wrinkle treatment Botox, withdrew from the flourishing Russian market over what it called "tragic events" in Ukraine. As a result, Botox stocks are "melting", Yuliya Frangulova, co-founder of the National Association of Aesthetic Medicine Clinics, told AFP.— AFP

Ukraine lays out plan to be 'most digital' country

UKRAINE'S leaders have come up with a plan to allow the government to function even in the toughest circumstances: make every service digital with the help of big tech.

The plan to emerge as the world's "most digital country" after the Russian invasion was first publicised by President Volodymyr Zelensky last month and fleshed out by Deputy PM Mykhailo Fedorov at a conference in Switzerland on Monday.

What is Ukraine aiming to achieve?

Before the war, Ukraine was already touting itself as a digital frontrunner, so its plan to go 100% digital is a continuation of that.

"Digital services cannot be destroyed by missiles, especially if you store data on Amazon or Microsoft," Fedorov told a conference in Lugano.

One of the main goals is the replacement of bureaucrats with smartphone apps.

Ukrainians will be able to carry out all administrative tasks without visiting government offices or filling out paper forms.

This would include anything from registering land, cars or property, to opening businesses or filling out customs declarations.

Fedorov stressed that newly redundant bureaucrats would be retrained for roles in the "new economy".

But the aim goes much further than transforming government services.— AFP

Indonesian uses puppets to teach threat to world's rarest rhinos

Samsudin is educating the young about the plight of the critically endangered Javan rhino — the world's rarest — with puppets on a stick, comical expressions and exaggerated voices. **PHOTO: TIMUR MATAHARI/AFP**

IN a small Indonesian fishing village, a man with a fake rhino head perched atop his own puts on a puppet show for a group of eager children.

Former teacher Samsudin is educating the kids about the plight of the critically endangered Javan rhino — the world's rarest — using cardboard figures, comical expressions and exaggerated voices to spread his message of conservation one story at a time.

The 50-year-old asks the children in the West Javan village of Indramayu to mimic the animals, and teaches them the importance of guarding the forest and the wildlife unique to it.

"I want them to know rhinos need pristine forest and that human beings are not the only creatures on earth," he told AFP.

"I want children to love nature and grow up into people who are aware and care about our natural resources."

Javan rhinos — one-horned mammals that can weigh up to two tonnes and have folds of loose skin that resemble armour plating — once numbered in the thousands across Southeast Asia.

But they are now barely clinging to existence, having been hit hard by rampant poaching and human encroachment on their habitats.— AFP

Niger activists call for wood-free Eid barbecues to save trees

Non-governmental groups in Niger Wednesday urged Nigeriens to use less wood to grill their mutton during the Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha this year to save precious trees. **PHOTO: MONGABAY/AFP**

NON-GOVERNMENTAL groups in Niger Wednesday urged Nigeriens to use less wood to grill their mutton during the Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha this year to save precious trees.

They pleaded with them to replace wood with locally mined coal at barbecues to mark the festival due to start at the weekend, called Tabaski in West Africa.

The capital Niamey alone consumes "around 50,000 tonnes" of wood — or the equivalent of 25,000 trees — each year for the feast, the environment ministry has said.

"Mutton barbecues during Tabaski cause abusive wood consumption, which simply cannot continue with the climate crisis," Sani Ayouba, the coordinator of one of the groups taking part in the campaign, told AFP.

Two-thirds of Niger is covered by desert, and each year the land-locked country loses more than 100,000 hectares (1,000 square kilometres) of arable land to desertification, the government says.—AFP

PANDEMIC WORLD

Half Canadians infected with Omicron: report

HALF of the Canadian population, or more than 17 million people, were infected with Omicron in only five months starting December 2021, local media reported Wednesday.

The National Post quoted a report by the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force (CITF) showing that prior to Omicron, just 7 per cent of Canadians had antibodies from being infected by the virus. The proportion rose by 45 per cent from December 2021 to May 2022.

According to the report, this increase is equivalent to more than 100,000 infections per day, which is more than 10 times the number of daily cases seen during previous peaks of SARS-CoV-2 waves over the last two years.

The highest level of infection was found in young adults aged 17 to 24, based off of donations made to Canadian Blood Services. A total of 65 per cent of them had antibodies at the end of May, the report revealed.

The results are based on population seropositivity, or "the proportion of people with antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 in their blood", the report explained, adding that the research differentiated between antibodies that occurred naturally as a reaction to being infected by the virus and antibodies created by the vaccine. They were thus able to determine which antibodies were a sign of past infection "to track the magnitude of the Omicron wave".

Travellers wearing face masks are seen at the arrival hall of Vancouver International Airport in Richmond, British Columbia, Canada, 10 June 2022. **PHOTO: LIANG SEN/XINHUA**

"Omicron has been a tsunami," CITF Executive Director Tim Evans was quoted as saying. He said that new sublineages of the virus have been spreading since then, pushing the percentage of Canadians who have been infected "well above" 50 per cent.

"Millions of Canadians now have hybrid immunity from a combination of COVID-19 vaccines and an infection," said CITF Co-Chair David Naylor.

"Unfortunately, emerging evidence suggests that most of these individuals remain at risk of re-infection with viruses in the Omicron lineage," Naylor was quoted by the National Post.— AFP

Cyprus reinforces face mask rule indoors

Customers pick vegetables while wearing protective face masks and gloves at Ochi market in the old walled city of the Cypriot capital Nicosia on 6 May 2020, as the country gradually eases a lockdown put in place due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: CHRISTINA ASSI / AFP**

CYPRUS has reintroduced the mandatory use of face masks indoors for all people aged over 12, as coronavirus cases spike, the Mediterranean holiday island's health ministry announced Wednesday.

The ruling, which comes into effect on Friday, was announced by Health Minister Michalis Hadjipantela after a cabinet meeting.

It follows a new spike in Covid-19 infections in recent weeks, with the health ministry recording 19,503 positive cases from 25 June to 5 July.

The decision represents a U-turn for authorities, who had lifted the previous face mask mandate on 1 June.

Hadjipantela cited an increase in Covid-related hospital cases and said infected people circulating freely without masks was a contributory factor.

According to last week's health ministry epidemiological report, three people died from Covid-19 and 75 patients were hospitalized, four in a serious condition.

On 28 June, face masks were reintroduced for visiting pharmacies, clinical labs and government testing sites for Covid.

Face coverings must also be worn when visiting hospitals, nursing homes and on public transport. Many scientists prompted authorities to reinstate the mask following the latest surge in Covid cases and hospitalizations, attributed to the prevalence of highly infectious Omicron subvariants BA4 and BA5.— AFP

US CDC recommends majority of Americans wear masks: media

THE US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that nearly 70 per cent of the country's population should either be wearing or considering wearing masks inside public spaces, US News and World Report reported.

According to data from the CDC, 33 per cent of Americans should be masking while indoors and an additional 36 per cent should be considering the measure based on their risk for severe COVID-19 as of Thursday, the news outlet reported on Friday, noting that the percentage of Americans who should be wearing a mask indoors in public spaces or considering the measure is increasing as the United States heads into the holiday weekend.

Coronavirus cases in the United States are increasing slightly while hospitalization rates are also up. The country is currently averaging nearly 110,000 new cases each day, which is about 10,000 more infections than the average a week prior, said the report.—Xinhua

Customers wearing face masks visit a shopping mall in San Francisco, the United States, 3 August 2021. **PHOTO: LI JIANGUO/XINHUA**

Hong Kong suspends 'not effective' Covid flight ban

HONG Kong's new government on Thursday suspended a long-standing flight route ban that penalized airlines for bringing in coronavirus cases and severely impeded travel into the city, saying it was "not very effective".

The financial hub has become increasingly isolated under harsh pandemic restrictions as it mirrors a lighter version of China's strict zero-Covid policy, with the once busy Hong Kong airport now a relative aviation graveyard.

On Thursday, new city leader John Lee's government said the "circuit breaker" rule was being suspended to "achieve the most in fighting the pandemic with the minimum cost on the society".

"At the current stage, continued implementation of the 'circuit breaker' mechanism is not very effective in preventing imported cases," the government said.

"Large number of passengers will have their itineraries disrupted due to the mechanism, and as the supply of seats on planes and quarantine hotel rooms fall short, the social costs generated will be remarkably high." —AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

Divided MEPs to vote over EU green label for gas, nuclear

Critics of nuclear energy point to the threat posed by accidents and nuclear waste and believe solar and wind energy is the best way forward. **PHOTO: REMFLEX/AFP**

AN EU proposal backed by France and Germany to give a sustainable finance label to investments in both gas and nuclear power faced a tight vote in the European Parliament on Wednesday.

MEPs in the eastern French city of Strasbourg were to take their position on the measure in a vote set for 1000 GMT with opponents and backers furiously lobbying their side.

"If we really want to meet these climate objectives, we must also be able to finance them," Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala told a session of parliament to mark his country's taking over of the EU presidency.

The green label, known in EU parlance as the "taxonomy", "caters to a number of countries that will only be able to meet their climate targets as a result of these criteria", he warned.

A small but influential group of member states is meanwhile asking MEPs to reject the green label, in a coalition of opponents to nuclear and gas.

Critics of gas point to the war in Ukraine as the latest reason to reject the green label, saying that encouraging investment would only embolden the dependence on Russian supply.

"How can we ask other countries to reduce their use of fossil fuels if we classify them as green? This will undermine the Paris agreement," said Dutch Green MEP Bas Eickhout.

Critics of nuclear energy point to the threat posed by accidents and nuclear waste and believe solar and wind energy is the best way forward. —AFP

Spain's labour market buoyed by key reform

By the end of June, the number of jobseekers in Spain stood at 2.88 million down from 2.92 million a month earlier and the lowest monthly figure since the start of the financial crisis in 2008. **PHOTO: AFP**

SIX months after Spain pushed through a key reform aimed at reducing labour market insecurity, the number of temporary contracts has fallen sharply, giving the government some welcome breathing space in a difficult economic context.

Long one of the European nations with the highest number of temporary contracts, Spain saw its unemployment figures fall for the sixth consecutive month in June, with the Labour Minister Yolanda Diaz hailing "historic" data on Monday as evidence of "a paradigm shift".

By the end of June, the number of jobseekers in Spain stood at 2.88 million down from 2.92 million a month earlier and the lowest monthly figure since the start of the financial crisis in 2008.

The drop was due to a significant increase in jobs, with 783,595 permanent contacts signed in June, the highest monthly figure ever recorded. "This is a record number of permanent contracts, representing more than 44 per cent" of the total number of new jobs, she said. —AFP

China's Hainan sees trade grow with RCEP members

SOUTH China's island province of Hainan saw its trade with members of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) grow rapidly in the first five months of this year, local authorities said.

Exports and imports of goods between Hainan with RCEP member states reached 25.79 billion yuan (about 3.85 billion US dollars) during the period, up 44.1 per cent year on year, according to a media briefing held Tuesday by the information office of the Hainan provincial government.

Foreign trade in services between the province with RCEP member countries exceeded 2.7 billion yuan, accounting for 21.64 per cent of the total imports and exports of services in Hainan.

From January to May, Hainan has attracted 47 million US dollars of investment from RCEP member states and established 79 new foreign-funded enterprises mainly from countries including Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand. —Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK banks resilient to 'deteriorated outlook': BoE

UK banks can survive the "deteriorated economic outlook" with the sector more resilient than during 2008 financial crisis, but must increase their capital reserves, the Bank of England said Tuesday. Updating on the health of retail lenders, the BoE's Financial Stability Report noted that the "economic outlook for the UK and globally has deteriorated materially".

"Developments related to the Russian invasion of Ukraine are a key factor that will affect both the global and UK outlooks, particularly if energy and food prices rise further," the central bank added.

The BoE update comes as markets increasingly bet on major economies falling into recession this year as central banks hike interest rates to combat decades-high inflation. "The economic outlook is uncertain and undoubtedly a very challenging one for many households and businesses," BoE governor Andrew Bailey told a press conference focused on the report. —AFP

OPEC secretary-general Barkindo dies unexpectedly at 63

THE Secretary-General of the OPEC oil cartel, Nigeria's Mohammad Barkindo, has died unexpectedly at the age of 63, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation said on Wednesday.

"We lost our esteemed Dr (Mohammad) Sanusi Barkindo. He died at about 11:00 pm yesterday 5 July 2022," NNPC's chief executive Mele Kyari tweeted, without providing any further details about the circumstances of Barkindo's death.

"Certainly a great loss to his immediate family, the NNPC, our country Nigeria, the OPEC and the global energy community. Burial arrangements will be announced shortly," Kyari wrote.

"This tragedy is a shock to the OPEC Family," the Vienna-based Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries tweeted. —AFP

Photo taken on 3 December 2020 shows a production line of new-energy vehicles in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA/JIANG WENYAO**

China's passenger vehicles see robust June retail sales

THE growth momentum of China's passenger vehicle market is accelerating with rising retail and wholesale sales, industrial data showed on Wednesday.

Some 1.92 million passenger cars were sold via retail channels in June, up 22 per cent year on year and up 42 per cent over May, initial statistics from the China Passenger Car Association showed.

Wholesales of passenger cars topped 2.11 million units last month, up 37 per cent year on year.

The association attributed the robust June auto market to the country's raft of pro-consumption measures, such as cuts to car purchase taxes for certain low-emission models.

The country's retail sales of new energy cars could set a record high by nearing 500,000 units in June, the association estimated. —Xinhua

Apple devices getting beefed-up defence against spyware

APPLE on Wednesday unveiled a new way for activists, journalists and other targets of state-sponsored espionage to protect themselves from spyware.

A Lockdown Mode being added to iPhones, iPads, and Mac computers is intended to counter threats from a thriving industry that provides sophisticated espionage tools to governments.

"While the vast majority of users will never be the victims of highly targeted cyberattacks, we will work tirelessly to protect the small number of users who are," Apple head of security engineering Ivan Krstic said in a blog post.

The tech giant is upping the bounty it pays researchers for uncovering vulnerabilities in its software when it comes to Lockdown Mode, raising the maximum reward to $2 million.

Concerns over digital snooping have been fuelled by media outlets reporting that Pegasus spyware made by NSO Group in Israel was being used by governments to surveil opponents, activists and journalists. Apple is suing NSO Group in US federal court, saying the Israeli firm's spyware was used to attack a small number of iPhone users worldwide. —AFP

A new 'Lockdown Mode' will let iPhone users block capabilities or features that could be exploited by spyware planted on devices. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

German competition watchdog steps up monitoring of Amazon

GERMANY'S anti-cartel watchdog said on Wednesday it has placed e-commerce giant Amazon under closer surveillance for any possible abuse of its market position.

The Federal Cartel Office said it had determined Amazon to be a company of "paramount significance for competition", a move that will allow it to act more effectively to "intervene and prohibit potential anticompetitive practices".

Amazon joins Google parent Alphabet and Meta, the group behind Facebook, in falling under reinforced monitoring made possible by the German Competition Act.

The act, which came into force in January 2021, allows the cartel authority to intervene earlier, particularly against the world's tech giants.

Amazon was a "key player in the e-commerce sector" and had created a "digital ecosystem" as both seller and marketplace, said Federal Cartel Office chief, Andreas Mundt.

The watchdog estimated that "over every second euro spent" in online retail in Germany was via Amazon's local website. —AFP

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THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(17/2022-2023)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(1)	DMP/L-164(22-23)CAP Retender	Desktop Computer,Laptop Computer ,UPS,External Hard Disk & Note Book Computer (21) Items	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **8 July 2022** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications and Commercial Quotationwith Original Bid Bond in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **12:00 pm** on **22,July 2022**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **22-7-2022, 12:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALVAN VOY.NO. (SCY1131)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALVAN VOY. NO. (SCY1131)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-7-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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.

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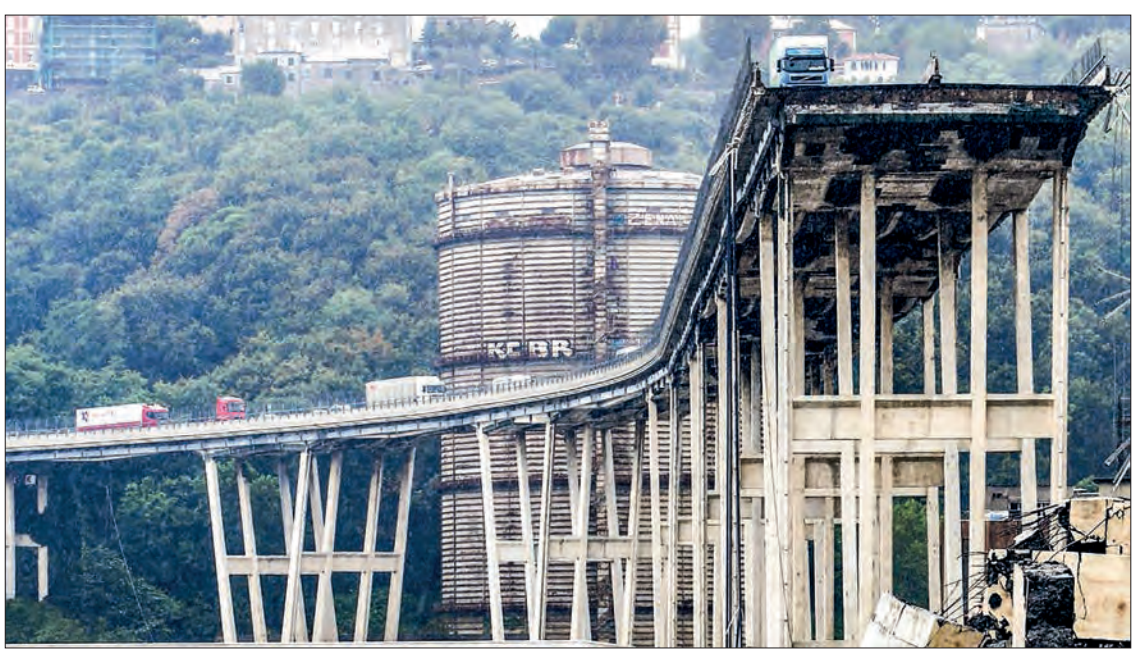
GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Italy bridge trial to start four years after tragedy



Cars and trucks are left on a section of the collapsed Morandi highway bridge in Genoa, northern Italy, on 15 August 2018. **PHOTO: ANDREA LEONI AFP/FILE**

THE trial in the case of the Genoa bridge that collapsed in 2018, killing 43 people, opens Thursday in Italy, involving 59 defendants prosecuted for manslaughter and undermining transport safety.

The Morandi bridge, part of a key highway between Italy and France, gave way in torrential rain on 14 August four years ago, sending dozens of vehicles and their passengers tumbling into the abyss.

The tragedy shone a spotlight on the state of Italy's transport infrastructure. Autostrade per l'Italia (ASPI), which runs almost half of the country's motorway network, is accused of failing to maintain the bridge that was inaugurated in 1967.

For one of the prosecutors, Walter Cotugno, "the Morandi bridge was a time bomb".

"You could hear the ticking, but you didn't know when it was going to explode," he said in February.

Cotugno is convinced that the directors of Autostrade and the engineering company Spea, in charge of maintenance, "were aware of the risk of collapse", but remained reluctant to finance work in order to "preserve the dividends" of shareholders.

Most of the defendants summoned by the Genoa court are executives and technicians of the two companies. —AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Evacuation calls as Russians advance in Ukraine's Donbas

UKRAINIAN officials have called on civilians to urgently evacuate the city of Sloviansk as Russian troops press towards it in their campaign to secure the Donbas region.

Sloviansk has been subjected to "massive" Russian bombardment in recent days, with at least two people killed and seven others wounded in an attack on a marketplace Tuesday.

Pavlo Kyrylenko, governor of the Donetsk region, which includes Sloviansk, told Ukrainian media his "main advice is evacuate!"

"This week there hasn't been a day without shelling," he said Tuesday evening, adding that the city was now within range of Russian multiple-rocket launchers. "The enemy is shelling chaotically, the attacks are aimed at destroying the local population," he said "So, once again, the main advice is to evacuate."

AFP journalists on the ground in Sloviansk saw rockets slam into the marketplace and surrounding streets, with firefighters scrambling to put out the resulting fires.

Kyrylenko also reported shelling across "the entire frontline" in the eastern Donbas region, where Russia has refocused its efforts since abandoning its initial aim of capturing Kyiv, following tough Ukrainian resistance. —AFP

A Ukrainian serviceman covers the turret of an tank in the eastern Ukrainian region of Donbas. **PHOTO: AFP**

Russia ex-president invokes nuclear war if Moscow punished by ICC

FORMER Russian president Dmitry Medvedev invoked Wednesday the possibility of nuclear war if the International Criminal Court (ICC) moves to punish Moscow for alleged crimes in Ukraine.

"The idea to punish a country that has the largest nuclear arsenal is absurd in and of itself," Medvedev, a close ally of President Vladimir Putin, said on messaging app Telegram.

"And potentially creates a threat to the existence of mankind." Medvedev, who was Putin's stand-in president between 2008 and 2012, is now deputy head of the Security Council.

He accused the United States of wanting to put Moscow in front of international tribunals, while itself never facing punishment for its own wars which, according to him, caused 20 million deaths worldwide. —AFP

Deputy chairman of the Russian Security Council Dmitry Medvedev attends a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Alexandrovsky Garden near the Kremlin wall in Moscow on 22 June. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ukraine's economy to shrink by at least 35 % this year: PM

UKRAINE'S gross domestic product (GDP) will shrink at least 35 per cent this year due to the conflict with Russia, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported on Tuesday, citing Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal.

While addressing the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Switzerland, Shmyhal said that the Ukrainian economy has started recovering from the "shock coma" of the first weeks of the conflict.

The government carried out a "relatively successful" grain sowing campaign and resumed logistics across the western border, Shmyhal said, noting that the economy still faces many challenges.

According to the State Statistics Service, Ukraine's GDP contracted 15.1 per cent year on year in January-March 2022. —Xinhua

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Thai PM Prayut faces censure but eyes keeping power in 2023 election

THAI Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha is encountering another tough test that could oust him from power in the final stretch of his four-year term as he is set to face a fourth no-confidence motion later this month.

The opposition bloc led by the Pheu Thai Party last month filed the censure motion against Prayut and 10 ministers for failing to solve economic problems, prevent corruption and mishandling the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

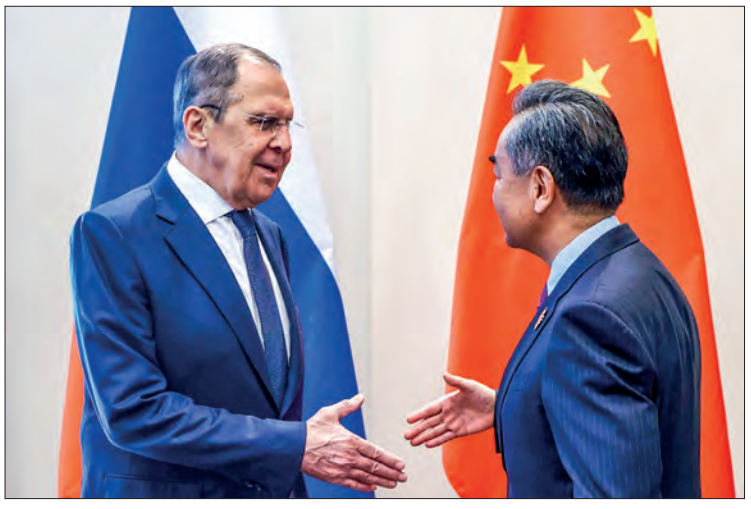
The issues are similar to those Prayut had been accused of in a 2021 no-confidence motion. But it is uncertain whether he will win the confidence vote as he is in a more vulnerable position due to friction within the ruling Palang Pracharath Party and the post-pandemic economic recovery being impeded by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

If Prayut loses, he will step down and a new prime minister will be chosen from members of the House of Representatives, with the names of possible candidates including Deputy Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, who heads the coalition partner Bhumjaithai Party, emerging.

In case Prayut survives, Pheu Thai is expected to file a petition to the Constitutional Court to rule on the issue on Prayut's apparent bid to secure a controversial third term. The largest opposition, which consists of supporters of ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, is gearing up efforts to demonstrate to voters that the government should change.—Kyodo

Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha holds talks with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Bangkok on 2 May 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

China's Wang meets Lavrov ahead of G20 talks in bali



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in Bali on Thursday for talks ahead of a G20 ministerial meeting marred by Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. **PHOTO: AFP**

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi met his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in Bali on Thursday for talks ahead of a G20 ministerial meeting marred by Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

The pair were pictured at a bilateral meeting on the Indonesian holiday island as the world's leading economies gathered to discuss the most pressing global issues on Friday, with the Ukraine war high on the agenda.

Despite criticism, Beijing has maintained friendly relations with Russia as Western nations have sought to isolate President Vladimir Putin's government from the global financial and diplomatic order over the military assault on its neighbor.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will attend and hold bilateral talks with Wang on Saturday.

But he will avoid a face-to-face meeting with his Russian counterpart even as they face their first showdown since the war broke out. Lavrov last saw Blink in January in Geneva, where the top US diplomat warned Russia of massive consequences if it goes ahead and invades Ukraine, which it did on 24 February. Washington has argued that Russia should no longer be a member of the international forum, a position shared by some Western allies.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Singapore executes two more drug traffickers despite outcry

SINGAPORE hanged two drug traffickers Thursday in what campaigners condemned as a "shameful and inhuman punishment", taking to four the number of executions in the city-state since March.

The latest executions come after the hanging of a mentally disabled man in April sparked international outrage, with the European Union and United Nations among those speaking out against it.

Singapore has some of the world's toughest anti-drugs laws, and insists that capital punishment remains an effective deterrent against trafficking despite growing pressure to abolish it. —AFP

European Parliament overwhelmingly ratifies landmark tech laws

THE European Parliament on Tuesday ratified landmark laws that will more closely regulate Big Tech and curb illegal content online, as the EU seeks to bring order to the internet "Wild West".

MEPs approved the final versions of the Digital Markets Act, focused on ending monopolistic practices of tech giants, and the Digital Services Act, which toughens the scrutiny and consequences for platforms when they host banned content. —AFP

UK PM Johnson quits after cabinet bloodbath

BORIS Johnson resigned on Thursday as leader of Britain's Conservative party, triggering a race to succeed him as prime minister after a frenzied 48 hours which saw dozens desert his scandal-hit government.

Johnson acknowledged it was "clearly the will of the parliamentary Conservative party that there should be a new leader of that party, and therefore a new prime minister".

In a speech outside 10 Downing Street, he said he would stay on until his successor is found but faced calls to leave immediately and for an acting leader to be appointed.

Conservative John Major, who was prime minister from 1990 to 1997, said Johnson's extended tenure — and the powers that still go with it — was "unwise and may be unsustainable".

The leadership election will take place in the coming months. The victor will replace Johnson at the party's annual conference in early October.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson speaks during Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons, London on 6 July 2022. **PHOTO: VCG/XINHUA/FILE**

But polling suggested most Britons favour his immediate exit, amid claims that Johnson is only hanging on to enjoy a wedding party at his government-funded country retreat.

Johnson's tumultuous three years in office were defined by Brexit, the Covid pandemic and non-stop controversy about his reputation for mendacity. — AFP

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Italy bridge trial to start four years after tragedy

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AC Mila[illegible] make ex-delivery man Messias' move permanent

Junior Messias scored five goals in Milan's run to the Scudetto. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

JUNIOR Messias completed his rise from delivery man to Serie A star on Thursday when his move to AC Milan was made permanent by the Italian champions. Brazilian Messias signed for Milan last summer on a season-long loan from Crotone with an option to buy for just over five million euros and was an important part of his team's charge to the Serie A title, scoring five times in 26 league appearances.

Milan have deposited Messias' contract with Serie A after renegotiating the purchase fee to a reported 4.5 million euros plus bonuses.

Messias' arrival at the highest levels of club football is all the more impressive given he began his career in Italy in the amateur game over a decade ago.

He arrived in Italy to live with his brother in 2011 and slowly rose through the lower reaches of Italian football — at one point transporting fridges for a living — before being picked up by then-Serie B club Crotone in January 2019.

He helped the southern team up to Serie A and two seasons ago scored nine times in 36 league appearances for a team which went straight back down after a year in the top flight, earning himself the chance to play for seven-time European champions Milan on loan.

However his rise was far from smooth, with a 2017 move to historic club Pro Vercelli — winners of seven league titles in the early years of last century — blocked because Serie B clubs were banned from signing players without EU passports from amateur leagues.—AFP

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

(a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.

(b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

(c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs

(a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.

(b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.

(c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

(a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.

(b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.

(c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.

Yangon beat Yadanabon 2-0 in MNL 2nd Week match

YANGON United celebrated a 2-0 victory over Yadanabon FC in the 2nd Week of Myanmar National League 2022, at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

In addition to winning the opening matches, the clash between Yadanabon and Yangon, which have been the main rivals since the beginning of MNL, was very competitive and Yangon took the advantage. Yangon won two games in a row and was happy with no goals conceded.

Yangon United lined up with Goal Keeper Phone Thitsar Min, Kyaw Min Oo, David Htan, Htet Phyo Wai, Zar Ni Htet, Min Kyaw Khant, Yan Paing Soe, Hein Zeyar Lin, Yan Kyaw Soe, Yan Naing Oo and Thiha Htet Aung.

Yadanabon started the lineup with Goal Keeper Paing Phyo Thu, Aung Wunna Soe, Zaw Ye Htun, Thet Hein Soe, Myo Ko Tun, Bi Bi, Thet Naing, Nyein Chan Soe, Thaing Bwe Aung, Ye Yint Aung, and Naung Naung Soe.

From the beginning of the match, both teams played attacking style and got equal chances to score goals. Yadanabon was unable to take advantage of the opportunity to score.

Yangon got the icebreaker near the first half end and the goal was beautifully scored by Htet Phyo Wai via a free kick.

In the second half, Yadanabon tried to score but Yangon made the second goal and David Htan scored in the 75th minute.

David Htan returned to his former club Yangon this season and scored in the second match.

After Week 2 of the Myanmar National League, defending champion Shan United and Yangon United got six points each and led the table while Yadanabon, ISPE, Hanthawady, Ayeyawady, Myawady, and Maha United collected three points each with one loss and one win.

In the meantime, GFA and Rakhine United had no point with two losses. — Ko Nyi Lay/ GNLM

AFF U-19 Championship: Myanmar to play decisive match against Viet Nam today

MYANMAR U-19 boys' football team will take on the Viet Nam team today in the group A match of the AFF U-19 Championship in Indonesia. The team Myanmar match will begin at 2:30 pm (Myanmar Standard Time).

On the other hand, Thailand will play against Brunei at 4:30 pm (Myanmar Standard Time) and host Indonesia will take on the Philippines at 7:30 pm (Myanmar Standard Time).

At the end of the match on 6 July, Viet Nam and Thailand scored seven points each, while the Myanmar team scored six points, and hosts Indonesia earned five points.

Only four of them have a chance to reach the semi-finals, while the Philippines and Brunei, who have lost all three, have said goodbye from the group stage.

Myanmar beat Brunei by seven goals in the first match. They beat the Philippines 3-1 and lost 3-0 to Thailand in the other matches.

The last two matches are important for Myanmar to reach the semi-finals, but the final match against Indonesia will be important only if they can get at least one point in today's match against Viet Nam. The seven-point bagger Thai team is almost certain to win the match against Brunei, so Myanmar can only hope to advance to the semi-finals if they can get a point from Viet Nam.

If the Myanmar team loses to Viet Nam and the Thai team wins, the Myanmar team will lose the chance to advance to the semi-finals. The Championship is being divided into two groups A and B.

Thailand, Viet Nam, Myanmar, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Brunei Darussalam are involved in Group A while Malaysia, Singapore, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, and Laos teams are placed in Group B. —Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Myanmar U-19 football players celebrate the victory after beating the Philippines 3-1 in their third group match on 6 July. **PHOTO: MFF**