

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IX, No. 88, 1<sup>st</sup> Waning of Waso 1384 ME

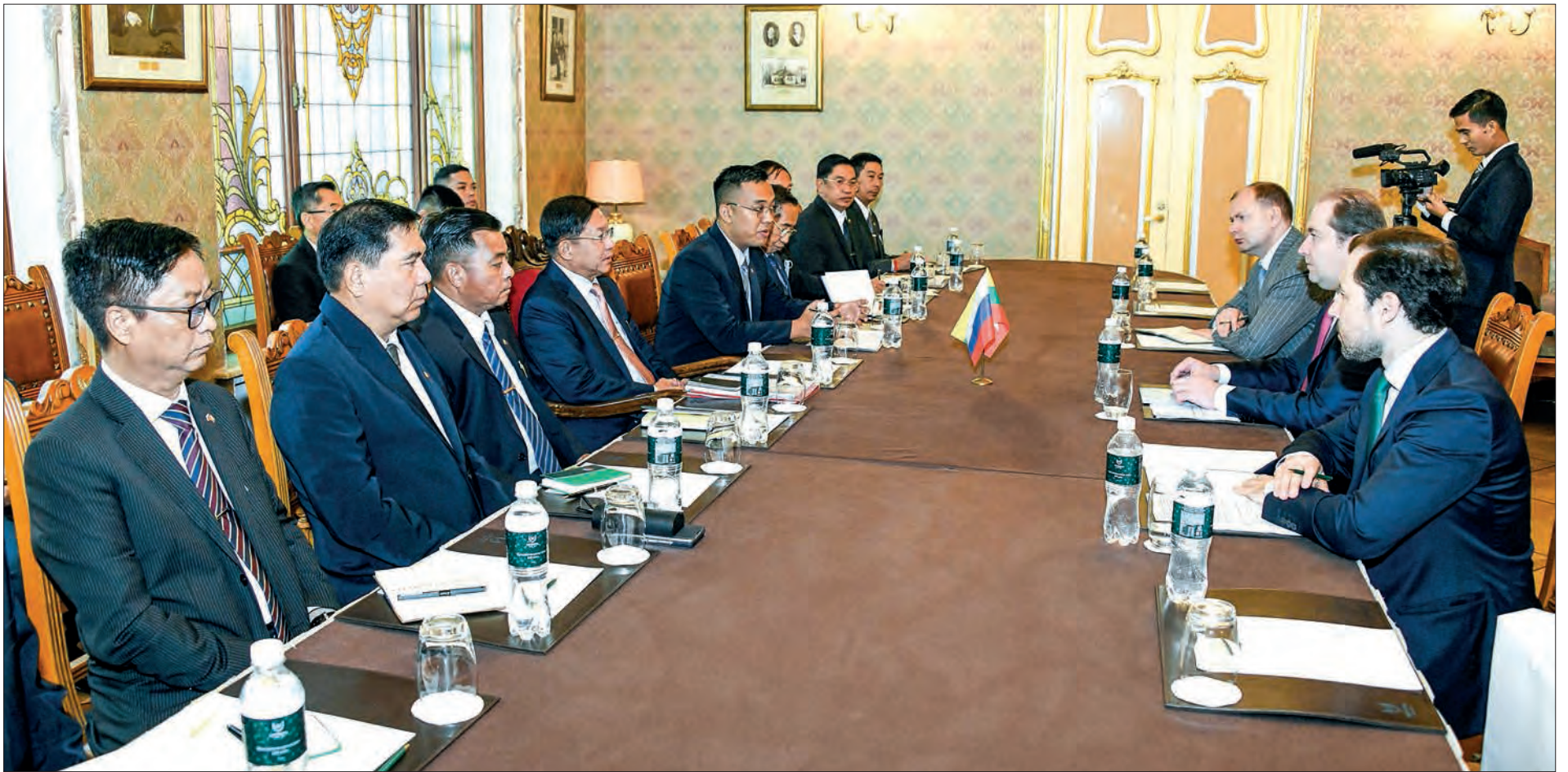
www.gnlm.com.mm

Wednesday, 13 July 2022

## 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.

## SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and delegation hold talks about cooperation in various sectors with Russian Federation



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets the delegation led by Chairman of the Russia-ASEAN Economic Council Mr Ivan Polyakov in Moscow on 11 July 2022.

**T**HE delegation led by the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister left the Nay Pyi Taw Military Airport by a spe-

cial flight of Myanmar Airways International on the morning of 10 July to attend the ceremony to hoist a jewel-decorated diamond orb, a pennant-shaped vane and a

golden umbrella atop Shwezigon Pagoda in Ethnomir world cultural city in Kaluga in the Russian Federation and arrived at Sheremetyevo International Air-

port in Moscow in the afternoon at the local standard time. They were welcomed at the airport by Deputy Minister for Defence of the Russian Federation Colonel

General Alexander Vasilievich Fomin, Myanmar Ambassador U Lwin Oo, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Moe Kyaw and officials.

**SEE PAGE-3**

### INSIDE TODAY

**NATIONAL**  
COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions  
**PAGE-2**

**NATIONAL**  
Pagodas in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw packed with worshippers on Dhammacakka Day  
**PAGE-6**

**LOCAL BUSINESS**  
MOGE: Myanmar citizens, and cooperative societies invited to bid on existing onshore blocks under joint operating agreements  
**PAGE-7**



**CURRENT AFFAIRS**  
YPS card system still lacks broader awareness  
**PAGE-10**

“... We want real freedom and not tinsel and sham of it. When we say real freedom, we mean the freedom not only to plan our political destiny but also the economy and defence of our country by ourselves ...”

(Excerpt from the address made by Bogyoke Aung San at the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the Supreme Council of AFPFL, 16 May 1946)



## 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

## 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 Tatmad-



A schoolgirl in Yankin Township in Yangon Region gets COVID-19 vaccine shot on 11 July 2022.

aw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 6,845 people from twenty six townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 18, 602 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, respectively.

On 11 July, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 264 people from Yankin and Tamway Townships in Yangon Region,

8,049 people from twenty six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 7,215 people from eleven townships in Rakhine and Chin States, 31, 500 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, and 68 people from Taungoo Township in Bago Region, respectively.

Similarly, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 71 students from Mayangon Township in Yangon Region, 43,715 students from twenty-six Townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 854 students from MraukU township in Rakhine and Paletwa Township in Chin States on 11 July.

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

9 new cases  
of COVID-19  
reported on  
12 July, total  
figure rises  
to 613,760

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,760** after **nine** new cases were reported on 12 July 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,671** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.—MNA

## Further invitation to remnant 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 remnant groups to hold talks.

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

# SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and delegation hold talks about cooperation in various sectors ...

FROM PAGE-1

At Metropol Hotel in Moscow in the afternoon, the Senior General received a delegation led by Mr Dmitriev Mikhail Arkadievich, Chairman of Russia-Myanmar Friendship Association and discussed enhancement of economic cooperation between the two countries, educational cooperation in sending military and civilian trainees, building friendly relations between two religions of both countries in order to contribute to the development of tourism industry, and promotion of civil cooperation.

In a meeting with the delegation led by Chairman of the Russia-ASEAN Economic Council Mr Ivan Polyakov on 11 July, the Senior General exchanged views on further export of agro-based products, technological cooperation in edible oil crop cultivation and production, enhancement of generating electricity and bilateral export and import sectors.

At the Rosatom State Corporations of Russia, the Senior General met Director-General Mr Alexey Likhachev and party to talk about cooperation in the sectors beneficial to peoples of both countries in atomic energy technological cooperation arena, conducting the science and research, manufacturing of

pharmaceuticals, agriculture, livestock, industry and foodstuff sectors through the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The Senior General also received Director-General of the State Space Corporation Roscosmos Dr Dmitry Rogozin who is in a capacity of Special Envoy of the Russian Federation on International Space Affairs, and party at the State Space Corporations Roscosmos and exchanged views on the development of science and technology sectors and improvement of human resources. Meetings were held separately.

After the meetings, the Senior General exchanged gifts with the Director-General of the Rosatom State Corporations and chairman of the Russia-ASEAN Economic Council and the Director-General of the State Space Corporation Roscosmos and Special Envoy of the Russian Federation on International Space Affairs.

At the meeting, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Rosatom State Corporation of the Russian Federation signed a memorandum of understanding.

At the Myanmar embassy and the office of the Myanmar military attaché, the Senior General met with officers and staff. On the occasion, the Senior



The Senior General holds talks with the Director-General of the Rosatom State Corporations of Russia.



The Senior General receives Director-General Dr Dmitry Rogozin of the State Space Corporation Roscosmos.



The Senior General and his wife gives presents to the Myanmar Embassy and the Myanmar Military Attaché Office.

General stressed that diplomatic relations are of importance in holding relations with other countries, and those diplomats are key players to initiate the betterment of military and civilian relations. The Russian Federation and Myanmar have been sustaining good relations in economic, education, cultural and other sectors of history. Staff members from the Myanmar embassy and the office of the Myanmar military attaché are to join hands with each other in unison for serving the State duties abroad. They have to help

solve the difficulties of Myanmar citizens who arrive in the Russian Federation for many reasons and arrange a smooth process for Russians wishing to go to Myanmar for many reasons. Those staff members need to serve their assignments dutifully by giving a helping hand to each other so as to uplift the prestige of the nation and the nationals. The Senior General and his wife presented gifts to officers and staff of both offices through Ambassador U Lwin Oo and his wife, and Brig-Gen Moe Kyaw and his wife and officials.

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General and party, outstanding male and female officers who accompany the Senior General visited the Red Square of Moscow, Zaryadye Park, Paryashchiy Bridge and VDNKh Park. The Senior General held talks with Chief Executive Officer Mr Alexander Mikheev of the Rosoboronexport Company aboard the vessel in the Moscow River in the evening and then visited the Moscow River and viewed round development undertakings of Moscow. — MNA

# SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds working meeting with dignitaries from Ministry of Defence of Russian Federation

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held a working meeting with dignitaries from the Ministry of Defence, on behalf of Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation Army General Sergey Kuzhugetovich Shoigu at the parlour of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation on 11 July.

Also present at the meeting together with the Senior General were Joint Secretary of SAC Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Myanmar Ambassador to Russia U Lwin Oo and Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) to Russia Brig-Gen Moe Kyaw. The Russian Deputy Defence Minister was accompanied by senior military officers from the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

At the meeting, they frankly



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets dignitaries of the Ministry of Defence in Moscow on 11 July 2022.

exchanged views on further promotion of existing friendly relations and military-technological cooperation between the two armed forces of both countries, participation of Myanmar armed forces in the defence capability promotion games and training sessions between the two armed forces of both countries and plans of further participation, political changes in Myanmar, and further cooperation in various sectors between two governments and two armed forces.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the dignitaries of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation exchanged emblems and gifts. — MNA

# MPF’s police band and entertainment group perform at ASEAN+ Police Music Festival in Hanoi



The Myanmar Police Band takes the group photo at the event.

THIRTY-SIX entertainers led by Police Lt-Col Zaw Naing Tun from the Police Band and Entertainment Division, Police Training Department of the Myanmar Police Force, Ministry of Home Affairs, left Yangon for Hanoi, Viet Nam, on 7 July on a special flight of Myanmar National Airlines. They were welcomed by officials from the Myanmar Embassy to Vietnam in Hanoi.

On the morning of 8 July, the police band and entertainment troupe, together with groups from Viet Nam, Brunei, Laos, the Philippines, China, and Japan, performed two songs, “Rice

Drums” and “People’s Public Security March”, which will be performed at the Outdoor Concert. In the evening, representatives from the respective police bands held a coordination meeting at Thang Long Opera Hotel.

On the morning of 9 July, the Myanmar police band and entertainment troupe attended the opening ceremony of the ASEAN+ Police Music Festival and the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnamese People’s Police Force, held in front of King Ly Thai To statue in Hanoi.

At a dinner hosted by the

Vietnamese Ministry of Public Security at the Milia Hanoi Hotel, members of the entertainment troupes exchanged gifts with each other.

On the evening of 10 July, the Outdoor Concert was performed by the participating countries and was attended by Vice-President of Vietnam Mrs Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh, Minister for Public Security General To Lam, the heads of departments and the Vietnamese people. The Myanmar police band and entertainment troupe arrived back in Yangon on the evening of 11 July. —MNA

# Diamond orb, pennant-shaped vane hoisted atop Shwezigon replica pagoda in Ethnomir world culture city in Kaluga of Moscow

**A**CEREMONY to hoist a diamond orb, and a pennant-shaped vane atop Shwezigon replica pagoda in Ethnomir world culture city in Kaluga of Moscow in the Russian Federation was held in conjunction with the consecration ceremony on the full moon day of Waso 1384 ME, attended by members of the Sangha led by Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academies Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Maha Dhammakathika Bahujana Hitadhara Shwegyin Nikaya Chairman Shwegyin Sangharaja Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nyanissara, Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Kyaukme Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Candanassara, Tipitaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silakkhanda Bhivamsa and Rector of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Maha Dhammakathika Bahujana Hitadhara Maha Gandhavasaka Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Chekin-da (Dhammaduta Sayadaw), the reverend father of Orthodox and lamas, Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Konstantin Losifovich Kosachev, Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Rus-



The Senior General is pictured at the event to hoist a diamond orb, a pennant-shaped vane atop the Shwezigon replica pagoda in Ethnomir world culture city in Kaluga of Moscow in the Russian Federation.

sian Federation, Russian Deputy Minister for Defence Colonel General Alexander Vasilievich Fomin and officials.

The Senior General, wife and party conveyed the jewel-decorated diamond orb, pennant-shaped vane and round the pagoda clockwise and hoisted them atop the pagoda.

Sitagu Sayadaw expressed his pleasure in the successful completion of the ceremony.

In his supplication, the Senior General expressed thanks to the Sitagu Sayadaw and members of the Sangha from Sitagu Buddha Vihara (Moscow) for their efforts to build the pagoda.

The Sitagu Sayadaw, the Senior General, the Russian Deputy Defence Minister and senior officers from Myanmar Tatmadaw and the Russian government beat the bell three times for the successful comple-

tion of the ceremony.

At the hall of the culture city, the Senior General met with scholarship officer trainees from Myanmar Tatmadaw in the Russian Federation. At the meeting, the Senior General said that it is necessary for Tatmadaw officers studying abroad for a long time to see the country's political developments from true perspectives. They were born of the people and the Tatmadaw is part of the country. Therefore, the Tatmadaw is striving for the nation to be able to march staunchly on the path to democracy, the aspirations of the entire mass of people.

In 1988, people were so displeased with the single-party system that riots occurred all over the country and it was on the verge of collapse. The Tatmadaw had to rise to the occasion. In the first democratic election, a government led by U Thein Sein came to power and worked in concert with the Tatmadaw.

After the 2015 election, a new democratic government took office and capitalized on politics, economy and social and administrative sectors. The Tatmadaw requested the responsi-

ble personnel of the government to deal with the election fraud but the government did not give any attention to the Tatmadaw's request. Therefore, the Tatmadaw had to take the responsibilities of the State in order that the country would not deviate from the path to democracy. The trainee Tatmadaw officers should truly understand that the Tatmadaw will not deviate from that path but will continue building a strong Union based on democracy and federalism, the Senior General elaborated.

Human resources play a very vital role in building a nation and so the Tatmadaw is striving for the development of educated human resources. Therefore, the Senior General called on the trainees to constantly learn for the sake of the country as well as for their own.

Afterwards, the Senior General presented gifts for trainees to a trainee representative.

At the invitation of President Mr Rustam Nurgaliyevich Minnikhanov of the Republic of Tatarstan, the Senior General and wife and party left for Kazan Airport of Kazan of the Republic of Tatarstan yesterday afternoon at a local standard time for paying a working visit. —MNA



The Myanmar congregation are seen at the ceremony.

# Pagodas in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw packed with worshippers on Dhammacakka Day



Uppatasanti Pagoda.



Shwedagon Pagoda.

PAGODAS in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw were bustling with those who do good deeds on the full moon day of Waso (Dhammacakka Day). The ceremony was held at the Shwedagon Pagoda from 5 am yesterday.

Yangon Region Chief

Minister U Soe Thein, region cabinet ministers, members of the board of trustees, and donors donated Waso robes and offertories to the monks at the ceremony. Similarly, the Waso robe offering event was held at the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay

Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The same events were held at the Kaba Aye Pagoda, Botahtaung Pagoda, Sule Pagoda, Kyauktawgyi Buddha image, and Relic Tooth Pagoda in Yangon and citizens do meritorious deeds at the

Uppatasanti Pagoda, the Lat-loktaung Shwenanthwin Pagoda, Yanaungmyin Pagoda, Phaungtaw Chatma Pagoda, Nine Deities Pagoda, Datusaya Datpaungsu Pagoda and monasteries in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Various religious associations recited the Dhammacakka Sutta, offered Waso robes and flowers, and do meritorious deeds by donating and building virtue on the day of Waso full moon or Dhammacakka Day.

—MNA

# Worshippers make merits at pagodas across Mandalay on Waso full moon day

BUDDHISTS across the country marked the auspicious Waso Full moon day (Dhammacakka Day), the commencement of three-month Buddhist lent. They thronged the pagodas and temples, offered alms, flowers, water and candle lights to the Buddha, do virtuous deeds such as releasing animals, chanting and keeping the Sabbath.

Similarly, pagodas, temples and monasteries were packed with the local Buddhist residents in Mandalay. Starting from dawn, Waso-robe offering ceremonies, offering alms and releasing animals were seen. The residing Sayadaw and the monks recited sermons and delivered the



teachings of Buddha at the respective religious edifices in each ward in Mandalay city.

The devout Buddhists offered flowers, water, candle



lights and gold robes to Mahamuni Buddha Image in the early morning. They released fish into the ponds of the pagoda precinct and did many good deeds such as

offering food. The pagodas were crowded with the Buddhists who were following religious practices. Buddhists chanting and reciting Dhamma were heard across the country.

Furthermore, pilgrims visited Sutaungpyay Pagoda on Mandalay Hill, Chanthargyi Chanthaya Pagoda, Kyauktawgyi Buddha Image, Candamuni Pagoda, Kuthodaw Pagoda, Aung-tawmu Pagoda, Jade Pagoda and other religious monuments, did good deeds and prayed for well-being. Moreover, some well-wishers donated foodstuffs.

The prominent landmarks in Mandalay city, parks and U Bein Bridge were crowded with the homegrown visitors on the full moon day of Waso which fell on 12 July 2022. —Maung Aye Chan/GNLM



# LOCAL BUSINESS

## Black gram price plunges by K100,000 per tonne within 10 days

THE price of black gram declined by K100,000 per tonne within ten days, according to the domestic beans and pulses market.

The black gram hit a high of over K1.7 million per tonne on 2 July, whereas the price rolled back to K1,595,000 per tonne on 11 July.

The drop in prices is attributed to the transaction policy changes. Earlier, export earnings for beans were allowed to be made with Yuan-Kyat or Baht-Kyat direct payment. Starting from 30 June, transactions for rice, corn, oil crops and beans and pulses are instructed to be paid in US dollars.

After export earnings were set to be paid in dollars, the official exchange rate against the US dollar was set at K1,850. Meanwhile, a dollar is worth over K2,000 in the unofficial FX market, resulting in a large gap between the official and unofficial exchange rates. Therefore, traders are reportedly observing the impacts on the agricultural produce from this action.

India is possible to import 50,000-75,000 tonnes of black



The black gram hit a high of over K1.7 million per tonne on 2 July, whereas the price rolled back to K1,595,000 per tonne on 11 July.

gram (urad in India) and they will purchase black gram from Myanmar to keep them in reserve, according to a report cited by Agri World Mumbai on 4 July.

India, the main buyer of Myanmar's black grams, has a high consumption of black grams. Furthermore, it reexports them to the external market after processing the grams. The annual consumption of black grams in

India is estimated at 2.7-2.8 million tonnes.

India extended relaxations of conditions regarding clearance consignment for black gram and pigeon peas until 31 March 2023. The price needs to be closely observed for now. The prevailing prices of black gram in the domestic market are highly correlated with India's demand, the rise in fuel oil price

and the exchange rate against the dollar.

Last September 2021, the prices hit an all-time high of K2 million per tonne when the US dollar exchange rate with Myanmar currency hit over K3,000 in the local forex market.

Myanmar conveyed \$369.8 million worth of over 489,985 tonnes of various beans and pulses to foreign trade partners

between 1 April and 1 July 2022 in the current financial year 2022-2023. The country shipped \$284.4 million valued at over 362,276 tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through the sea route, and \$85.399 million valued at over 127,708.7 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders.

Myanmar exported \$1.57 billion worth of over 2 million tonnes of various pulses to foreign trade partners last financial year 2020-2021. The country shipped \$966.4 million valued in 1.24 million tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through the sea route, and \$604.3 million valued in 786,920 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through the land border.

Myanmar yearly produces approximately 400,000 tonnes of black gram and about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon peas. Myanmar is the top producer of the black gram which is primarily demanded by India, while pigeon peas, green grams and chick-peas are cultivated in Australia and African countries besides Myanmar. —NN/GNLM

## MOGE: Myanmar citizens, and cooperative societies invited to bid on existing onshore blocks under joint operating agreements

MYANMA Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy calls for Expression of Interests (EOIs) to those interested Myanmar citizens and cooperative societies to coordinate exploration, development and production activities in the existing onshore blocks under the joint operating agreement (JOA).

The designated places under the leasehold are the Mahutaung area (PSC-D block), Kyaukkhwet-Latpanto area (RSF-1), Ayadaw area (IOR-1), Yenamma area (RSF-8), Pyay area (IOR-4), Myanaung area (IOR-6), Shwepyitha area (IOR-7), Aphyauk area (MOGE-5), Nyaungdon (MOGE-5) and Maubin area (MOGE-5).

The interested bidders have to submit a Letter of Expression of Interests, along with the Company's Articles of Association, Memorandum of Association or Constitution of Company, Cer-

tificate of Incorporation, Annual Report and a financial statement or financial report for the past three years, detailed track record, company organization chart and necessary documents, to the director-general of the Oil and Gas Planning Department under the Ministry of Energy in Nay Pyi Taw not later than at noon on 12 August 2022. Post's sending or delivering by email is not accepted. They can learn about tender terms and conditions at the conference which will be held in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm on 26 July 2022.

The Oil and Gas Planning Department will explain JOA terms and conditions for those shortlisted applicants (Myanmar citizens and cooperative societies). Experts from MOGE will cover geological aspects of the designated blocks for them as well.



The designated places under the leasehold are the Mahutaung area (PSC-D block), Kyaukkhwet-Latpanto area (RSF-1), Ayadaw area (IOR-1), Yenamma area (RSF-8), Pyay area (IOR-4), Myanaung area (IOR-6), Shwepyitha area (IOR-7), Aphyauk area (MOGE-5), Nyaungdon (MOGE-5) and Maubin area (MOGE-5).

For further information, the shortlisted applicants can contact the director-general of the Oil and Gas Planning Department via

the contact number 067 3411046, 067 3411213) and email oilandgasplanningdepartment@gmail.com and the managing director

of MOGE through (067-3411055-3411056, 0673411178-3411125) and mogemdooffice4163@gmail.com. — GNLM

## OPINION

### Uplift prestige of nationals and State with disciplinary acts

THE Myanmar society dubs discipline as a value of humans. Society evaluates the value of a person depending on obedience to disciplines or not. As such, obedience to the discipline initiates the emergence of a basic factor which can trigger the improvement and strengthening of an organization or a country.

All situations and locations related to society have prescribed disciplines. Hence, the elders give training to the people in their childhood to be able to abide by the prescribed disciplines. So, those young persons would have a wider scope of knowledge to follow the respective disciplines with advantages in different situations and venues. Only when they have been trained to follow the prescribed disciplines can they do everything within the frameworks.

The people residing in the developed countries are strictly following the prescribed disciplines in all parts of the countries. They accept the concept that following the disciplines shows their living standards. Truly, not only residents but foreigners at home need to abide by the disciplines without fail. Only when the people adhere to the disciplines even in public places will all the people as well as foreign travellers be convenient.

that following the disciplines shows their living standards. Truly, not only residents but foreigners at home need to abide by the disciplines without fail. Only when the people adhere to the disciplines even in public places will all the people as well as foreign travellers be convenient.

If the acts are weak in compliance with the disciplines, anyone may face unexpected loss and damage. Breaching the traffic rules may bring loss of life. Undisciplined disposing of may cause a serious health hazard. Undisciplined behaviours and talks may trigger hatred among the people. In Myanmar's history, the undisciplined acts of people faced the loss of the independence of the country. As such, all the people should abide by the disciplines adopted for the specific situations for uplifting the prestige of nationals and the State.

## The Road to Classroom Presentation

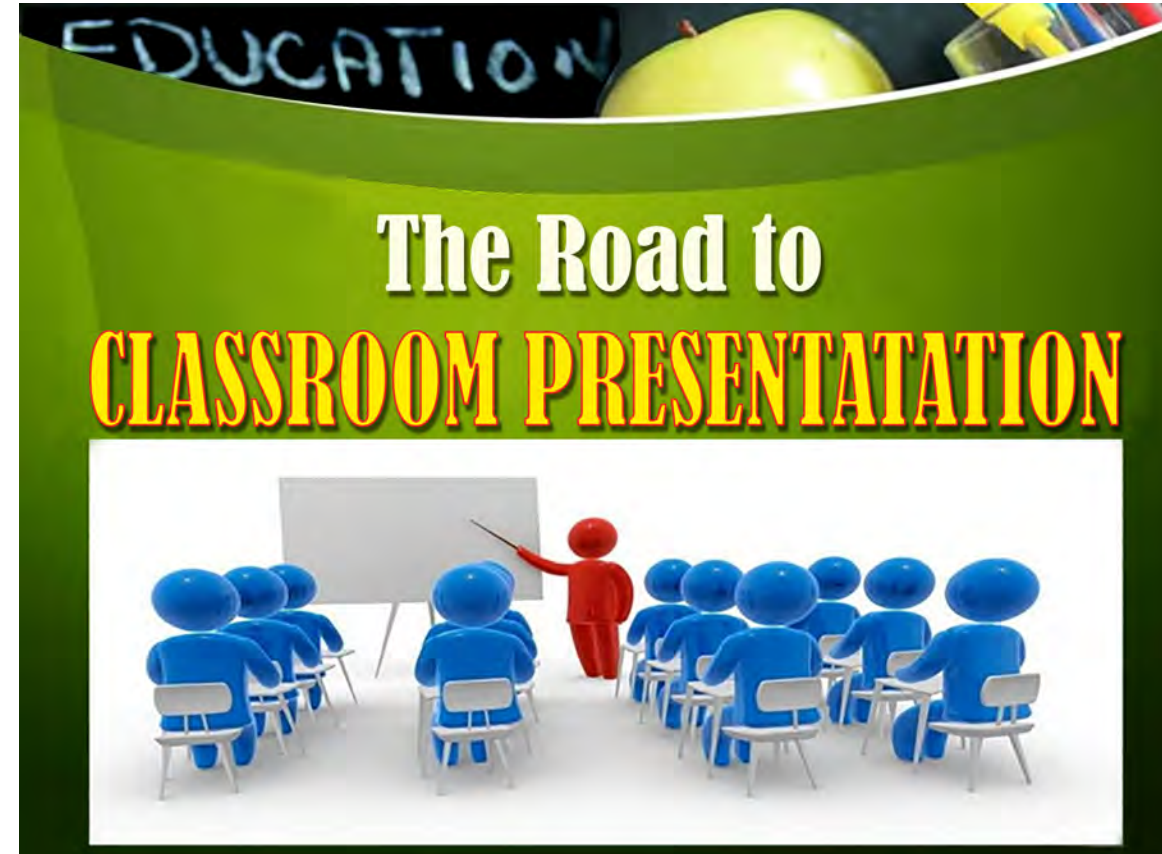
By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

IN our Yangon University of Education, presentations on the three major subjects of education \_ Educational Theory, Educational Psychology, and Methodology \_ are often made by students themselves, individually or in groups, before the class. So far as I am concerned, a presentation is an act of sharing what we have known well with others with the best of intentions, especially orally. By Oxford, a presentation is described as a way in which something is offered, shown or explained to others. On the other hand, according to Longman, a presentation is identified as a formal talk about a particular subject. Certainly, I am satisfied that any presentation must be a kind of useful art, and even that of fine art. Several good preparations should be carefully done beforehand in order to achieve a successful presentation for some educational subject. Such careful preparations to have been well done in advance may include academic, physical, spiritual, and emotional ones for a well-prepared presentation.

A student presenter can definitely read academic subjects, to begin with until he gets them right. Exceptionally speaking, some subject matter cannot be explained only by word of mouth; it will possibly be done with the aid of facial expressions, ges-

tures, pictures, photos, charts, diagrams, tables, projectors or practicals if a presenter has got enough time to do so for an effective and efficient presentation. The pictures and other similar things may be obtained by creating on his own, going to the university library or searching on the internet. More importantly, the educational subject matter must be articulated with other examples, self-experiences, and general knowledge acquired from various books, being closely connected with real-life situations. In other words, every presenter must have read a lot apart from the educational subjects ahead. If he gives a presentation on only an educational theme, his classmate listeners will get bored with it very quickly for sure. Almost all of them are usually anxious to hear as many jokes as they can tell while being given the presentation. Even a student who is a mine of information about non-educational topics will be able to make just a proper presentation on education, linking up with those topics, with his eyes closed.

Perhaps a presenter's style of clothing is the very first sight of listeners, following a sort of presentation. People tend to wear clothes for beauty, attention, respect, and legitimacy and so do they in a type of presentation. For



my money, clothes can be said to be the third face of a person upon his physical appearance. In making a presentation, clothing should be inexpensive but adequate for a listener's attention and respect only. Clothes have to be clean, clear and tidy, even though they are not as good as new ones. Personally speaking, suitable clothing can get an initial impression on listeners at the drop of a hat. Schoolboys should comb their hair neatly and schoolgirls' hair needs to be tied back in a neat bow as well. Presenters probably put on make-

up or whatever to an acceptable extent before a certain presentation. As far as I can see, some listeners like to pay attention to even what shoes presenters are wearing. Thus, the presenter had better choose to buy the shape and size of shoes that may suit them. Making themselves look good with clothing is not necessarily a mode of sight pollution for listeners, anyway.

Of course, it would be better for anyone to do presenting anything with more 'cetana', which means a form of love, any time. The more love he put into the

presentation, the more popularity he will have won with the presentation among many classmates of his own age group. Actually, a presentation is a process in which something practically interesting or new for listeners is shared by a presenter with the aim of letting them know these facts. However, the presentation is neither the job of teaching children nor the task of just giving instructions. No doubt listeners will be bored with a presentation in the form of instruction to death at short notice. In addition to this self-awareness, presenters must

never underestimate their listeners, whoever they are, that is not to bluff them by speculating the subject matter to be presented. For there are occasionally a few listeners who have already known that subject matter from A to Z turning up in the classroom. Plus, a presenter does not have to consider himself a better one in the art of presentation than his listeners at all, even if he is a brilliant orator. It is important that he is nearly always willing to be able to make up an off-the-cuff presentation perfectly.

Maybe there are different fears for everybody to have at least one each. Some are afraid of ghosts; others are scared of heights. Some are terrified of toads. Among these fears, standing in public or going onto a stage is supposed to be the most common one in the pit of the stomach by almost everybody. In order to be free from this fear, each presenter has got to do the exposure and practice classroom presentation whenever he is given a window of opportunity. The more times he has made presentations anywhere, the more proficient and confident he should become in the coming ones. Sceptical as listeners highly look of it, in reality even an expert on presentation might also suffer from presentation nerves after a fashion before a presentation. Standing on stage, needless to say is a pounding in one's heart. Only after this has happened once or twice can presenters finally manage to keep emotional control over presentation-related negative feelings. To my eye, what someone

wants to make any presentation in name only is by far worse than that he does nothing. Speaking as a former presenter, whichever presentation needs at least reading enough, thinking about listeners' sound understanding of presenting ideas relative to education. Moreover, it is constantly driving a presenter to the core stressed and tired indeed. In spite of this, listeners' applause is likely to become the heart desire of presenters-to-be.

Before a presentation, the above-mentioned preparations must be done as far as presenters could. When they start the presentation after they have finished the preparations, they must say hello to their listeners for a few minutes with a smile at first. They ought not to be standing still like a marble statue ahead of the listeners. Kinesthetic intelligence such as body language and sign language could be applied by them if necessary. Then, they should speak out the heading and objectives of a presentation to come as well as speak in a loud and clear voice where necessary. The presentation heading and objectives need to be both short and to the point. Presenters themselves will always still be very active in presenting their facts and figures with auto interest. Next, they can unquestionably make eye contact with all of their listeners one by one while presenting. All too often this gives the presenters a great opportunity to see whether or not the listeners show an interest in their presentation styles. Furthermore, eye contact absolutely helps presenters have more confidence in presentation

skills. They shall, therefore, avoid staring at the sole listener or anything during the presentation. Some newcomers to the presentation try beginning a presentation with a few inconclusive questions, no matter who does. It matters that they must have found divergent answers to those questions to start with for this Q & A method of the presentation. Having a good sense of humour frequently breaks through that listeners seem tired either out of sheer boredom or due to a quite long presentation. In the longer term, those who give just an educational presentation without their external book-learning and experiential knowledge may have run into presentation difficulties early on every single time an essential presentation is made. After a presentation, a question-and-answer session is allowed by teachers very often. What is right is not wrong or vice versa. Nonetheless, divergent opinions and thoughts are barely easy to be determined which is right or wrong despite being of the pros and cons. That divergence should be moulded into a meeting of minds by students and teachers, depending on the present educational climate. Otherwise, the students are always arguing with each other over strong educational points of view without arriving at the best solution to education. Student presenters and listeners will pass over not only foul language but also disrespectful manners amongst themselves before, while and after presenting to one another.

SEE PAGE-11

## New Omicron subvariants become health threat in US summer COVID-19 surge

THE latest and most contagious versions of Omicron subvariants, known as BA.5 and BA.4, have accounted for over 70 per cent of new COVID-19 infections in the United States, leading to new surge in cases and hospitalizations nationwide.

BA.5 became the dominant variant in the United States, making up about 54 percent of new cases in the week ending 2 July, according to data of the US Centres for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC).

Another highly transmissible subvariant, BA.4, made up about 17 per cent more.

The two subvariants are more contagious than earlier variants of Omicron, and also appear to evade protection from vaccines and previous infections more easily than most of their predecessors, according to health experts.

"These new variants could indeed pose threats to existing

protection from previous infections or vaccines. There are many uncertainties," Jeffrey Sachs, professor and director of the Centre for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

David Montefiori, a professor at the Human Vaccine Institute at Duke University Medical Centre, estimated that BA.4 and BA.5 are about three times less sensitive to neutralizing antibodies from existing COVID vaccines than the

original version of the Omicron variant, BA.1.

**BA.4 and BA.5 are four times more resistant**

Other research suggested that BA.4 and BA.5 are four times more resistant to antibodies from vaccines than BA.2, which replaced the Omicron variant as the dominant version of the coronavirus in the United States in April.

Bob Wachter, chair of the

Department of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, said BA.5 manages to at least partially sidestep some of the immunity people may have from prior infections and vaccinations.

"Cases are already rising again in the US, and could rise substantially later this summer or in the fall, when there is a return to offices, schools, and other indoor facilities," Sachs told Xinhua.

Source: Xinhua



The scene in downtown Los Angeles on April 30, 2020. PHOTO: ROBYN BECK/AFP / FILE

CURRENT  
AFFAIRS

YPS card system still lacks  
broader awareness

SOME YBS lines install an electronic payment system and some are still employing conductors to collect bus fares.

The YRTA has installed the card payment system on 1,900

notes. We must have some notes as it is OK to take a bus after scanning the payment card, but the next bus we take does not have such a system. The system is extremely good, and so it



A commuter is pictured using the YPS card.



A commuter is seen topping up her YPS card.

YBS buses to ease the difficulties regarding notes and the passengers have to use the notes as some bus lines offer such service.

The Yangon Payment Service machines were installed on nearly 2,000 buses of 56 YBS bus lines under 10 private companies and further 4,000 machines will be installed.

“The card payment system is more convenient. But it is not available on every bus line. Therefore, people have to use

should be implemented for every bus line, only then, we don’t have any difficulties regarding notes and bus fares collected by the conductor,” retired teacher U Kyaw Myint told the GNLM.

The YRTC is now discussing with a technology company to implement Mobile Wallet with a QR system for bus fares in addition to the payment card system. The committee is now prioritizing the payment card system to be able to install on all buses,

joint-secretary U Lyan Cin Mang of YRTC (Yangon Region Transport Committee).

“The practice of putting the bus fares into the box disappear, let alone YBS card system. The passengers can go where they want after putting the bus fares in the box in the past. Now, the drivers block the hole in boxes and collect the money by asking the distance with the conductors. The passengers face such cases every day. The bus fare has to be paid as the conductors say. The card system is very simple. Now, the private bus lines do not follow the rules and regulations. The drivers have contacts to exchange information about the surprise checks. It is like the previous Ma Hta Tha system,” said passengers Ma Aye Myint from Hlinethaya.

Over 3,143 buses of 116 YBS bus lines are commuting more than 1,175,300 passengers daily. — TWA/GNLM

Japanese used bike transactions  
on the rise following  
motorcycling restrictions

AS the authorities restricted riding motorcycles in some townships of the Yangon Region, the transactions of used bicycles from Japan become good again, according to the used bicycle shops in Insein Township.

The authorities banned riding motorcycles in Thanlyin, Hlinethaya, Twantay, Kawhmu and Dala townships for security concerns recently and the people mostly use bikes in their townships or wards, said the residents.

“There is one bicycle at every house. Although the people have motorcycles, they cannot ride anymore for regional order and so they use bikes. People buy bicycles as the fuel prices are high. It costs between K500 and K1,000 at least for trishaw fare to travel a certain distance,” said Ko Aung San Tun from Thanlyin.

The buyers mostly buy used bike from Japan that is priced between K80,000 and K100,000. The renewed bike is between K100,000 and K130,000, said bike seller Ko Ah Pu.

Most of the bikes in Myanmar are used ones and imported from China and Japan.

“Some buy the bikes at Insein Nantha Gone market. They also add other accessories. We sell only the frame including two wheels, seat and handle. That is called a frame. The price of the frame depends on its paint colour. The price starts from K70,000. If the buyers install some parts as they like, the bike looks good and the price is more than a hundred thousand. It takes half a day for those who are searching for the bikes until they get the one they like most,” seller Ko Tun Myat said.

Those who can afford choose the used bikes from Japan as they like and there are some people who buy Chinese bikes at the licensed pawn shops that cost between K30,000 and K50,000. — TWA/GNLM



A repaired and modified Japan second hand bike.

Bayintnaung market: weekly commodity prices

THE black gram prices reached below K1.6 million per tonne at the Bayintnaung market between 6 and 12 July. The newly-harvested Chinese potato enter the market and the demand is high.

Beans

On 11 July, the black gram FAQ/RC (2022) price was set at K1,595,000 per tonne, K1,815,000 per tonne SQ/RC and K1,475,000 per tonne of RED/RC pigeon pea.

On 4 July, the black gram was priced at K1,707,500 per tonne and the price declined to K112,500 per tonne in one week.

Rice

The Shwebo Pawsan price was high while another Pawsan price was stable.

The rice price is set at K58,000-67,000 per bag of Shwebo Paw San while K54,000 per bag of Pathein Myaungmya Pawsan, K51,000 per bag of Pyapon Pawsan, K40,000 per bag of Mee-done (Pawkywe), K35,000-36,000 per bag of unfinished rice, K32,500 per bag of double-crop unfinished rice and K28,800 per bag of broken rice level 1-2/2-3-4.

Onion/garlic

On 11 July, the Kyukok garlic was priced at K2,800-2,850 per viss. On the same day, the Monywa onion was set prices of K1,275-1,475-1,575-1,700 per viss and K1,150-1,400-1,525-1,650 per viss and Shan garlic from Aungban K2,000-2,500-3,100-3,600 per viss.



Bayintnaung wholesale centre.

Potato

On 11 July, the Aungban potato, new Chinese potato, Bengal potato entered the Yangon market. The quality of the new

Chinese potato was better and fetched good sales. The Aungban potato price was set at K1,550-1,650-1,650-1,650 per viss while K1,550 per viss of Chinese pota-

to and K1,500 per viss of Bengal potato.

Chilli

On 11 July, the Sinphyukyun chilli was priced at K11,000 per viss while K11,000 per viss of Myitpwa chilli, K11,000 per viss of Seinsar chilli, K11,500 per viss of Tayoksaka, K9,000 per viss of Hinthada Moehtaung, K8,300 per viss of Panye and Myarni chilli and K8,500 per viss of Thedaw Moehtaung.

Palm oil

On 11 July, the palm oil price outside Yangon was set at K7,800 per viss. The reference price is K4,650 and the prices do not decline significantly, oil dealers said. — TWA/GNLM

# Mandalay Region to cultivate 3,340 acres of monsoon/late — monsoon season long-staple cotton



DURING the 2022-2023 Financial Year (FY), monsoon/late-monsoon long-staple cotton will be cultivated on 3,340 acres of farmland in July and August and the seeds will be distributed to six districts in the Mandalay region, said an official from the Department of Agriculture.

According to him, a total of 3,340 acres of land will be

placed under long-staple cotton, 340 acres of which will be cultivated with Union funding and 3,000 acres the regional funds. When good and quality strains of cotton are cultivated, the per-acre yield will increase, also producing seeds. It makes them more profits.

A total of 3,340 acres of monsoon/late-monsoon long-staple

cotton were planted on seven acres in Mandalay district, 755 acres in Kyaukse district, 871 acres in Meiktila district, 377 acres in Myingyan district, and 1,310 acres in Yamethin district. The seeds they produce will be distributed to growers free of charge. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

## Announcement on road closure on Martyrs' Day

1. Some roads in Yangon will be temporarily closed on 19 July during the 75<sup>th</sup> 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 Wisara 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, Natmouk Road from Wingaba Junction, Natmouk 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

## CRIME NEWS

# Illegal timbers, vehicles, raw jade and jewellery seized

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

Under the instructions of the Chairman of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force, a combined team made inspections at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint on 10 July, according to information.

Officials captured a Subaru (TT1) car (approximately K6 million) at the 97/7 milepost on the Yangon-Myawady Road. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, an on-duty team made inspections at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint under the supervision of the Kayin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

They confiscated an unregistered Semi-Trailer (approximately K20 million), and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, on 11 July, an on-duty team conducted patrol inspections at the Yepu Permanent Checkpoint.

K19,740,000 worth of uncut jade and jewellery that were illegally carried by a Nissan



AD van (approximately K15 million) were captured near

Sanlaung village.

On 12 July, an unregis-

tered Dyna six-wheel car (approximately K3 million) was confiscated in Kanbalu township, and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

In addition, a total of 3.2924 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1,646,200 were captured in Padaung township under the supervision of the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

Therefore, six arrests estimated at K65,386,200 were made on three consecutive days from 10 to 12 July, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

# The Road to Classroom Presentation

## FROM PAGE-9

In my experience, most students want to skip a class presentation if at all possible. Seldom do they have readiness for presentation \_ they scan through even academic subjects themselves just by the time they are in the classroom, excluding a variety of other subject-related

knowledge. They find it hard to share their presentation of education solely owing to their weak language speaking skills. In actual fact, it is somewhat okay for them to be able to present many a good subject of interest rather than their ability to speak languages. Whether or not student presenters have got any class-

room presentations, they are able to study readily available educational or non-educational resource books for teachers in the library or on the Internet prior to presentations. They can also have held a rehearsal of the presentation from beginning to end all by themselves. They should have written down the

words to be said literally on paper about future presentations as well. After presentations, teachers and student listeners will doubtless give them diverse feedback on the presentations, yet they must not answer them back if and when the feedback is negative. They have to think positive and big in relation to

negative feedback, too. As the saying goes, practice makes flawless and fluent. In summary, continuous self-directed learning, reliability, validity, creativity, repeated presentation practices, and motivating activities of education are accurately on the road to classroom presentation.

ECONOMY  
WORLD

Cambodia approves 87 investment projects worth 2.7 bln USD in first 6 months

CAMBODIA has approved 87 fixed-asset investment projects worth about 2.7 billion US dollars in the first half of 2022, according to the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CD-C)’s report on Friday.

The approved projects included garment, footwear and travel goods factories, tire factory, hotels, hospitals, automobile assembly factory, electronic factory, and fruit processing and packaging factory, among others, the report said, adding that they are expected to generate tens of thousands of new jobs for locals. Lim Heng, vice-president of the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, said the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade pact and the Cambodia-China Free



Passengers disembark from a ferry in Phnom Penh on 3 March 2020. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Trade Agreement (CCFTA) as well as the country’s favourable new investment law are key to attracting investors. “Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, Cambodia has attracted a large amount of investment capital. This clearly

shows that the Southeast Asian nation is a potential destination for both domestic and foreign investors, especially for the Chinese ones,” he told Xinhua. Both RCEP and CCFTA entered into force on 1 January 2022.— Xinhua

Brazil’s financial market lowers 2022 inflation forecast to 7.67%

BRAZIL’S financial market lowered the country’s inflation forecast for 2022 from 7.96 per cent to 7.67 per cent, the Central Bank of Brazil said Monday. According to the central

bank’s weekly survey of the country’s leading financial institutions, a government tax cut on a segment of products led to a decrease in the National Consumer Price Index.

The central bank’s inflation target for the year is 3.5 per cent with a margin of tolerance of 1.5 percentage points. For 2023, the financial market expects inflation to reach 5.09 per cent, after analysts estimated last week that prices would rise 5.01 per cent.

Regarding Brazil’s gross domestic product (GDP), economists upgraded their growth forecast for 2022 from 1.51 per cent projected a week ago to 1.59 per cent, but maintained their forecast for 2023 at 0.5 per cent growth. Analysts expect Brazil’s currency to trade at 5.13 reals to the US dollar by the end of the year, in contrast to last week’s forecast of 5.09 reals. —Xinhua



A woman points to a screen at a stock market in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 12 March 2020. (XINHUA/RAHEL PATRASSO)

China aims to build modern national road network by 2035

CHINA has unveiled a plan outlining major targets for a national road network as part of the country’s efforts to sustain a modern economic system with an improved inter-area transport layout and increased traffic capacity. By 2035, the country aims to

basically build a modern national road network that is extensive, fully functional, efficient, green, intelligent, and safe, according to a circular jointly released by the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Transport. The new plan involves na-

tional roads with a total length of about 461,000 km, consisting of 162,000-km expressways and 299,000-km highways. China will seek to form a multi-centre road network pattern, and further smoothen a transport network that links provinces, city clusters and counties.— Xinhua

NEWS ROUNDUP

Panama government reduces fuel prices in face of protests

PANAMA’S president announced a reduction in gasoline prices and freezing of rates for several other essential products Monday in the face of continuing protests against inflation and corruption.

“I understand the dissatisfaction of various sectors with the situation we are experiencing, caused by the effects of the pandemic and the consequences of the conflict in Ukraine,” Laurentino Cortizo said in a statement.

The price of gasoline for private vehicles will be reduced to \$3.95 per gallon from 15 July, he said, a drop of 24 per cent from the price at the end of June.

Public transportation has already benefited from the lower price since May.

On Monday, hundreds protested in Panama in the second week of demonstrations against increases in fuel prices, which have risen 47 per cent since January.

Cortizo also announced that his government would draft a decree to freeze the prices of a dozen essential food products.

Several unions, however, say that protests will continue until there is a general reduction in prices and gasoline rates drop below \$3 per gallon.

In the western provinces of Veraguas and Chiriqui, near the border with Costa Rica, protesters blocked the Inter-American Highway, which connects the country to the rest of Central America.

In Panama City, a group of students clashed with police around the University of Panama, where a group of people temporarily seized a patrol car and broke its windows. — AFP



The stabilization or freezing of fuel prices is a measure for which carriers have been pressing through protests. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

New UK finance minister defends himself over tax affairs

BRITAIN’S new finance minister, Nadhim Zahawi, on Monday defended himself against accusations about his tax affairs, after reports that he is subject to an investigation by the authorities.

The 55-year-old minister, appointed last week after Rishi Sunak’s resignation, is standing to replace Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who stepped down as Conservative party leader.

“I was clearly being smeared,” he told Sky news in an interview after claims emerged about a probe at the weekend.

“I was being told that the Serious Fraud Office that the National Crime Agency, that HMRC (Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs) are looking into me. “I’m not aware of this,” he added, insisting: “I’ve always declared my taxes. I will answer questions HMRC has of me.”

Zahawi, who came to Britain as a refugee from Iraq, speaking no English before forging a successful career in business, made his political name overseeing Britain’s vaccines roll-out.

He promised that if he is elected Conservative leader and becomes prime minister, he will publish his accounts every year.— AFP

# RCEP, CCFTA give boost to e-commerce development in Cambodia



Employees work at online market Smile Shop in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 21 Dec 2021. PHOTO: XINHUA/WU CHANGWEI

THE Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade pact and the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA) have given a boost to the fledgling e-commerce industry in Cambodia, experts said on Monday.

Cambodia's market value of e-commerce had

surged to 970 million US dollars in 2021, up 19 per cent from 813 million dollars in 2020, according to the Ministry of Commerce's iTrade Bulletin released last week.

Ministry of Commerce's undersecretary of state and spokesman Penn Sovicheat said the e-commerce sector has

boomed in the Southeast Asian country in recent years thanks to the rapid development of technologies and fast growth of Internet users.

"Moreover, the RCEP and the CCFTA, which both entered into force on 1 Jan 2022, have injected fresh impetus into the development of e-commerce in Cambodia," he told Xinhua.

He said e-commerce is a potential sector to help boost the kingdom's economy during and after the pandemic era.

"During the pandemic, e-commerce had grown rapidly and there's no doubt that the growth will continue in coming years," Sovicheat said.

Speaking of the co-operation between Cambodia and China in the e-commerce sector, the spokesman said the rapid development of e-commerce in China can be a good example for Cambodia to follow.

"We wish to see investment from Chinese e-commerce giants such as Alibaba or JD.com in technological infrastructure and logistics, so it will provide a strong basis for Cambodia to expand its e-commerce market to China, the region, and the world," he said.—Xinhua

# Microchip shortages hit Renault sales

FRENCH carmaker Renault said Tuesday that sales of its conventional and electrical vehicles fell in the first half of this year, impacted by the worldwide shortage of semiconductors.

It said it sold 1,000,199 units in the

first half of 2022, down 12 per cent compared to the same period last year. The data for both years did not include sales in Russia.

Renault said the dip in sales comes "in a context disrupted by the semiconductor crisis and marked by the shutdown of the group's activities in Russia".

Semiconductors are electronic components that are indispensable in both conventional petrol-powered and electrical vehicles.

The global shortage

of such parts has forced carmakers around the world to throttle and even halt production temporarily.

Renault said its own brand continued to post strong growth in the electrified market.—AFP

# Apple's self-driving car effort stuck in low gear: report

APPLE'S quest to produce a viable self-driving car remains stalled despite years of work, with its team plagued by setbacks as rivals race ahead, The Information tech news website reported Monday.

Buzz surrounding a potential Apple car began some eight years ago with the vehicles being touted as the first new "big thing" from the company since its iconic co-founder Steve



Apple Inc. Discussed with multiple suppliers of self-driving car sensors known as lidar, according to people familiar with the matter. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Jobs died in October 2011. Apple cars have had trouble on streets near its Silicon Valley headquarters, bumping curbs, straying from lanes, and almost hitting a jogger legally crossing a road, The Information said, citing interviews with people who worked on the project.

The article maintained that team troubles resulted from ever-shifting goals and leadership, staff turnover, and lack of faith in the project by high-ranking Apple executives.—AFP

ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရ  
စွမ်းအင်ဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ကုန်းပိုင်းလုပ်ကွက်များတွင် ရေနံအထွက်တိုးရေးလုပ်ငန်းများ  
ဆောင်ရွက်နိုင်ရန်အတွက်  
စိတ်ဝင်စားမှုအဆိုပြုလွှာဖိတ်ခေါ်ခြင်း(၂၀၂၂)

၁။ ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရ၊ စွမ်းအင်ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့် သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့လုပ်ငန်းမှ လက်ရှိလုပ်ကိုင်နေသော ကုန်းပိုင်းလုပ်ကွက်(၁၀)ကွက် တို့တွင် စားစားစနစ် (Well by Well Basic) ကိုအခြေခံ၍ လုပ်ငန်းပူးပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်ရေး သဘောတူစာချုပ် (Joint Operating Agreement-JOA)ဖြင့် ရေနံအထွက်တိုးရေး လုပ်ငန်းများကို အကျိုးတူပူးပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်နိုင်ရန် တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူရွေးချယ် ဆောင်ရွက် သွားမည်ဖြစ်၍ ရင်းနှီးမြှုပ်နှံလိုသူ နိုင်ငံသားလုပ်ငန်းရှင်များနှင့် သမဝါယမအသင်းအဖွဲ့ များမှ စိတ်ဝင်စားမှု အဆိုပြုလွှာများတင်ပြနိုင်ရန် ဖိတ်ခေါ်အပ်ပါသည်။

၂။ မြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့်သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့လုပ်ငန်းမှ လက်ရှိလုပ်ကိုင်နေသော အောက်ဖော် ပြပါ ကုန်းပိုင်းလုပ်ကွက်(၁၀)ကွက်တို့အား တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူရန်အတွက် စိတ်ဝင်စားမှု အဆိုပြုလွှာ တင်ပြရမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်-

| စဉ်  | လုပ်ကွက် | တည်နေရာ                | စာချုပ်အမျိုးအစား |
|------|----------|------------------------|-------------------|
| (၁)  | PSC-D    | မဟူတောင်ဒေသ            | JOA               |
| (၂)  | RSF-1    | ကျောက်ခွက်-လက်ပံတိုဒေသ | JOA               |
| (၃)  | IOR-1    | အရာတော်ဒေသ             | JOA               |
| (၄)  | RSF-8    | ရေနံမဒေသ               | JOA               |
| (၅)  | IOR-4    | ပြည်ဒေသ                | JOA               |
| (၆)  | IOR-6    | မြန်အောင်ဒေသ           | JOA               |
| (၇)  | IOR-7    | ရွှေပြည်သာဒေသ          | JOA               |
| (၈)  | MOGE-5   | အဖျောက်ဒေသ             | JOA               |
| (၉)  | MOGE-5   | ညောင်တုန်းဒေသ          | JOA               |
| (၁၀) | MOGE-5   | မအူပင်တောင်ဒေသ         | JOA               |

၃။ ရင်းနှီးမြှုပ်နှံလိုသူ နိုင်ငံသားလုပ်ငန်းရှင်များနှင့် သမဝါယမအသင်းအဖွဲ့များသည် စိတ်ဝင်စားမှုအဆိုပြုလွှာ (Letter of Expression of Interests -LoEI) တင်ပြသည့်အခါ ကုမ္ပဏီ၏သင်းဖွဲ့စည်းမျဉ်း (Company's Articles of Association-AOA)၊ သင်းဖွဲ့မှတ်တမ်း (Memorandum of Association-MOA) သို့မဟုတ် ကုမ္ပဏီဖွဲ့စည်းပုံ (Constitution of Company)၊ ကုမ္ပဏီမှတ်ပုံတင်လက်မှတ် (Certificate of Incorporation)၊ လွန်ခဲ့သည့် (၃)နှစ်အတွက် ကုမ္ပဏီ၏နှစ်ပတ်လည် အစီရင်ခံစာ(Last 3 years Annual Report)၊ လွန်ခဲ့သည့် (၃)နှစ်အတွက် ကုမ္ပဏီ၏ ဘဏ္ဍာရေးရှင်းတမ်း (Last 3 Years Financial Statement) သို့မဟုတ် ဘဏ္ဍာရေးဆိုင်ရာအစီရင်ခံစာ (Financial Report)၊ ရေနံလုပ်ငန်း ဆိုင်ရာအတွေ့အကြုံများဖော်ပြချက် (Detail Track Record)၊ ကုမ္ပဏီတွင် လုပ်ငန်းကျွမ်းကျင်သူများ၊ ပညာရှင်များနှင့်ဖွဲ့စည်းထားသည့် ကုမ္ပဏီ၏ဖွဲ့စည်းမှုပုံစံနှင့် သက်ဆိုင်ရာ စာရွက်စာတမ်းများအား Hard Copy (မူရင်း)(၁)စုံ + မီဒီယာ(၃)စုံနှင့် Soft Copy တို့ကို ပူးတွဲ၍ "မြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့်သဘာဝ ဓာတ်ငွေ့လုပ်ငန်း၏ ကုန်းပိုင်းလုပ်ကွက် (၁၀) ကွက် အတွက် စိတ်ဝင်စားမှုအဆိုပြုလွှာ တင်သွင်းခြင်း-၂၀၂၂" ဟု ရေးသားဖော်ပြ၍ လာရောက်တင်ပြရမည်။ စိတ်ဝင်စား မှုအဆိုပြုလွှာတင်ပြခြင်းကို ၂၀၂၂ ခုနှစ်၊ ဩဂုတ်လ ၁၂ ရက်နေ့ နေ့လယ် (၁၂:၀၀) နာရီထက်နောက်မကျစေဘဲ လက်ကိုင်တိုင်ဖြစ်စေ သို့မဟုတ် ကိုယ်စားလှယ်ဖြင့်ဖြစ်စေ အောက်ဖော်ပြပါလိပ်စာသို့ လိပ်မူ၍တင်ပြရမည်-

ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ်  
ရေနံနှင့်သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့စီမံရေးဦးစီးဌာန  
စွမ်းအင်ဝန်ကြီးဌာန  
ရုံးအမှတ်(၆)၊ နေပြည်တော်

၄။ စိတ်ဝင်စားမှုအဆိုပြုလွှာတင်ပြသူများသည် မိမိတို့၏အဆိုပြုလွှာများကို စာတိုက်ဖြင့် လည်းကောင်း၊ E-mail ဖြင့်လည်းကောင်း တင်ပြခြင်းခွင့်မပြုပါ။

၅။ စိတ်ဝင်စားမှု အဆိုပြုလွှာတင်ပြလိုသူများသည် သတင်းစာတွင် ကြော်ငြာသည့် နေ့ရက်မှ ရက်သတ္တပတ် (၂)ပတ်ကြာသည့်အခါ စိတ်ဝင်စားမှုအဆိုပြုလွှာတင်ပြရာတွင် လိုအပ်သည့် အခြေခံအချက်အလက်များနှင့်စပ်လျဉ်း၍ ၂၆-၇-၂၀၂၂ ရက်နေ့ (၁၃:၀၀) ရက်ရှိ ရေနံနှင့်သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့စီမံရေးဦးစီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ်(၆)၊ နေပြည်တော်တွင် ရှင်းလင်း တင်ပြမှုပြုလုပ်သွားမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၆။ စိတ်ဝင်စားမှုအဆိုပြုလွှာတင်ပြမှုများအား ပဏာမရွေးချယ်ခံရသူများစာရင်း (Short List) ပြုလုပ်မည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ပဏာမရွေးချယ်ခြင်းစာရင်း (Short List) တွင် ပါဝင်သည့် နိုင်ငံသားလုပ်ငန်းရှင်များနှင့် သမဝါယမအသင်းအဖွဲ့များသည် တင်ဒါဖိတ်ခေါ်သည့် လုပ်ကွက်များနှင့် သက်ဆိုင်သည့် ဘူမိဗေဒဆိုင်ရာ အချက်အလက် များကို မြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့် သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့လုပ်ငန်း၏ ဘူမိဗေဒ/ဘူမိရူပဗေဒဌာနအဖွဲ့မှ အခမဲ့ရှင်းလင်းတင်ပြမှု ပြုလုပ်ပေးမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၇။ ပဏာမရွေးချယ်ခြင်းစာရင်း (Short List) တွင်ပါဝင်သည့် နိုင်ငံသား လုပ်ငန်းရှင်များနှင့် သမဝါယမအသင်းအဖွဲ့များသည် လုပ်ကိုင်ဆောင်ရွက်လိုသည့် လုပ်ကွက်အတွက် အဆိုပြုလွှာများတင်သွင်းနိုင်ရန် JOA စာချုပ်နှင့်သက်ဆိုင်သည့် စည်းကမ်းသတ်မှတ်ချက်များ Standard Terms and Conditions ကို ရေနံနှင့်သဘာဝ ဓာတ်ငွေ့စီမံရေးဦးစီးဌာနမှ ရှင်းလင်းဖြေကြားပေးမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၈။ ပဏာမရွေးချယ်ခြင်းစာရင်း (Short List) တွင်ပါဝင်သည့် နိုင်ငံသားလုပ်ငန်းရှင် များနှင့် သမဝါယမအသင်းအဖွဲ့များသည် မိမိတို့အဆိုပြုသည့် Terms and Conditions များအား အဆိုပြုလွှာတွင်ဖော်ပြ၍ ပြန်လည်တင်ပြရမည်။

၉။ အဆိုပြုလွှာတွင်ဖော်ပြထားသော လုပ်ကိုင်ဆောင်ရွက်လိုသည့် လုပ်ကွက်နှင့် စပ်လျဉ်းသည့် Terms and Conditions အဆိုပြုချက်များအပေါ် နည်းပညာပိုင်း၊ ငွေကြေးဆိုင်ရာတောင်းဆိုမှု၊ လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်ရွက်မှုအတွေ့အကြုံများရှိ-မရှိ စိစစ်ခြင်း နှင့် စည်းကမ်းသတ်မှတ်ချက်များနှင့်ညီညွတ်မှုရှိ-မရှိ စိစစ်ခြင်းများပြုလုပ်၍ ရွေးချယ်သွားမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၁၀။ ပဏာမရွေးချယ်ခြင်းစာရင်း (Short List) တွင်ပါဝင်ရွေးချယ်ခြင်းခံရသည့် နိုင်ငံသား လုပ်ငန်းရှင်များနှင့် သမဝါယမအသင်းအဖွဲ့များသည် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ လိပ်စာသို့ ဆက်သွယ်ရမည်-

ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ်  
ရေနံနှင့်သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့စီမံရေးဦးစီးဌာန  
စွမ်းအင်ဝန်ကြီးဌာန  
ရုံးအမှတ်(၆)၊ နေပြည်တော်

ဖုန်း ၉၅-၀၆၇ ၃ ၄၁၁၀၄၆  
ဖက်စ် ၉၅-၀၆၇ ၃ ၄၁၁၂၁၃  
အီးမေးလ် oilandgasplanningdepartment@gmail.com

မှတ်ချက်။ အခြားသိရှိလိုသည်များရှိပါ အောက်ပါလိပ်စာများသို့ ဆက်သွယ် မေးမြန်း နိုင်ပါသည်-

(၁) ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူးချုပ်  
ရေနံနှင့်သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့စီမံရေးဦးစီးဌာန  
စွမ်းအင်ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ နေပြည်တော်

ဖုန်း ၉၅-၀၆၇ ၃ ၄၁၁၀၄၆  
ဖက်စ် ၉၅-၀၆၇ ၃ ၄၁၁၂၁၃  
အီးမေးလ် oilandgasplanningdepartment@gmail.com

(၂) ဦးဆောင်ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး  
မြန်မာ့ရေနံနှင့်သဘာဝဓာတ်ငွေ့လုပ်ငန်း  
စွမ်းအင်ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ နေပြည်တော်

ဖုန်း ၉၅-၀၆၇ ၃ ၄၁၁၀၅၅/ ၃ ၄၁၁၀၅၆  
ဖက်စ် ၉၅-၀၆၇ ၃ ၄၁၁၀၇၈/ ၃ ၄၁၁၁၂၅  
အီးမေးလ် mogemdooffice4163@gmail.com

GLOBAL  
AFFAIRS

## US House committee to 'connect the dots' at Capitol riot hearing

THE House committee probing the 2021 assault on the US Capitol will examine connections between associates of former president Donald Trump and far right-wing extremist groups at its seventh hearing on Tuesday.

"We are going to be connecting the dots during these hearings between these groups and those who were trying — in government circles — to overturn the election," said Democratic Representative Zoe Lofgren.

The lawmaker from California told CNN the session will focus on ties between members

of Trump's inner circle and the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers.

Members of the two militia groups stormed the Capitol on 6 January 2021 along with thousands of Trump supporters in a bid to prevent certification of Democrat Joe Biden's election victory.

Jason Van Tatenhove, a former member of the Oath Keepers, is expected to testify at Tuesday's televised hearing, which begins at 1:00 pm (1700 GMT) and is expected to last at least two hours.

Five members of the Proud Boys were indicted on seditious conspiracy charges in June in connection with the assault on the Capitol. Eleven members of the Oath Keepers have also been charged with seditious conspiracy and three of them have pleaded guilty.

More than 850 people have been arrested in connection with the storming of Congress by Trump supporters, but only those 16 face seditious conspiracy charges, which carry a sentence of up to 20 years in prison.—AFP



The House committee investigating the 6 January 2021 attack on the US Capitol is to hold its seventh hearing. **PHOTO: AFP /SERGEY BOBOK**

## RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

## War 'may last longer' than hoped: Dutch PM in Kyiv

THE war in Ukraine may last longer than anyone hoped, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said Monday during a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kyiv.

"This war may last longer than we all hoped or expected. But that does not mean we can sit back and passively watch how it unfolds," Rutte said.

"We have to stay focused and continue to support Ukraine in every way," he added.

On his first visit to Kyiv since Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February, Rutte said his country would supply Ukraine



Ukrainian soldiers unload two FV103 Spartan in eastern Ukraine, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 9 July 2022. **PHOTO: MIGUEL MEDINA / AFP**

with more long-range artillery and an aid package for 200 million euro (\$201 million). Following their meeting, Zelen-

sky on his Telegram channel welcomed the "constructive" talks and the decision to supply weapons to Ukraine.—AFP

## Ukraine's richest man agrees to hand over media empire

UKRAINE'S richest man Rinat Akhmetov said on Monday he will be handing over his entire media empire to the government under a law aimed at limiting the influence of oligarchs in the country.

"This week, Media Group Ukraine will surrender for the benefit of the state all Ukrainian licences of our television channels...as well as print media

licences," Akhmetov said in a statement on the website of the group's holding company SCM.

The 55-year-old billionaire said that his decision was "driven" by the entry into force of a law aimed at "preventing threats to national security associated with excessive influence" of oligarchs, adopted in September 2021. — AFP

## ROLLING UPDATES

## Ukrainian shelling kills seven in occupied Kherson: Russian administration

AUTHORITIES in the southern Ukrainian region of Kherson occupied by Russian forces said Tuesday that Ukrainian shelling on a city there had killed seven people.

"There are already seven dead and around 60 wounded" following artillery fire on Nova Kakhovka, the head of the city's Moscow-backed administration, Vladimir Leontiev, said on Telegram. A deputy head of the occupying authorities in Kherson, Ekaterina Gubareva, also reported seven dead and accused Ukrainian forces of having used HIMARS multiple rocket launchers from the United States. It was not immediately possible to independently verify these claims.—AFP

## Brazilian president unveils deal to import Russian diesel

BRAZILIAN President Jair Bolsonaro on Monday announced his government has reached a deal to begin importing diesel fuel from Russia as part of measures to lower fuel prices at home.

"It is settled. In 60 days diesel can start to arrive in Brazil from Russia," Bolsonaro told journalists from the government headquarters in Brasilia.

The president defended the decision to import Russian diesel, saying it is cheaper than other foreign suppliers chosen by the state oil company Petrobras.—Xinhua

## Japan, US finance ministers to focus on Russian oil cap



The idea of capping Russian oil prices was brought up at a recent summit meeting of the Group of Seven industrialized nations. **PHOTO: AFP**

JAPANESE Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki and US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen will

meet Tuesday in Tokyo, focusing on a cap on the price of Russian oil in response to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

With the price cap likely to limit revenue for the Russian military, Suzuki and Yellen will also discuss steps to curb a surge in energy and food prices propelled by the war in Ukraine, according to the US Treasury Department.

The idea of capping Russian oil prices was brought up at a recent summit meeting of the Group of Seven industrialized nations because such a meas-

ure could put downward pressure on global energy prices.

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

The department is planning to hold talks with major importers of Russian oil, such as India, as well in the following weeks to build a highly effective capping structure. The G-7 and other like-minded countries have imposed sanctions on Russia in the wake of its military aggression in Ukraine in violation of international law.—Kyodo

# Mourners farewell slain ex-PM Abe as funeral held at Tokyo temple



The vehicle carrying the coffin of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe passes in front of the parliament building in Tokyo on 12 July 2022, following his funeral. Abe was fatally shot during upper house election campaigning in Nara on 8 July. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE funeral of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was shot dead while delivering a stump speech last week, was held Tuesday at a Buddhist temple in the heart of Tokyo, with a crowd of people gathering outside the venue while the private ceremony was held.

His wife Akie acted as chief mourner during the service at Zojoji Temple, located at the foot of the capital's iconic Tokyo Tower, and a limited number of people attended, including Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, lawmakers and bereaved family members.

After the funeral, the hearse carrying Abe's body

drove past locations related to Abe's political career, including the prime minister's office, the parliament building and the headquarters of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. People gathered on the roadsides and captured images of the motorcade with their smartphones as it passed.

Before the funeral, members of the public formed long queues outside the temple to offer flowers for the country's longest-serving leader at tables with a photo of a smiling Abe in a white shirt nearby.

Misaki Yoshikawa, who came to pay tribute from Tokyo's Ota Ward, said she re-

members an encounter with the former prime minister at a tourist spot in Yamaguchi Prefecture, where the lawmaker's constituency is located.

Abe approached and shook hands with her, smiling, she said.

"Unlike other politicians, (Abe) was a person who did not make us feel there is a barrier to them," said the 30-year-old, adding she was "deeply shocked" by the veteran politician's death just four days ago.

Stands to place flowers were set up at Abe's office in Shimonoseki, his constituency, as well as at Seikei University in Tokyo, his alma mater.—Kyodo

# French PM survives no-confidence motion in parliament

FRENCH Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne on Monday survived her first no-confidence vote in parliament, which had been sponsored by the hard-left opposition.

The motion, which would have needed 289 yes-votes to pass, was backed by just 146 of the National Assembly's 577 deputies after close to three hours of debate.

The France Unbowed (LFI) party had brought in the motion against Borne, who heads a minority government, but she

appeared out of danger when other opposition parties ruled out backing the initiative even before the vote.

During the debate, the prime minister accused LFI of diverting parliamentary time away from important topics.

"Ladies and gentlemen, today we could be working for the good of the French people," Borne told parliament ahead of the vote.

"Instead, we are debating a no-confidence vote that is based on my alleged intentions, and that

stands in the way of parliament's work and therefore of the wish of the French people," she said.

Borne was appointed by President Emmanuel Macron in May, a month before parliamentary elections in which the ruling centrist party lost its majority.

"We will never accept that someone holds power in this country with their only legitimacy being that they were named by the president," senior LFI lawmaker Alexis Corbiere told the Public Senat channel on Monday.—AFP

# Sri Lanka president near airport as exile rumours spread

SRI Lanka's embattled president was flown to an airbase near the main international airport Monday, officials said, raising speculation he will escape into exile abroad.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the presidential palace in Colombo under naval protection on Saturday, shortly before tens of thousands of protesters overran the compound. Hours later, the parliamentary speaker announced Rajapaksa would resign on Wednesday to allow a "peaceful transition of power".

The 73-year-old leader had taken refuge at a navy facility in the island's northeast, a

top defence official said, adding that he was brought to the Katunayake airbase adjoining the country's main international airport. "He and his entourage were flown back to Colombo in two Bell 412 choppers," the official added.

There was no official word from the president's office about his whereabouts, and several local media reports speculated he was set to leave for Dubai later Monday.

But four commercial flights subsequently took off for Middle Eastern destinations without him, airport officials said.—AFP



Protesters discovered 17.85 million rupees (about \$50,000) in crisp new banknotes at President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's official residence in Colombo. **PHOTO: ARUN SANKAR /AFP**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Northern Ireland's unionists parade amid political uncertainty

NORTHERN Ireland's unionists will parade in their thousands on Tuesday to celebrate the culmination of the pro-UK community's "arching season", as the restive province wrestles with political crisis.

The 12 July "Orange Order" parades, which have long been a flashpoint for sectarian tensions, come with Northern Ireland in its third month without a functioning government following May elections. In London, the resignation as Conservative leader of Prime Minister Boris Johnson has created further instability, as candidates bidding to succeed him stake out positions on post-Brexit trading rules for the territory.—AFP

### Palestinians say US economic push no substitute for peace

AHEAD of Joe Biden's first visit to Jerusalem as US president, Washington's ambassador said his team will "pound tables" to press Israeli officials into making concessions to the Palestinians.

But ambassador Thomas Nides was talking about ensuring Palestinians have access to economic benefits such as 4G internet, not throwing American diplomatic muscle into reviving a peace process moribund since 2014. Biden's first Middle East tour since entering the White House last year begins in Israel on Wednesday, and he is expected to meet Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas on Friday in Bethlehem, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.—AFP

Mourners farewell slain ex-PM Abe as funeral held at Tokyo temple



Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
State Administration Council  
Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, through a disciplined and genuine multiparty democratic system that is fair and just.
- (b) To emphasize the achievement of enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
- (c) To continue implementing the principle of peaceful co-existence among countries through an independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

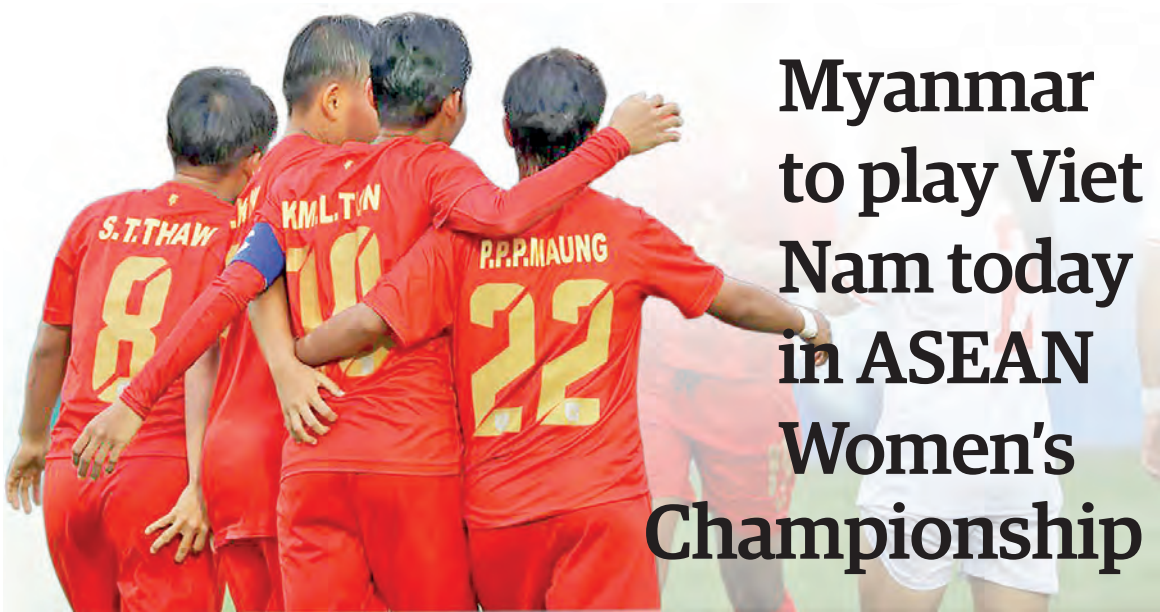
2. Economic affairs

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

- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

- (a) To ensure a strong and dynamic Union spirit, the genuine spirit of patriotism.
- (b) To respect and promote the customs and traditions of all National peoples and preserve and safeguard their cultural heritage and national characteristics.
- (c) To enhance the health, fitness and education quality of the entire nation.



Myanmar women footballers (red) celebrate the victory after beating the Laos team 3-1 in their previous group match of the AFF Women's Championship 2022. PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar  
to play Viet  
Nam today  
in ASEAN  
Women's  
Championship

MYANMAR women's football team will play a decisive match against the Vietnamese team today in the final group match of the ASEAN Women's Championship in Manila, the Philippines.

The match will decide positions in the group as both teams have already advanced to the semifinals of the championship.

Both teams are strong in the ASEAN region and fans are hoping to see a fierce match.

Previously, Myanmar beat Laos 3-1 and Viet Nam won Timor-Leste by 6-0, and both teams are in good shape. For the first time, Myanmar women's team head coach Daw Thet Thet

Win previously used strikers Win Theingi Tun and San Thaw Thaw, who have been sidelined for some time due to injuries.

Captain Khin Malar Tun, Goalkeeper Zu Latt Nadi, Aye Aye Moe, Khin Than Wai, Zun Yu Ya Oo, Myat Noe Khin, Nant Zu Zu Htet, Pont Pont Pyae Maung and July Kyaw were included in the team line-up in previous matches and some of them are likely to participate again in the match against Viet Nam.

The Myanmar vs Viet Nam match will be played at Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila, the Philippines today at 5:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time. — GNLM

Myanmar team's fixtures released for 2022 ASEAN U-18 Women's Championship

THE group matches of the 2022 ASEAN U-18 Women's Championship have been announced and the Myanmar team will compete in the tourney.

A total of nine teams will compete in the tournament.

Host Indonesia, Viet Nam, Thailand, Singapore, and Cambodia are placed in Group A while Myanmar is included in Group B with Australia, Malaysia and the Philippines. The tournament will be held from 22 July to 4 August in Palembang, Indonesia.

Myanmar will take on the Malaysia team on 25 July, the Philippines team on 27 July and Australia team on 29 July respectively.

The Myanmar U-18 women's team has been taking training for the tournament since April and has selected 29 preliminary players.

Head Coach Daw Thet Thet Win will handle the team, which is made up of potential players from state and region youth competitions. ASEAN Football Federation launched ASEAN U-18 and U-19 Women's Championships in 2014.

The competition was not held in later years, and it will be held again for the second time this year. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Former Benfica coach Rui Vitoria takes over Egypt national



Portuguese manager Rui Vitoria will spearhead Egypt's bid to reach the 2026 World Cup. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

EGYPT has named Rui Vitoria, formerly of Portugal's Benfica, as the coach for its national team after Ehab Galal was sacked, according to a statement on Tuesday.

"The Egyptian Football Association has reached a final deal with Portuguese Rui Vitoria to lead the Egyptian national team for the next four years," the association wrote on Twitter.

Egyptian media reports said the Portuguese coach, who led Benfica to the Primeira Liga title in 2016 and 2017, would earn 2.4 million euros annually under the contract.

Former coach Galal was dismissed on 16 June after the Pharaohs slipped to a shock

2-0 defeat by Ethiopia in the qualifiers for the upcoming African Cup of Nations.

His stint lasted a mere two months after taking over from Carlos Queiroz who led Egypt to the AFCON final which they lost to Senegal in February.

Egypt lost to Senegal again under Queiroz in African play-off for a place at this year's World Cup in Qatar.— AFP