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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.

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G-to-G pact for fishery exports benefits both Bangladesh and Myanmar

FOSTERING a government-to-government pact for Myanmar's fishery exports to Bangladesh will benefit both countries in the long term instead of brokers as intermediaries in cross-border trade.

Myanmar earlier sent fishery products such as rohu and groceries to Bangladesh with ten ships per month. A surge in global fuel price affected fishery exports, the offshore fishing sector and the freight forwarding industry. At present, the number of ships to Bangladesh declines due to fuel price spikes and extreme weather conditions. Additionally, the brokers control the exports in border trade with Bangladesh

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A surge in global fuel price affected fishery exports, the offshore fishing sector and the freight forwarding industry. At present, the number of ships to Bangladesh declines due to fuel price spikes and extreme weather conditions. PHOTO: KANU

ARTICLE

Saya Maung Tha Noe: A commemoration of his literary legacy

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Highways Department upgrades 56 roads in Kachin State

KACHIN State Highways Department under the Ministry of Construction has upgraded 56 roads (2,800 miles and five furlongs) long in Kachin State, according to officials.

Up to the 2020-2021 budget year, the 106-miles and four furlongs road was upgraded to 218-miles long Myitkyina-Sum-

prabum-PutaO Road which was formerly an ordinary road type.

The road connects Myitkyina and PutaO in Kachin State.

Starting from the 2017-2018 budget year, the Myitkyina-Bhamo section of the Mandalay-Lashio-Bhamo-Myitkyina Road

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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)



G-to-G pact for fishery exports benefits both Bangladesh and Myanmar

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while the import volume is extremely low. As a result, the fisheries exports dropped.

Goods are officially exported through Rakhine State's border posts with tax payment. On Bangladesh border trade, the brokers run the trade to deliver the goods to markets. There is a bilateral trade flow and cross-border transactions in the border posts with Myanmar's neighbouring countries except for Bangladesh. As import was barely seen at the border posts between Myanmar and Bangladesh, brokers tended to manipulate the currency. This posed transaction difficulties for the traders and fish farmers. Nevertheless, there is no chance for the brokers to handle currency for now owing to currency policy changes. That is why border trade flow slightly decreased.

Bangladesh is ready to purchase Myanmar's live cattle, timber and other goods besides fishery products and other dry goods. As trade will be carried out with ships of above 4,000 DWT (deadweight tonnage), the G-to-G pact will generate revenue for both countries, strengthen cross-border trade and improve seaborne trade.

Last June, Rakhine State government met the Consul of Bangladesh in Sittway city regarding a direct export gateway for Myanmar's fishery products and other goods instead of brokers as intermediaries and the G-to-G agreement to directly export the goods to Bangladesh's districts. The further discussion between the two counterparts is slated to take place after 20 July. – Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Highways Department upgrades 56 roads in Kachin State



The photo shows an aerial view of one upgraded road in Kachin State.

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has been upgraded to 62 miles and seven furlongs long AC road under the supervision of the Kachin State Highways Department.

Officials said that the remaining part of the 116 miles long road will be upgraded next depending on the budget allotment.

Similarly, 47.5 miles long Momauk-Kyauksakhan-Seinlon-Lweje Road is being upgraded to an AC road type with the efforts of a BOT Company under the supervision of the Kachin State Highways Department.

When completed, the road will facilitate the flow of goods between Kachin State and China.

Next, officials are planning to upgrade the 53 miles and three furlongs long Mogaung-Karmong-Phakant Road with the cooperation of public and private companies. —Kayan Soe Myint/ GNLM

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*

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.)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs responds to the tweet by Mr Peter Vowles

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has observed that a Twitter post by Mr Peter Vowles from the British Embassy in Myanmar on 13 July 2022 citing the reason for his departure from Myanmar does not turn out to be true and is far from reality. The Ministry wishes to recall that following the proposal made by the UK Government to appoint Mr Peter Vowles as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 29 April 2021, the Myanmar Government has accorded the agreement to the proposed appointment on 22 June 2021. Upon his arrival in Myanmar on 29 July 2021, for various reasons, Mr Peter Vowles as an Ambassador-Designate failed to present his true copy of credentials to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and his credentials to the Head of State as per the diplomatic practices.

Given the above reasons, the Ministry placed restrictions on his entry visa. In the meantime, the UK side informed that the UK government was withdrawing the proposed appointment of Mr Peter Vowles as British Ambassador to Myanmar, and he will serve as Chargé d’Affaires ad interim of the British Embassy in Yangon. The Ministry, therefore, informed the UK side to nominate another person in place of Mr Peter Vowles as Chargé d’

Affaires of the British Embassy in Yangon as the Myanmar Government had already accorded agreement to the proposed appointment of Mr Peter Vowles as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Afterwards, upon request by the UK side, the Ministry granted permission for Mr Peter Vowles to return to Myanmar to collect his personal belongings from

21 June 2022 to 15 July 2022. As such, Mr Peter Vowles left Myanmar before his visa expired. It is observed that Mr Peter Vowles intended to serve as British Ambassador in Myanmar without presenting his credentials violating the well-established diplomatic ethics and Codes of Conduct. In this regard, Mr Peter Vowles had to leave Myanmar as the Myanmar Government has acted following diplomatic practices as a sovereign state. — MNA

MoTC Union Minister inspects Diesel Locomotive Factory (Ywahtaung), Myitnge Carriage and Wagon Factory, Zeepingyi-PyinOoLwin route

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San inspected the Diesel Locomotive Factory of Myanma Railways in Sagaing Region yesterday. During the visit, the Union minister provided instructions regarding the work completion on time, the security system and the welfare of staff. The Union Minister then looked into the training courses conducted in the factory compound, practical section and workplace. He went to Ywahtaung Home for the Aged and donated cash after providing the necessary things. He then visited Ywahtaung Railway Hospital and inspected

the medical services for staff and family members, medicines and medical supplies. The Union minister and party then inspected Myitnge Railway Hospital and provided cash to the patients. On arrival at the Myitnge Carriage and Wagon Factory of Myanma Railways, the Union minister urged all those responsible to build modern carriages in the future with their own techniques, purchase the materials at home using Myanmar kyats, and import essential materials, take care of the staff’s welfare, security and occupational safety. The Union minister also inspected Concrete Sleeper Factory (Myitnge) and stressed the need to



Union Transport & Communications Minister Admiral Tin Aung San inspects the Diesel Locomotive Factory in Sagaing Region.

meet the fixed standard. He then inspected Zeepingyi railway station with RGC, and then the PyinOoLwin railway station on Mandalay-Lashio railway section. — MNA

11 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 14 July, total figure rises to 613,784

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 613,784 after 11 new cases were reported on 14 July 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 592,700 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,434 without more casualties.—MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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

Myanmar National Flag to hoist at half-mast on 75th Martyrs’ Day

THE State Administration Council has informed all government offices and organizations to hoist the Flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at half-mast across the country, and MRTV national television channels to sound sirens at 10:37 am to commemorate the fallen leaders as a symbol of grief, on 19 July, Tuesday 2022 (75th Martyrs’ Day). At that time, vehicles on road must stop for a while and honk their horns too, it is learnt. — MNA

MoNREC Union Minister makes inspection tours in Ayeyawady Region



MoNREC Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi inspects round the ironwood plantation.

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Maung Yi accompanied by officials met the chief minister and the region natural resources minister at the Ayeyawady Region government office in Patheingyi Township of Ayeyawady Region yesterday morning.

The meeting focused on the improvement of forest coverage, conservation of forest reserve, protection of mangrove ecosystem and biodiversity, the continuation of the establishment of tree-planting in forests and along roads and streets and firewood plantations as well as environmental conservation.

The Union minister con-

tinued inspection tours to a 350-acre commercial ironwood plantation in the Thalakhwar forest reserve, heard reports and gave necessary instructions on thriving of plantations. In addition, he viewed round the plantation.

Afterwards, the Union minister met officers and staff from the Department of Environmental Conservation. The Union minister called on officials concerned to conduct human resources development programme. He urged attendees to adhere to employee ethics, law and bylaws for achieving longterm missions and visions of the ministry. — 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, Dhammazed Road from U Wizara-Dhammazed Junction, Dhammazed 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, 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 Bandoolla 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

Famous pianist Sandaya Tin Win Hlaing passes away at 77

ACADEMY Awards winner pianist U Tin Win Hlaing passed away at 1:20 am on 14 July.

The 77-year-old pianist died of lung and kidney diseases at Royal Asia Hospital in Yangon.

He lived at No 218/B (5) A on Pyay Road, Myaynigon (South) Ward, Sangyoung Township, Yangon.

"Ba Ba, I wish I could be your nephew that you love most in the next life," singer Aung Aye Chit, nephew of the deceased pianist posted on his Facebook.

Pianist U Tin Win Hlaing won the first academy award for Best Song in "Kye Sin Maw Kun" movie at the 2013 Myanmar Academy Awards and the second one for Best Song in "40 Days in Kunlong" at the 2017 Myanmar Academy Awards.

He was born of U Myo Hlaing and Daw Tin Thin Hlaing, owners of the Padaytha Gramophone House and Tailoring Company opened at No 618 on Maha Bandoolla Road, formerly Dalhousie Road, in 1946. He is the second child out of three siblings.

"At that time, although there were foreign-owned gramophone companies earlier than Padaytha, the Padaytha was the one owned by Myanmar citizens," he said during an interview with The Myanmar Times in 2017. He attended Yangon Arts and Sciences University from 1967 to 1978 and got his Master's degree majoring in Myanmar. He was an alumnus of St. Paul's School.

He married singer Kyi Kyi Win and had two daughters. He was a member of the classic/modern music board of MRTV, a member of education board at the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) and a part-time professor for a post-graduate diploma course for Music.

He started learning to play the piano at the apartment on 42nd street where the Padaytha family lived in. His piano teacher was Maung Chit Swe, a musical prodigy Pianist Chit Swe.

He learnt to play the piano at 5 and won many prizes in competitions at 13. He served as an assistant for Alinka Kyawswa Saya Shwe Pyi Aye in recording soundtracks for movies at 18 and was named Sandaya Tin Win Hlaing later.

He played the piano with Playboy, LPJ and Electronic



Machine bands spending about 20 years in the stereo field, and introduced Myanmar traditional music to international countries. He taught Myanmar music at the Tokyo Art University of Japan. He also played music and delivered speeches at Music Universities in Japan and England. He made his own tune Myanmar classical song and the "Chan Myae Par Say" song received the greatest achievement.

The piano icon's funeral will be held at the Yeway Cemetery at 2 pm on 16 July. — Soe San Ko/GNLM

Both domestic petrol and palm oil prices fall

THE wholesale reference price of petrol and the base price of palm oil in Yangon fell on 14 July 2022, from the previous week, according to the market.

On 14 July, the wholesale and retail prices per litre were K1,693 and K1,785 for Octane 92 Ron; K1,767 and K1,860 for Octane 95 Ron; K2,100 and K2,205 for Diesel; K2,156 and K2,260 for Premium Diesel.

On 7 July, the wholesale and retail prices per litre were K1,741 and K1,835 for Octane 92 Ron; K1,857 and K1,955 for Octane 95 Ron; K2,090 and K2,195 for Diesel; K2,119 and K2,225 for Premium Diesel.

On 6 July, the wholesale and retail prices per litre were K 1,970 and K 2,070 for Octane 92 Ron; K 2,090 and K2,195 for Octane 95 Ron; K2,270 and K2,380 for Diesel; K2,297 and K2,410 for Premium Diesel.



Therefore, compared to the prices on 7 July, the prices of Octane per litre dropped by between K50 and K100 on 14 July and the prices of diesel were higher by K10 and K40, depending on the type of diesel. However, compared to the prices on 6 July, the wholesale prices of Octane dropped by around K300 and the

diesel prices dropped by K150 respectively on 14 July.

Similarly, the Yangon-based wholesale prices of palm oil have dropped from K5,815 to K4,650 per viss between 11 and 17 July.

According to foreign oil market price reports, the price of palm oil was \$143.39 per metric ton on 9 June and \$90.95 per

metric ton on 13 July, and it is less likely to rise since the world's two largest exporters of palm oil, Malaysia and Indonesia, are having high domestic oil reserves, as well as due to increased oil production and the approaching harvest of palm oil.

In the oil market outside Yangon, the wholesale price was

K8,000 per viss on 11 July and around K7,400 on 13 July.

On 14 July, wholesale oil was sold at K7,600 per viss in Meiktila, according to oil seller Ko Tun Ko.

As the price is more likely to fall, palm oil sales have risen, so much as that oil sales car with a notice saying K4,750 per viss can be found. — TWA/GNLM

Authorities publish requirements for visitors to 75th Martyrs' Day ceremony and monuments



Red Cross workers are seen providing healthcare services on the 73rd Martyrs' Day. **FILE PHOTO**

AUTHORITIES have released requirements for the visitors to the 75th Martyrs' Day celebrations and memorials, including the Martyrs' Mausoleum, Secretariat (Former Ministers' Office), and Bogyoke Aung San Museum.

Elderly people with chronic diseases and symptoms such as coughing, fever, shortness of breath, and exhaustion, are strictly prohibited from attending. In addition, visitors will be required to take their temperature and register their contact information. Only people with an ID card will be allowed to enter the memorial places.

Visitors will also be required to comply with the regulations of the Ministry of Health if they are found with COVID-19 symptoms. — TWA/GNLM

Two State-owned fertilizer factories produce urea fertilizers

THE State-run No 4 Fertilizer Factory (Myaungtaga) and No 5 Fertilizer Factory (Kangyidaunt) that suspended operations for three months have now resumed as usual and will produce urea fertilizer for farmers, according to the Ministry of Energy.

Two factories were suspended from March to May and resumed operations starting on 13 July, according to the statement of the ministry.

They will produce 300 tonnes of urea fertilizers per day, respectively. A total of 600 tonnes of fertilizers will be sold to farmers by the

Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development and the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) through the MRF network.

The fertilizer distribution leading committee imported 75,000 tonnes of urea fertilizers for the first time in June and distributed them to 291 shops in 139 townships of 11 regions/states under the full payment system.

The government imports 98 per cent of fertilizers for local consumption and the price of fertilizer ranges between K92,000 and K95,000 per bag in Yangon, farmers said. — TWA/GNLM



No 4 Fertilizer Factory (Myaungtaga)

Preparation of Martyrs' Mausoleum completed for 75th Martyrs' Day ceremony



An aerial view of the Martyrs' Mausoleum at the corner of West Shwegondine and Arzani Road.

THE Engineering Department of the Yangon City Development Committee has completed the preparation of the Martyr's Mausoleum located at the corner of West Shwegondine Road and Arzani Road in Bahan Township.

The preparation was made to make the mausoleum ready to host the upcoming (75th) Martyrs' Day ceremony which falls on 19 July. The department started the preparatory works on 1 July and renovated the mausoleum square and the courtyard, drainage work and Graphic Board preparation, maintenance of the building connected to the mausoleum, and fence repair.

The preparation work on the mausoleum, including the painting work, is almost finished, and greening around the mausoleum, improving water flow near Thway Say Kan, and installation of lights on big trees, are ongoing. At the beginning of the work, the floor of the mausoleum was cleaned first, and the Martyrs' Mausoleum was repainted, it is reported. — TWA/GNLM

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



A student in Moenyo Township in Bago Region gets COVID-19 vaccine shot on 14 July.

camp and over 12-year-old students, respectively.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 8,655 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 3,520 people from ten townships in Rakhine State, 2,580 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, and 86 people from Toungoo Township in Bago Region, respectively.

Similarly, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 71 30,721 students from twenty-six Townships in Ayeyawady Region, 6,746 students from eleven townships in Rakhine State and 281 students from Moenyo Township in Bago Region.

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

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, ammonium nitrate, consumer goods, and vehicles 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 team led by the head of the Lashio Township Customs Department conducted inspections on 8 July.

They confiscated K61,482,500 worth of clothes and consumer goods without

official documents from an Isuzu truck (approximately K16 million), a Nissan Condor truck (approximately K19 million) and a Hino Ranger truck (approximately K23 million). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, a combined team under the supervision of the Kachin State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force made inspections at the Nantsiaung combined checkpoint on 12 July.

Officials seized 1,760 kilo-

grammes of restricted precursor chemicals – Ammonium Nitrate – worth K1.76 million from a 12-wheel truck heading from Mandalay to Mohnyin township. The action was taken under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Afterwards, a total of 9.1748 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K3,785,364 were captured in Mindon, Kamma and Natmawk townships under the management of the Magway Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, on 14 July, a total of illegal teak timber worth K989,076 was seized in Bago and Thayawady districts under the supervision of the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

The action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) combined checkpoint seized K3 million worth of 100 gas stoves that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a truck. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures. Therefore, 13 cases of seizure (approximately K129,016,940) were made on 8, 12 and 14 July, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA



Narcotic drugs impounded in Sittway, Tachilek and Monghsat Townships



Two arrestees are pictured along with confiscated drugs and a motorbike.

ON 13 July at 6:30 pm, 7,000 stimulant pills were confiscated from a house of Ma Aye Thein while the combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force made inspections at the 2nd Hospital Street, Sinkulan Ward in Sittway Township.

Similarly, a combined task force stopped and searched a motorbike driven by Aung Moe (aka) Aung Mya Htet at Shankwin Road, Saykham Ward in Tachilek Township and impounded 6,000 stimulant tablets from him at 5 pm.

In the same way, a combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force conducted inspections at the Monghsat-Tachilek Road near Parbaw Village of Mepulon Village-tract in Monghsat Township and seized 2,500 psychotropic pills from a motorcycle driven by Pouk Ke accompanied by Ma Nar Shee Ti, at 9 pm.

The suspects are being prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the MPF stated. — MNA

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Maize, beans and pulses exporters need recommendations from association

MYANMAR Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association has notified the member companies of export recommendation requirements to seek an export licence for exports of corn, various beans and pulses, according to a notification released on 14 July.

Starting from 1 July, the Ministry of Commerce has been issuing the export licences of maize, various beans and pulses for normal international seaborne trade settlement in US dollars. The Department of Trade is directed to grant an export licence with the recommendations from the association. The ministry instructed the association on 13 July to scrutinize each applicant for the exports via sea trade and grant export recommendations.

Those interested companies can apply for recommendations at Shwe Zabu River View Complex: 23G-1, No.3B, Tower (A & C), Ground Floor, Strand Road, Ahlon Township, Yangon,

filing the necessary documents. They must submit a soft copy in Excel File format according to MPBMSMA-Export Licence Endorsement to the association through ed@mpbmsma.org in advance.

The association will screen the applicants after assessing the request letters and documents in line with the decisions of the executive meeting of the association (3/2022) held on 11 July and export recommendations will be forwarded to the Trade Department. Exporters can seek a licence through Myanmar Trade Net 2.0 <https://myanmartrade.net.com> by completing the relevant form.

Export licence processing might be delayed due to the incomplete form and scrutinizing procedures to find out limited export companies in line with the rules of the Central Bank of Myanmar and the ministries concerned. The association requested the companies to avoid cargo loading before they receive export licences. — NN/GNLM

Mixed-cropping avocado with conjac increases profitability of growers in Pinlaung Township



Experimental mixed-cropping of avocado plants with conjac reap fruitful results for the growers in Naungpi village-tract, Pinlaung Township of the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone in southern Shan State.

EXPERIMENTAL mixed-cropping of avocado plants with conjac reap fruitful results for the growers in Naungpi village-tract, Pinlaung Township of the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone in southern Shan State, said a local grower.

“Perennial avocado plants can be mixed-cropped with other crops during the early plant growth. The growers generate more income from mixed-crop-

ping. I am so delighted with the successful cultivation on a trial run,” said a grower.

Avocado is delivered to Yangon, Myawady, Mandalay and Aungban commodity depots. The fruits are also exported to neighbouring countries. The elephant foot yams are placed in the market after the drying process. Experimental mixed-cropping of avocado with conjac raised the profitability of

the growers. Cultivation of yam is cost-saving. We have plans to increase the production if the size of conjac is large, he continued.

The dried conjac is priced at K9,000-11,000 per viss depending on the different sizes. The fresh yam of large size fetches K3,000-4,000 per viss and the prices of dried conjac stand at K7,000-9,000 per viss. — Khun Aung (Naungtaya)/GNLM

Areca nut price hits over K6,000 per viss on low inventory

THE price of areca nut jumped to over K6,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) on low inventory, according to the areca nut market.

The prices of areca nuts were estimated at K4,500-5,400 per viss in May. The prices slightly rose to K5,100-6,100 per viss in end-June.

Only the warehouse owners keep the stock of dried areca nuts in their hands. The low inventory pushed up the prices.

Normally, dried betel nuts were primarily exported to India. At the moment, betel nut exports to India have plummeted amid security concerns on the Kalay-Tamu trade route. Consequently, dried areca nut dealers are mainly relying on the domestic market, traders stressed.

Starting from April, China’s demand has made tender areca nut fruit market bustle, hiking the price from K30 to over K60



Normally, dried betel nuts were primarily exported to India. At the moment, betel nut exports to India have plummeted amid security concerns on the Kalay-Tamu trade route.

per piece. Traders are interested in selling tender areca nut fruits rather than dried areca nuts.

Generally, the mature betel nuts are placed on the market after the drying and processing stages. The prevailing price of

dried areca nuts is K30 per piece. Meanwhile, the tender areca nut fruit is offered K35 at a minimum exclusive of additional charges for processing. This way, the farm owners focus on the sales of young areca nut fruits.

Myanmar’s areca nut fruit market has become widespread. The commodity depot of areca nut fruits emerged in the producing states and regions (Rakhine, Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi and Ayeyawady regions).

The brokers do a roaring trade with the competitive pricing. The brokers go down to farms and buy areca nut fruits from 17-18-g sized fruits to over 30-g sized fruits.

Earlier, Myanmar harvested only mature areca nut fruits and only the dried areca nuts were delivered to the market. Nonetheless, coronavirus impacts in 2020 and political changes in 2021 hindered some business operations. Therefore, the farm owners expressed a keen interest in the harvest of ripe betel nut fruits on the back of China’s demand with high prices. The market grows this way and farm owners make a handsome profit at present.

Nonetheless, dried betel nut production is likely to drop in future. With the possible foreign market demand receiving, the prices of dried betel nuts are expected to go up, the traders observed. — NN/GNLM

Expand sown acreage of oil crops for local oil sufficiency

The use of cooking oil plays a crucial role in the forms of daily consumption as well as the daily cooking process. The majority of the people in Myanmar have been primarily using the cooking oils extracted from sesame and groundnut since yore. However, as the export volume of sesame and groundnut seeds is on the rise, local farmers emphasize the cultivation of sunflowers in order to contribute to the sufficiency of oil for domestic consumption.

Everybody needs 2.25 ticals of oil per day for individual consumption. However, most people consume a large volume of cooking oil more than the daily need, causing oil deficiency. Hence, the people need to reduce individual oil consumption while extending the sown acreage of edible oil crops such as groundnut, sesame, sunflower, niger, canola, soybean, horse gram and oil palm but it is necessary to seek the solution for the supply of cooking oil to meet the local demand.

Currently, all people need to reduce oil consumption for saving family costs as well as building healthy families while contributing to the production of cooking oil from various kinds of oil crops including sunflower on expanded sown acres.

lands throughout the nation. Sunflower plants will be primarily cultivated in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady regions and Shan State.

This year, it is expected that expansion of sown acreage for sunflower plants to ensure local oil sufficiency would contribute much to an increase in crop growing capability, especially for sunflower plants. In this regard, local farmers need to buy quality seeds of sunflower from the Department of Agricultural Research, the Department of Agriculture and seed production farmer organizations in order to raise the per-acre yield of crops.

Currently, all people need to reduce oil consumption for saving family costs as well as building healthy families while contributing to the production of cooking oil from various kinds of oil crops including sunflower on expanded sown acres.

Saya Maung Tha Noe: A commemoration of his literary legacy

By Dr Myint Zan



MAUNG THA NOE is well known for introducing modern poetry into Burmese literature circles in the 1960s. PHOTO: M.FACEBOOK.COM

SAYA Maung Tha Noe (6 May 1919-12 July 2022) has passed away at the age of ninety. Though it is a sad occasion one can take solace and indeed commemorate his life and achievements that he had lived nearly as long as other distinguished Burmese writers. Selectively they would include (in terms of longevity) the late Sayamagyi Daw Kyan (100 or 101 years), the late Sayagyi Maung Htin (U Htin Fatt) (96 years) the late Sayagyi Minthuwan (U Wun, 95 years), the late Sayagyi Dagon Taryar (U Htay Myaing) (94 years), the late Sayamagyi Ludu Daw Amar (92 years).

A leading pioneer of colloquial Burmese writing style

Saya Maung Tha Noe's literary career started in the city of Mandalay and the University of Mandalay.

In December 1965 Maung Tha Noe (hereafter 'MTN') presented a paper at a seminar held at the *Dhamma Beikman* building in Mandalay. He proposed that the formal writing style should be complimented (though perhaps not displaced) by the adoption of colloquial (spoken) Burmese. At that time, the proposal was quite radical. Soon thereafter a few Upper Burma writers began to write in this direct, fresh and innovative writing style of 'colloquial' (so to speak) Burmese. The late U Kyaw Yin, then Rector of the University of Mandalay, famously stated around 1966 that 'Wherever the elephant goes it is bound to become a path'. ဆင်းသွားရင် လမ်းဖြစ်တယ် The implication is that if people adopt a particular writing style it would establish a trend. Among the Mandalay writers, the late historian Dr Than Tun (1923-2005) and the late writer Ludu U Hla (1910-1982) changed their writing styles from formal to colloquial. The late Ludu Daw Amar

(1915-2008) switched to the colloquial writing style later than her husband Ludu U Hla. But switched she did and the books published by her after 1966 including but not limited to the biographies of artiste *Shwe Mann Tin Maung* (published 1970) and literary and political figure, *Sayagyi Thakin Ko Daw Hmaing* (1976) were written in direct, effective and colloquial writing styles. So was *Anyeint* ('Street theatre') (first published 1973). Though Daw Amar's *Artistes Loved by the People* ပြည်သူချစ်သော အနုပညာသမီးများ written in formal literary style won the 1964 National Literary Prize none of her subsequent landmark works on Burmese culture, arts and artistes won any national literary prizes. This is deplorable. The reason for non-awards was the dogmatic assumption by the then national literary prize-awarding committees that 'colloquial writing style' is not 'pure literature' စာပေမဟုတ်

Saya Maung Tha Noe was awarded the National Literary Award for Lifetime Achievements in the year 2017. All of his writings in the Burmese language post-1965 are in the colloquial style. Is that a retrospective indication that those who write in colloquial styles deserve such accolades?

At least two of the books written in colloquial Burmese by my late mother Professor Dr Myint Myint Khin (15 December 1923- 19 June 2004) on AIDS လုပ်ရိုးအတွက်ထိုးတဲ့ခေါင်းလက်ခဲး('The Bell that tolls for everyone') and on 'Myanmar Food for Longevity and Health' သက်ရှည်ကျန်းမာပြန်မအစားအစာ reached the last stage of consideration for the national literary prizes. The committees declined the awards because they were written in colloquial styles and according to them colloquial writing styles are not 'proper literature'. The late writer ဆရာဝန် (Dr) Tin Shwe requested my late mother to write in formal Burmese style. My mother replied to Dr Tin Shwe that she did not write to get national literary prizes but to let her messages mainly on health and education matters spread to as many as possible in the most effective and direct way.

Dr Myo Thant Tin, a national literary award winner, told my mother around 2004 that, at that time, the literary award committees were anxious to preserve the formal written style and not to let it 'disappear' မျောက်သွားမှာမို့လို့ When I told MTN that conversation he replied bluntly 'so what if it disappears?' မျောက်သွားတော့ဘာဖြစ်လိမ့်

I might add that more than 56 years after MTN proposed the colloquial style quite a few writers have switched to writing colloquially. Personally, though, it is 'jarring' for me to see a mixture of colloquial and formal writing styles alternate on the same page and sometimes in the same sentence. There are a few good writers who wrote in a formal mellifluous writing style like Sarpay Beikman U Aye Maung (1914-2002) and Saya Paragu (1921-2011) and

those who write in a clear, colloquial language like the late Ludu Daw Amar and Maung Tha Noe himself. But quite a few wrote and still continue to write in mixed styles.

Political shifts of Maung Tha Noe: from opposition to the Vietnam war (the mid-1960s) to support of the United States in the 2003 Iraq war

Around the mid-1960s MTN composed a series of poems with the generic title of *Ma Lin Byar* poems. They were political poems written mainly in opposition to the 'imperialistic United States' အမေရိကန်နယ်ချဲ့ involvement in the Vietnam war.

Fast forward from around 1964 to around 2003. In 2003 MTN told me privately that the *Ma Lin Pyar* (anti US poems) were written when he was foolish and foolhardy ရှုထုန်းဝိုက်တုန်းက ရေတာတာ

The late MTN had publicly also stated that he was wrong in his former left-wing political views. MTN told me in 2003 that he supported the US-led war against Iraq 2003 since it was, he said in English 'humanitarian ...' then he paused. When I added 'intervention' MTN also said 'intervention'.

I have heard that Ludu Daw Amar had expressed her regrets that Maung Tha Noe had changed his political stance. MTN was, in the 1960s, among the Ludu coterie လူငယ်ခွဲတော်သား which in the 1960s unanimously opposed the Vietnam war and 'the American imperialists'. Had MTN's political views shifted to 'the right'? When we met in 2003 (the same time MTN stated to me that he supported the US-led 2003 war against Iraq) he also said that the late journalist *Oway U Nyo Mya* (1914-1985) was politically right-wing. In his 'Teapot Discussion' လက်ဖက်ရည်ကြမ်းခွဲတော်သား columns between 1969 to 1972 in the long-defunct *Oway Journal* U Nyo Mya writing under the pseudonym Maung Thumana published several articles on the Vietnam war. Manifestly, Maung Thumana did not vociferously oppose the United States' role in the Vietnam war as his university classmate Ma Amar (Ludu Daw Amar) and the Ludu coterie did. But Maung Thumana was not a supporter of the US role in the Vietnam war either. If U Nyo Mya were to come back to the year 2003, would he be 'right-wing' enough to support the Iraq war?

Maung Tha Noe as a student activist in the early 1950s

Now, back from the early years of the 21st century and the mid-1960s to the early 1950s. In October 1953 MTN was a 21-year-old student activist who together with (among others) the late writer Maung Tha Ya (1931-2016) were involved in student strikes that occurred in

that month and year. Around 20 years later in 1972, Maung Tha Ya published a book titled in translation *Do you dare to be stung [by bees]* တူတုတ်ခံပုံမခံပုံ. In that narrative presented as a novel Maung Tha Ya gave himself the pseudonym 'Htun Naung' and Maung Tha Noe as 'Tee Kyi'. MTN visited the United States in 2004 to participate in the University of Iowa writer's programme. I do not know whether or not the student activists of 'yore' (in the year 1953) MTN and Maung Tha Ya met over 50 years later in America.

Snippets of controversies and disputes with other writers

In his long literary career, MTN has had disputes, on literary matters, with other writers.

I recall that MTN had a dispute with the late Tekkatho Min Maw. If my memory serves me right, the back-and-forth articles critiquing each other's philological (ဘာသာဗေဒ) concepts took place around 1973 or 1974 in the now defunct ရှုမဝ *Shumawa* magazine.

MTN has also critiqued another literary figure whose name is mentioned at the start of this article. The late Maung Htin published his well-known novel ဘာ *Ngaba* in 1946. The story about the travails and misadventures of a naïve Burmese peasant especially during the war years and immediately following the Second World War has been translated into Japanese and other languages. *Ngaba* has also been made into a movie. In the presence of the late Saya Dagon Taryar (1919-2013) MTN told me around 2005 that since Maung Htin had Chinese ancestry a few passages in *Ngaba* were (for want of a better expression) anti-Burmese. I have read the novel several decades ago. I do not recall any passages which can be construed as 'anti-Burmese'. Apparently, both Maung Htin and MTN were on the airwaves of foreign radio broadcasts on this matter. Dr Aung Gyi (born 1953) a medical doctor-writer told me that he had heard Maung Htin (who also wrote satire and humour stories) stated on the radio as to why MTN was so much against him since they were not 'competitors for the same girl (lover)'! ရှင်စားလုလင်လည်းမဟုတ်ပါဘူးလို့ (Maung Htin is about 23 years older than MTN).

I have read an article by MTN also in which he critiqued the writer the late (medical) doctor Dr Kyi Aye who spent the last few decades of her life in the United States. MTN critiqued Kyi Aye's novel titled *Tiring (or Tiresome) Home-coming* နွမ်းလျက်ပြန်ရန်. In an ironic renaming of Kyi Aye's novel, MTN's critique was given the title *Tiresome Kyi Aye*.

In personal conversations, MTN has also stated that the late Burmese-American historian Dr Michael A. Aung-Thwin was confused

between the partly Pali-based word *Kamma/ Karma* (Sanskrit) and ကာမရာဂ *Karma Yaga* (lust). MTN did not say whether Michael Aung-Thwin made that mistake in a speech, conversation or in published articles or personal letters.

Learning a few philological concepts and disagreeing with MTN's translation of the word 'God' into (part) Burmese

I have learned a bit of philology from Saya MTN. He stated that the months in the calendar such as January should not be transliterated as ဂျန်နဝါရီ *Jan na war ri* but should be adapted as ဇန်နဝါရီ *Zan nar war ri*. Likewise, the month of June should not be ဟွန်လ *Jun la* but ဇွန်လ *Zun La*. I thank MTN for pointing that out. Currently in television broadcasts and in written publications 'Russia' is transliterated as ရုရှား *rat shar*. Though now the usage of *rat*



Maung Tha Noe was conferred the lifetime literary achievement award in 2017.

shar is prevalent the better expression is the Burmese adaptation which is ရှား *ru sha*. I trust that Saya MTN would have agreed.

I respectfully disagree with MTN's suggestion that 'God' or 'the Deity' should be translated as ဒေဝိ *Deva Dayuwa* which is, one supposes, of Pali origin. It was perhaps Saya Yudathan (Dr Adoniram Judson) (1788-1850) who about 200 years ago first used the term ထာဝရဘုရားသခင် *Htawara Phaya Thakin* for 'God' or 'Deity'. That term is very much familiar to and has been used by Burmese Christians and non-Christians alike for about two centuries. It also fits in well and captures the meaning embodied (or 'incarnated') in the translated English word 'God'.

A Glimpse at only a few of the literary works of Maung Tha Noe

As I write there are two books by Maung Tha Noe on my desk. One is a translation of

Sophie's World by Jostein Gaarder. It was published in July 2002. On the front page, Saya had written (in English) 'To Maung Myint Zan', signed it and dated 24 XII 03 (24 December 2003). Another is the part translation (from English not from the original Japanese) and part commentary of a 17th-century Haiku poet and his poetry. It was published in June 2003. I just finished reading the booklet about the Japanese Haiku poet Matsuo Basho (1644-1694) and Seishi Yamaguchi Seishi (1901-1994) and an hour after Maung Tha Noe passed away and before I knew of his passing through social media. I have not read his translation of *Sophie's World* (after all these years!).

I have read quite a few of his other books though including English translations of the late poet Tin Moe's poems *Songster in a Boat* လှေတစ်စင်းနဲ့ ခရီးသည် first published in 1963. I have also read English or foreign poems he translated into Burmese with brief explanations in MTN's နိုင်ငံခြား ကဗျာစာမူ (*Appreciating Foreign Poems*) which was perhaps published in the mid to late 1990s.

I gave a presentation on 17 December 2003 at the 50th anniversary of the Myanmar Historical Commission conference. Coincidentally that day was the 730th anniversary of the day of the death of Sufi poet Jalaluddin Rumi (1207-1273) on 17 December 1273. In my presentation, I compared a poem of Rumi with two religious poems of the Anglican poet George Herbert (1593-1633) and Burmese poet Zaw Gyi (1907-1990) respectively. Among others, Saya Maung Tha Noe and a few elderly literati attended my presentation. Saya MTN told me that he had first heard about Rumi from me. He told me he had bought a few books about Rumi in English when he visited the United States in 2004. I understand that MTN has translated and published with commentaries at least one book dealing with Rumi's poetry. I am pleased to have contributed to the corpus of MTN's literary output.

I last met Maung Tha Noe in November 2017 at the National literary awards ceremony where he was conferred the lifetime literary achievement award. He gave a speech for himself and on behalf of two others who also were recipients of the same award that year. In his speech, Sayagyi Maung Tha Noe repeated himself quite a few times. Taking his age into account this is understandable. He repeatedly stated တချင်းများတစ်ပါး ('Read a lot'). Saya Maung Tha Noe had read and written a lot in his literary career which spanned about seven decades. He had passed away but his literary legacy is of such significance that it deserves a respectful commemoration.

Western Europe heatwave to peak in scorching Spain



Two women use fans to fight the scorching heat during a heatwave in Seville, Spain. PHOTO: AFP

THE heatwave sweeping across southwestern Europe was expected to peak on Thursday in Spain, with blistering temperatures already fuelling wildfires across the Iberian Peninsula and France.

The region's second heat this summer is forecast to hit southern Spain with some of the harshest temperatures.

"For Thursday, we expect it to be the hottest day of this heatwave," said Spain's state meteorological agency AEMET.

The valleys around three major rivers — the Guadiana, Guadalquivir and Tagus — will experience temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit), it said.

Most of Spain went on high alert Wednesday, and AEMET said some regions were "suffocating" -- especially worst-affected Andalusia in the south, Extremadura in the southwest and Galicia in the northwest.

The health ministry told people to drink plenty of fluids,

wear light clothes and stay in the shade or air-conditioning.

The Andalusian city of Almonte saw the mercury hit 45.6 degrees Celsius at 5:30 pm (1530 GMT) on Wednesday.

Several other southern cities such as Seville and Cordoba recorded temperatures above 44C.

In western Spain near the border with Portugal, forest fires have already razed at least 3,500 hectares (8,600 acres). —AFP

Record temperatures in Shanghai as heatwave bakes China

SHANGHAI roasted under some of its hottest temperatures ever recorded on Wednesday as a searing heatwave in China triggered a flurry of weather alerts and strained the farming and energy sectors.

Swathes of the northern hemisphere have sweltered under extreme heat this week, with France and Britain set to endure soaring temperatures on Wednesday as firefighters in western Europe battle forest blazes.

China has also suffered extreme weather this summer, with record floods last month forcing hundreds of thousands of people out of their homes while other regions have simmered in road-buckling heat.—AFP

Flood anniversary prompts sadness and soul-searching in Germany

GERMANY will on Thursday remember more than 180 people killed in severe floods a year ago, as concerns mount over climate change and the country looks to overhaul its planning for future disasters.

President Frank-Walter Steinmeier will embark on a tour of the Ahr valley, while Chancellor Olaf Scholz will attend a memorial event in the hard-hit town of Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler.

A series of events are also planned in neighbouring Belgium, where 39 people were killed in the deluge.

Severe floods pummelled parts of the German Rhineland over two days in July last year,

ripping through entire towns and villages and destroying bridges, roads, railways and swathes of housing.

Between 100 and 150 millimetres of rain fell between 14 and 15 July, according to the German weather service — an amount that would normally be seen over two months.

Forecasters had issued warnings, yet many residents were simply unaware of the risks of such violent flooding, with dozens found dead in their cellars.

The disaster prompted criticism of Germany's flood warning system and a criminal inquiry was opened into local officials for "negligent homicide".

The government has since pledged to introduce phone alerts in the form of "cell broadcasting" and to reinstall sirens, many of which have been taken down in recent years.

'Major failures'

Introducing a new disaster management plan on Wednesday, Interior Minister Nancy Faeser admitted there had been "major failures over the past years and decades".

The government is planning a new annual civil protection day from 2023 to raise awareness of how to respond in a disaster and "make our country more crisis-proof", Faeser said.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Former bosses of Fukushima operator ordered to pay \$97 bn damages

A Tokyo court Wednesday ordered former executives from the operator of the devastated Fukushima nuclear plant to pay 13.32 trillion yen (\$97 billion) for failing to prevent the disaster, plaintiffs said. Four ex-bosses from the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) were ordered to pay the damages in a suit brought by shareholders over the nuclear disaster triggered by a massive tsunami in 2011. Plaintiffs emerged from the Tokyo court holding banners reading "shareholders win" and "responsibility recognized".—AFP

Pacific looks to international court for help on climate

CLIMATE-threatened Pacific islands are pushing for the International Court of Justice to throw its weight behind efforts to arrest climate change, with the initiative gaining support at a key regional summit in Fiji Wednesday. The Pacific nation of Vanuatu is spearheading a campaign to ask the Hague-based tribunal "to protect the rights of present and future generations against the effects of climate change". Vanuatu's Foreign Minister Marc Ati told AFP on Wednesday that he was confident leaders from neighbouring islands, including Australia and New Zealand, would endorse the push at this week's Pacific Islands Forum in the Fijian capital Suva.—AFP



Germany is experiencing a north-south divide when it comes to weather this week, with southern regions seeing sweltering heat. PHOTO: AFP

China to stop testing some imports for Covid

CHINA will stop testing some imported goods for Covid-19, its national health commission said, as Beijing struggles to balance its insistence on zero-Covid with fears of economic slowdown.

The last major economy committed to stamping out domestic spread of the virus, China has swabbed and disinfected overseas shipments since 2020 and has often blamed imports for resurgent outbreaks.

The restrictions on imported goods had previously created a bottleneck for some products — in one instance requiring thousands of tonnes of tropical fruit to languish at the border with Vietnam while drivers waited to be allowed into China. Non-refrigerated items, including shipments of coal, mineral ore, foodstuffs and animal feed can now enter Chi-

na without being swabbed for Covid-19, the National Health Commission (NHC) said in a statement on Tuesday, although certain “high-risk” items must still be disinfected.

The NHC said the decision was intended to “ensure the stability of the industrial and supply chains” and noted that “under room temperature conditions the novel coronavirus can only survive for a short time on the surface of most objects”.

Refrigerated and frozen imports will continue to be tested under current rules. Scientists say there is little evidence that coronavirus carried on objects like cold-chain products can infect humans, although the United States’ CDC recommends disinfecting surfaces that have been touched frequently by Covid patients.—AFP



China’s National Health Commission says the decision was intended to ensure the stability of the industrial and supply chains and notes that under room temperature conditions, the novel coronavirus can only survive for a short time on the surface of most objects. **PHOTO: AFP**

Novavax Covid-19 vaccine authorized for use in US

THE US Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday authorized Novavax’s Covid-19 shot for use in people aged 18 and over, expanding Americans’ options for vaccination against the disease.

The vaccine — which is produced by an American company — is already available in dozens of other countries. Just three Covid shots, two of them based on messenger RNA technology, have been previously authorized in the United States.

The emergency authorization of the Novavax vaccine “of-

fers adults in the United States who have not yet received a Covid-19 vaccine another option that meets the FDA’s rigorous standards for safety, effectiveness and manufacturing quality,” the FDA’s commissioner Robert Califf said in a statement. Administered in two doses three weeks apart, the Novavax vaccine uses a more conventional technology than the mRNA shots, which have been the subject of numerous conspiracy theories, though they have been proven to be safe.—AFP

Japanese firms more loath to invest in China amid “zero-COVID” policy

JAPANESE companies have become more reluctant to expand investment in China, criticizing the Communist-led government’s radical “zero-COVID” policy, including the frequent imposition of lockdowns in major cities, as a political risk.

China’s tough restrictions on people’s movements, which have disrupted domestic supply chains for more than two years, have prevented Japanese firms from mapping out their business strategies in the world’s second-biggest economy with a population of 1.4 billion.

Many Japanese enterprises have also been eager to reduce their staff in China, given that the country’s strict quarantine requirements, even for those not infected with the novel coronavirus, adversely impact mental health.

Even if they are well, people in China are forced to quarantine for at least seven days once



A woman undergoes a PCR test in Shanghai on 13 July 2022, while carrying a parasol under the scorching sun, as the mercury exceeds 40 C. **PHOTO: KYODO**

they are designated as close contacts of virus carriers. Such people are confined to their homes under strict surveillance by the health authorities.

In Shanghai, China’s commercial and financial hub, stringent quarantine rules prohibited drivers from delivering goods during the two-month lockdown that began on 28 March, making it difficult for residents to obtain adequate supplies of food and daily necessities.

“As long as the zero-COVID policy is in place, we cannot craft a management strategy,” said Tadashi Sato, a 57-year-old employee of a Japanese food product company operating in China, adding, “We just have a country risk here.”— Kyodo

Death toll from COVID-19 surpasses 200,000 in Britain

MORE than 200,000 COVID-19 deaths have been recorded across Britain, showed the latest data released Wednesday from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The grim milestone has been reached in late June, but not revealed until Wednesday due to a delay in registration. Up to the start of July, a total of 200,247 COVID-19 deaths have occurred, the ONS said. The figures include deaths due to COVID-19 as well as those involving the virus. In the week ending 1 July 2022, 11,828 deaths were registered in Britain, 12.1 per cent above the five-year average (1,278 excess deaths), said the ONS.

By early January 2021, more than 100,000 COVID-19 deaths had been registered nationwide. It has taken more than a year and a half for the death toll to double, with vaccination uptake, better understanding of how to treat the virus and social distancing measures all contributing to fewer deaths, said British newspaper The Guardian.

According to figures from Our World In Data, as of 12 July, Britain has one of the highest COVID-19 death tolls in Europe, with a death rate of about 2,689 per million people, compared with a rate of 2,295 deaths per million people for Spain, 2,230 for France and 1,704 for Germany.

The country’s excess mortality rate is also higher than other European averages which stand at 2,070 per million people, more than twice that of Germany’s which stand at 1,110.

With testing no longer free, data on cases is provided mainly through the ONS weekly infection survey, which showed in the latest release the percentage of people testing positive for coronavirus continued to increase across Britain, likely caused by increases in infections compatible with Omicron variants BA.4 and BA.5.— Xinhua



A pedestrian wearing a face covering walks past a sign for a walk-in Covid-19 testing centre in Blackburn, north west England on 16 June 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

ECONOMY
WORLD

China growth slumps on virus lockdowns, real estate woes: poll



An aerial view of a residential compound in China. PHOTO: CFP/XINHUA

CHINA'S economic expansion slumped in the second quarter to levels not seen since early 2020, an AFP poll of analysts found, owing to painful Covid lockdowns and lingering weakness in the real estate sector.

Leaders of the world's second-biggest economy remain firmly wedded to a zero-Covid approach of stamping out clusters as they emerge, but the fallout has sapped growth and is pushing policymakers' annual target of around 5.5 per cent out of reach.

The slowdown comes after the country's biggest city Shanghai was sealed off for two months over a virus resurgence — snarl-

ing supply chains and causing factories to shut — while dozens of others grappled with tightened rules to fight local outbreaks.

Gross domestic product is estimated to have expanded 1.6 per cent on-year in April-June, according to the AFP poll of experts from 12 financial institutions.

Several analysts expect the economy to shrink on a quarterly basis — a first since 2020 at the height of the pandemic.

According to key gauges, activity in both the services and manufacturing sectors contracted in April and May, said Rabobank senior macro strategist Teeuwe Mevissen.—AFP

Supply risks still haunt market despite high oil prices: IEA

HIGH oil prices have yet to dampen demand which is set to continue rising and may soon outstrip supply, the International Energy Agency warned Wednesday.

It cautioned that the global economic recovery could be derailed unless governments take measures to reduce consumption and fuel prices that pose a threat to stability in some nations.

“Without strong policy in-

tervention on energy use, risks remain high that the world economy falls off-track for recovery,” the Paris-based agency that advises industrialised nations on energy policy said in its latest monthly report on oil markets.

Oil prices have surged from around \$80 per barrel earlier this year to over \$120 at times as Russia's invasion of Ukraine has sparked supply concerns and the reopening of China's econo-

my from Covid lockdowns has boosted demand. If high petrol prices have started to dent demand in industrialized nations, the IEA said this has been counterbalanced by larger-than-expected rebounds in demand by China and some emerging and developing nations.

The IEA now expects oil demand to rise this year to 99.2 million barrels per day (mbd) and to 101.3 mbd next year.—AFP



Rumaylah oil field, near the port city of Basra, southern Iraq. PHOTO: HUSSEIN FALEN /AFP/FILE

Yen falls to fresh 24-year low vs. dollar, lifts stocks

THE yen fell to the 138 line versus the US dollar Thursday morning as a stronger-than-expected US consumer price index raised prospects of aggressive rate hikes by the Federal Reserve, while the weakening yen sent Japanese stocks higher.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average rose 185.43 points, or 0.70 per cent, from Wednesday to 26,664.20. The broader Topix index was up 3.07 points, or 0.16 per cent, at 1,891.92.

On the top-tier Prime Market, gainers were led by farm and fishery, marine transportation, and electric appliance issues.

At noon, the dollar fetched 138.02-03 yen compared with 137.38-48 yen in New York and 137.04-05 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm

Wednesday. The euro was quoted at \$1.0020-0024 and 138.30-36 yen against \$1.0053-0063 and 138.18-28

yen in New York and \$1.0032-0034 and 137.48-52 yen in Tokyo late Wednesday afternoon.—Kyodo



A financial data screen in Tokyo shows the dollar hitting the 138 yen level on 14 July 2022. PHOTO: KYODO

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU gives Croatia green light to join euro in 2023

EU finance ministers on Tuesday gave Croatia the final green light to adopt the euro single currency on 1 January 2023.

“I would like to congratulate my counterpart, Zdravko Maric, and the whole of Croatia for becoming the 20th country to join the euro area,” said Zbynek Stanjura, the finance minister of the Czech Republic, which holds the EU's rotating presidency.

Croatia's switch from the kuna to the euro in 2023 will come less than a decade after the former Yugoslav republic joined the European Union and will set a new milestone in the bloc's further integration.—AFP

Yellen says Russia's war in Ukraine 'greatest challenge' to global economy

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Thursday that Russia's war in Ukraine posed the “greatest challenge” to the global economy, as G20 ministers prepare to start talks in Indonesia. “The international community must be clear-eyed about the economic and humanitarian consequences of his (President Vladimir Putin's) war.”—AFP

Philippine central bank hikes rates for third straight month

THE Philippine central bank announced a surprise interest rate hike Thursday, raising borrowing costs for the third straight month and warning more could follow as officials try to rein in surging energy and food prices.

The move follows similar increases around the world as war in Ukraine and supply disruptions fan inflation and increase the financial strain on households and businesses.

Bank governor Felipe Medalla, who was appointed recently by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, said the monetary board had agreed to raise its key rate by 75 basis points to 3.25 per cent, effective immediately.

Overnight depos-



People shop at a supermarket in Manila, the Philippines on 5 September 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA/ROUELLE UMALI

it and lending facilities were increased by the same amount to 2.75 per cent and 3.75 per cent respectively.

“By taking urgent action, the monetary board aims to anchor inflation

expectations further and temper mounting risks to the inflation outlook,” Medalla said.

“In particular, policy action is intended to help manage spillovers from other countries that could

potentially disanchor inflation expectations.”

The central bank, which had been due to review its monetary policy in August, has now raised rates by 125 basis points since May. —AFP

China to have nine of top 20 container ports: forecast

CHINA is expected to have nine of the world’s top 20 container ports by the end of this year, according to a forecasting report released by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

Among the top 20 ports, the Shanghai port will have the most throughput capacity in 2022, the China Science Daily quoted the forecast as reporting on Wednesday, adding that most of China’s container ports hold growing demand for shipping services, includ-



Aerial photo taken on 18 March 2020 shows the container dock of Yangshan port in Shanghai, East China. PHOTO: XINHUA

ing the Ningbo-Zhoushan port, as well as ports in Qingdao and Tianjin. The transportation quantity of containers is affected by

many factors. Compared with regression analyzes and econometric models, the researchers regarded the global ports as a

whole system, taking into account the global economy, trade situations, and shipping industry development, said Wang Shouyang, director of the CAS’ Centre for Forecasting Science, which released the report.

Although the global container transport industry is slowing down in 2022, China’s container transportation remains as a foundation for the stable global development, CAS professor Xie Gang was quoted as saying.—Xinhua

China’s digital yuan transactions hit 83 bln yuan in first 5 months

TRANSACTIONS of China’s digital fiat currency, the e-CNY, hit 83 billion yuan (about 12.33 billion US dollars) by the end of May this year, the country’s central bank said

Wednesday.

A total of 264 million digital yuan transactions were undertaken during the period, Zou Lan, an official from the People’s Bank of China, said at a

press conference.

By 31 May, nearly 4.57 million commercial outlets were available for digital yuan payments, Zou said.

Zou said that the

central bank will further expand the scope of its pilot programmes, strengthen pilot scenario construction, and enhance international cooperation. —Xinhua

Netflix partners with Microsoft to offer cheaper streaming plan

NETFLIX will work with Microsoft to launch a cheaper subscription plan that includes advertisements, the firms said Wednesday, as the streaming giant fights to attract customers.

Netflix opted to develop the lower-cost offering after a disappointing first quarter in which it lost subscribers for the first time in a decade, and after years of resistance against the very idea of running ads.

The ad-supported subscription will be in addition to the three options already available, the cheapest being \$10 per month in the United States.

Microsoft will be responsible for designing and managing the platform for advertisers who want to serve ads to Netflix users.

“It’s very early days and we have much to work

through,” Greg Peters, Netflix’s chief operating officer, said in a statement.

Microsoft added that advertisers “will have access to the Netflix audience and premium connected TV inventory”.

Adding advertising means Netflix will expose itself to some thorny issues, including debates around consumers’ personal data being harvested on a massive scale to target them with more lucrative, personalized pitches.

Analysts were not surprised by Netflix’s choice in Microsoft because it offers fewer conflicts of interest for Netflix than some other companies.

“Unlike the top three ad sellers in Google, Meta, and Amazon, Microsoft hasn’t pushed competing streaming products,” wrote analyst Ross Benes.—AFP

Crypto platform Celsius files for US bankruptcy

CRYPTOCURRENCY investment platform Celsius announced on Wednesday that it had filed for bankruptcy in the US, a month after it froze withdrawals from its platform, in the latest sign of an industry in turmoil.

In its statement, Celsius, which suspended withdrawals in mid-June, said it was seeking to restructure in a way that would maximize value for all stakeholders, and said it had \$167 million of cash available to meet urgent needs in the meantime.

Without the freeze on withdrawals, “the acceleration ... would have allowed certain customers — those who were first to act — to be paid in full while leaving others behind to wait,” the special committee of the Celsius board of directors was quoted in the state-

ment as saying.

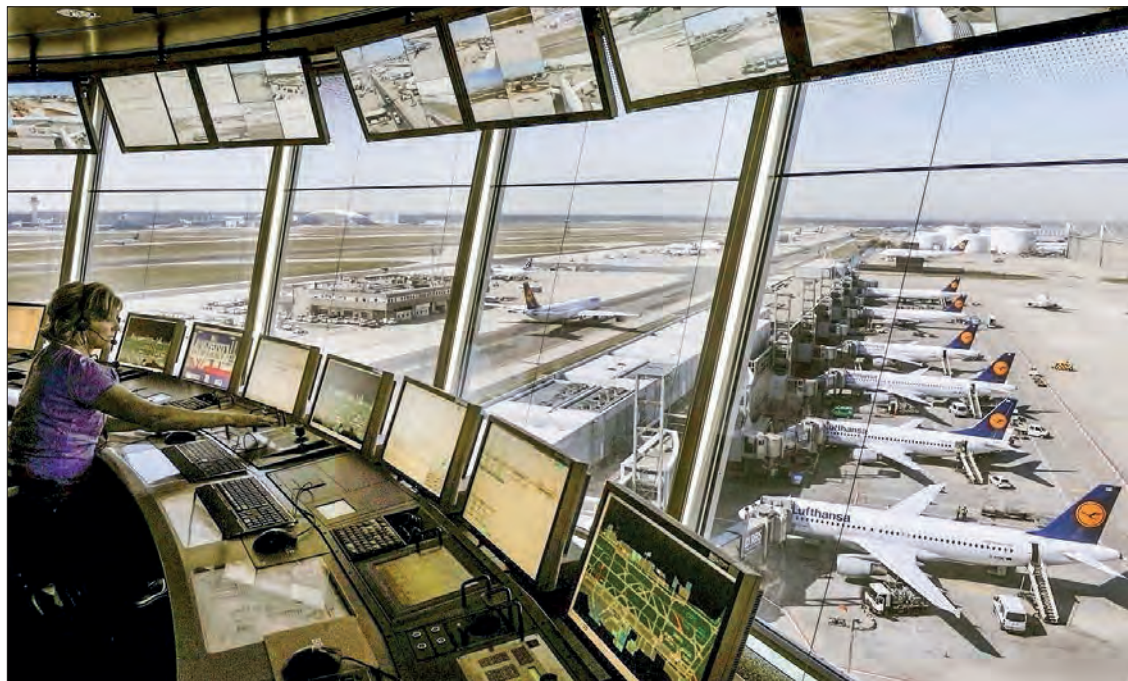
In the United States, Chapter 11 allows a company that is unable to pay its debts to restructure away from its creditors, while continuing its current operations. “This is the right decision for our community and company,” said Alex Mashinsky, co-founder and CEO of Celsius.

“I am confident that when we look back at the history of Celsius, we will see this as a defining moment, where acting with resolve and confidence served the community and strengthened the future of the company.”

Last week, cryptocurrency lending specialist Voyager Digital also filed for bankruptcy. Other companies have suspended withdrawals, such as CoinFlex and Babel Finance, due to a lack of cash.—AFP

GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

Frankfurt Airport records strong June as travel chaos continues



In June, passenger volume hit a new high since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, but still remained 24.1 per cent below the pre-crisis level seen in June 2019. **PHOTO: THOMAS LOHNES /DAPD/XINHUA**

PASSENGER numbers at Frankfurt Airport, Germany's largest, almost tripled in June year-on-year to 5 million people amid the ongoing travel chaos across Europe, operator Fraport AG said on Wednesday.

In June, passenger volume hit a new high since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, but still remained 24.1 per cent below the pre-crisis level seen in June 2019, according to Fraport.

"We are pleased that people are eager to travel again," Stefan Schulte, chief executive officer (CEO) of Fraport AG, said. "This demonstrates the strong momentum driving air travel demand."

Like other airports in Europe, Frankfurt is experiencing

staff shortages this year. Many airlines and airports laid off staff because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all but bringing air traffic to a complete standstill. The industry is currently hit by a fresh wave of Omicron cases.

Due to "poor punctuality for ensuring connectivity", many re-bookings and re-dispatches were necessary, a Fraport spokesperson told Xinhua on Wednesday. With the current understaffing, these could only be processed step by step. The personnel situation "affects the entire industry in Europe". More and more pieces of delayed luggage, thousands in fact, are piling up at German airports, according to a recent survey conducted by the dpa press agency. —Xinhua

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

N. Korea, Ukraine cut relations over Russia-backed separatist regions

NORTH Korea has formally recognized the Moscow-backed, self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk republics in eastern Ukraine, state-run media reported Thursday, prompting Kyiv to cut diplomatic relations with Pyongyang. North Korea has become the world's third nation to recognize the independence of Donetsk and Luhansk. In response, Ukraine, which was invaded by Moscow in February, has lambasted the country founded in 1948 with the backing of the Soviet Union, Russia's predecessor state. "We consider this decision as an attempt by Pyongyang to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine" as well as the UN Charter, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on its website.

North Korea has been trying to deepen ties with Russia and China, as the nation's negotiations with the United States over denuclearization and sanctions relief have been at a standstill for more than two years.

The Soviet Union and China were competitors during the Cold War and were at odds over interpretations and practical applications of Marxism-Leninism, the ideology of 20th-century communism.—Kyodo



Pedestrians walk past banners reading 'World - Help us' during a trip of European leaders in Kyiv. **PHOTO: LUDOVIC MARIN/AFP/AFP**

Russia and Ukraine address grain crisis in first talks since March

RUSSIA and Ukraine on Wednesday held their first direct negotiations since March in a bid to break an impasse over grain exports that has seen food prices soar and millions face hunger.

The high-stakes meeting involving UN and Turkish officials in Istanbul broke up after slightly more than three hours without the participants speaking to the press.

The stakes could not be higher for tens of millions of people facing the threat of

starvation in African and other poor nations because of the battles engulfing one of the world's main grain-producing regions.

Ukraine is a vital exporter of wheat and grains such as barley and maize. It has also supplied nearly half of all the sunflower oil traded on global markets.

But shipments across the Black Sea have been blocked by Russian warships and mines. Kyiv has laid to avert a feared amphibious assault.—AFP

Kyiv sounds alarm over war-ravaged nature, EU vows aid

THE war in Ukraine has destroyed forests, polluted fields and filled them with mines, and contaminated water, a Kyiv official told EU environment ministers who pledged help on Wednesday.

At an informal EU meeting in Prague, which holds the rotating EU presidency, Ukrainian Environment Minister Ruslan Strilets said the Russian invasion had damaged three million hectares of

Ukrainian forests. Ukraine has also registered at least 260 cases of "ecocide" and more than 2,000 cases of environmental damage, while 20 per cent of the country's protected areas are under threat.

"For example, if a rocket comes to a national park, where we had a forest, and when 1,000 hectares (10 square kilometres) of forest are burned by the fire, we think that it's ecocide," Strilets told AFP.—AFP

Gazprom says no guarantee Nord Stream pipeline will work

GAZPROM started 10 days of maintenance on the Nord Stream 1 pipeline on Monday, with the EU—particularly gas-reliant Germany—waiting nervously to see if the taps will be turned back on.

The turbines are currently undergoing maintenance at a

Canadian site owned by German industrial giant Siemens.

"Gazprom does not have a single document to allow (German company) Siemens to take out of Canada the gas turbine engine currently being repaired there," the company said in a statement

Wednesday. "In these circumstances, it is not possible to draw an objective conclusion about the development of the situation and ensuring the safe operation of the Portovaya station—a critical facility for the Nord Stream gas pipeline."—AFP

US, Israel to sign security pledge as Biden visits Jerusalem



US President Joe Biden and Israel's Prime Minister Yair Lapid will sign a security "declaration" on Thursday affirming their united front against Iran, an American official said, as Biden holds bilateral talks in Jerusalem.

"This declaration is pretty significant and it includes a com-

A woman walks past a poster, part of a campaign organized by Israeli rights group B'Tselem, in the West Bank city of Bethlehem, where Biden is due to meet Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas on Friday. **PHOTO: AFP**

mitment to never allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon and to address Iran's destabilizing activities, particularly threats to Israel," said a Biden administration official, who requested anonymity.

Biden touched down at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv on Wednesday for the first Middle East tour of his presidency, which will see him meet Israeli and Palestinian leaders before flying to Saudi Arabia.

Lapid, Israel's caretaker leader ahead of an election in

November, had previously said Iran would top the agenda in his talks with the US president.

The declaration they sign would reaffirm "unbreakable bonds between our countries and expanding on the long standing security relationship between the United States and Israel", said the US official. An Israeli official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the document was "going to be a living testimony to the unique quality, health, scope, depth and intimacy of the US-Israel relationship."—AFP

NEWS AT A GLANCE

Solomons says foreign base would make it a military target

SOLOMON Islands will not host a foreign military base because the nation would be targeted for "military strikes", Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare said Thursday, as Pacific leaders grappled with China's security ambitions.

The Solomons leader is attending the Pacific Islands Forum summit, the first gathering of the bloc since his country signed a security agreement with China – details of which have not been made public. China's security pact with the Solomons sparked concern in the Pacific region that it may lead to Beijing setting up a permanent military presence on the island, despite both countries denying such a plan.—AFP



25 November 2021: Australia is sending peace keeping troops to the Solomon Islands, as riots rocked the capital city of Honiara for a second day. **PHOTO: CPL BRANDON GREY/AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE /FILE**

Remains of 8,000 Nazi war victims found in Poland

A mass grave containing human ashes equivalent to 8,000 people has been discovered near a former Nazi concentration camp in Poland, the country's Institute of National Remembrance said on Wednesday. The institute, which investigates crimes committed during the Nazi occupation of Poland and the communist era, said the remains were unearthed near the Soldau concentration camp, now known as Dzialdowo, north of Warsaw. Nazi Germany built the camp when it occupied Poland during World War II, using it as a place of transit, internment and extermination for Jews, political opponents and members of the Polish political elite.—AFP

Sri Lanka protesters to end occupation of official buildings

SRI Lanka's anti-government demonstrators said Thursday they were ending their occupation of official buildings, as they vowed to press on with their bid to bring down the president and prime minister in the face of a dire economic crisis.

Protesters overran President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's palace at the weekend, forcing him to flee to the Maldives on Wednesday, when activists also stormed the office of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Rajapaksa had promised to resign on Wednesday, but there was no announcement he had done so.

The premier, whom Rajapaksa named as acting president in his absence, had demanded the evacuation of state buildings and instructed security forces to do "what is necessary to restore order".

"We are peacefully with-



Activists on Wednesday stormed the office of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe. **PHOTO: AFP**

drawing from the Presidential Palace, the Presidential Secretariat and the Prime Minister's Office with immediate effect, but will continue our struggle," a spokeswoman for the protesters said.

A top Buddhist monk supporting the campaign had earlier called for the more than

200-years-old presidential palace to be handed back to authorities and ensure its valuable art and artefacts were preserved.

"This building is a national treasure and it should be protected," monk Omalpe Sobitha told reporters. "There must be a proper audit and the property given back to the state."—AFP

First voting held in race to replace Boris Johnson

SIX candidates remain in the running to replace UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson after Wednesday's first round of voting, the Conservative Party announced, with finance minister Nadhim Zahawi and former foreign minister Jeremy Hunt eliminated.

Rishi Sunak, who quit as Chancellor for the Exchequer last week to trigger Johnson's

downfall, leads the pack with the support of 88 Tory MPs, followed by Penny Mordaunt, on 67, who polling shows is most popular with the party membership that will ultimately decide the race.

Earlier on Wednesday Johnson held his penultimate Prime Minister's Questions.

"I will be leaving soon with my head held high," Johnson said.

Praising his government's economic record, he added: "One of the consolations of leaving office at this particular time is that vacancies are at an all-time high."

Under the election schedule, Johnson's successor as Conservative leader is meant to be announced on 5 September, as the party seeks to rebuild its popular support after he was felled by non-stop scandal.—AFP



Myanmar national women's football team pose for a group photo. PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar to play Thailand today in AFF Women's Championship semifinal

MYANMAR women's football team will play against the Thai team in the semifinal of the ASEAN Women's Championship in Manila, the Philippines today.

Team Myanmar's match will begin at 2:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time, while Viet Nam will also take on the Philippines in the other semifinal match to be held at 6:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time. The Myanmar team finished in second place after the group matches, so they had to play against Thailand, who finished first in the other group.

Myanmar and Thailand met

in the group stage of the 31st SEA Games in Viet Nam in May 2022 and drew one goal each.

The Myanmar team beat Timor-Leste 7-0, the Cambodian team 3-0, and the Philippines by three goals to one while losing to Viet Nam by four goals in the final group game.

The Myanmar team had already qualified for the semi-finals before the match against Viet Nam, and since they had to play the semi-finals with only a day's rest after the match against Viet Nam, they only used substitute players in the match against Viet

Nam for the line-up players to play to their full strength in the semifinal.

The Thai team, which will play against the Myanmar team, did not lose in the group matches. The Myanmar team has reached the final of the 2015 ASEAN Women's Championship.

In later years, the team was just pleased with the semi-finals stage and is aiming for a place in the finals this year.

Myanmar women's team won the ASEAN Women's Championship titles in 2004 and 2007. – Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

- (a) To enhance production based on agriculture and livestock through modern techniques and strengthen all-round development in other sectors of the economy.
- (b) To develop a stable market economy and promote international investment in order to enhance the economic development of the entire National people.
- (c) To promote and support local businesses to create employment opportunities and increase domestic production.

3. Social affairs

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

Justin Rose withdraws from British Open with back injury

ENGLAND'S Justin Rose withdrew from the 150th British Open just ahead of his scheduled tee-time in Thursday's first round, organisers announced. The world number 50 pulled out due to a back injury, the R&A said in a brief statement, adding that he would be replaced by Rikuya Hoshino of Japan.

Hoshino took Rose's place in a group with Tommy Fleetwood and Italy's 2018 Open champion, Francesco Molinari, that went out at 8:14 am (0714 GMT). "On the fourth hole yesterday during my practice round, I made a swing with my driver and started to feel pain in my lower back," Rose posted on Twitter on Thursday.—AFP

Yangon, Myawady bag consecutive wins in MNL Week-3

YANGON United and Myawady FC got sweet victories in the Week 3 of the Myanmar National League 2022. Myawady beat GFA FC 4-2 on 13 July. In the opening match of the season, Myawady lost to Yangon United, but they won against ISPE and GFA.

GFA tried to win their first match but conceded three goals in the first half. Both teams played with all their core players to win, and the Myawady team scored consecutive goals in the first half and managed to control the game. Thet Wai Moe scored the first goal for the Myawady team in the 5th minute and Kaung Si Thu scored the second goal in the 31st minute.

Near the end of the first half, the Myawady team had to take a penalty kick and goalkeeper Tun Nanda Oo made no mistake. The Myawady team was led by three

goals at the end of the first half.

In the second half, the GFA team increased their attacking power to get revenge. In the 78th minute, the match was in-

tense as Than Aung scored an equalizer

To e t h e from t h e penalty spot.

The GFA team tried to score an equalizing goal, but the fourth winning goal that ensured the victory of the Myawady team was scored by Ye Moe Yan in the 85th minute.

In the match held on 14 July, the Yangon team won

against the Rakhine team by one goal. The Yangon team won three games in a row, but they had to play hard due to the struggle of the Rakhine team, and Yangon star player David Htan's late goal changed the team's result.

Rakhine team has changed coach before this match due to two consecutive defeats and it was the first match under new head coach U Kyaw Lwin. Both teams came out with a full set of strong players. Yangon started to attack from the beginning of the match but the Rakhine team systematically prepared their defence. Rakhine managed to control Yangon's attack for more than 80 minutes but lost in the 87th minute with an icebreaker scored by David Htan over an assist of Kyaw Min Oo. After the third match, defending champions Shan United and Yangon are at the top with nine points in three wins.—Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



A Yangon United player (white) dribbles the ball during the Myanmar National League Week-3 match against Rakhine United on 14 July 2022. PHOTO: MNL