

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.

Civil servants to be provided with housing rental fees



CIVIL servants (permanent) will be provided with housing rental fees, according to the decision at the State Administration Council’s economic committee meeting 6/2022 headed by the Prime Minister on 22 July.

Under the scheme, married civil servants will receive eight per cent of their basic salary, while single civil servants will be allowed four per cent starting from August 2022. The details will be released on 25 July Monday. The State Administration Council has been granting cash assistance, including this provision, to civil servants, totalling 26 kinds of rewards in accord with the era.

—MNA

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the SAC meeting 6/2022 on 22 July 2022.

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Forex rate gap and need for export licence pose difficulties for bean traders

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Myanmar’s Response to the politically motivated report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict

IT is observed that the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict was released on 11 July 2022 and an annual open debate on the report was held at the United Nations Security Council on 19 July 2022.

It is disappointed to note that based on recent domestic political developments in Myanmar, Tatmadaw was relisted in the annexe of the report in 2021 although it was delisted in 2020. This year’s report contains specific country situations including Myanmar, wherein multitudes of figures are found to be dubious. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the United Nation’s Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UNCTFMR) failed to verify the numbers and alleged cases contained in the report with Myanmar despite that the United Nations personnel are required to perform their functions transparently and impartially.

The report only includes numbers without specifying any incident, while downplaying the massive killings committed by the so-called CRPH and PDFs by stating those responsible terrorists as “unidentified perpetrators”. Due to the violence committed by the NUG and PDFs terrorist groups, 76 children lost their lives and 27 hospitals and clinics, and 504 schools and educational buildings were destroyed across the nation.

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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

endurable 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

Passengers can purchase flight tickets in MMK: MNA

MYANMAR National Airlines Travel Fair 2022 from 25 July to 1 August for its loyal customers will organize the Monsoon Online



MONSOON

ONLINE

TRAVEL FAIR

15% TO 20% DISCOUNT ON FLIGHT TICKETS

25 JULY - 1 AUGUST 2022
(TRAVEL PERIOD 27 JULY 2022 - 17 APRIL 2023)

ADDITIONAL BENEFIT:
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SPEND & WIN!
Up to \$600 worth of flight tickets to be won!

Give back * 2 * Boarding Passes of International Flights (Round Trip) & Get * 20% Discount * Domestic Flight One Way Ticket (Excluding Tax)

to buy flight tickets at 15 to 20 per cent discounts.

The travel period for the tickets bought during the Travel Fair will be between 27 July and 17 April 2023. The travel date of these tickets can be changed one time for free before 29 October.

After Travel Fair, the airlines will conduct lucky draw programmes to provide air tickets for 10 passengers out of all passengers and the winners can choose their favourite destinations.

The passengers can give back two boarding passes of international round trip flights dated between 27 July and 10 August before 30 September and get a 20 per cent discount on domestic flight one-way ticket.

The passengers can purchase flight tickets through the MNA website www.flymna.com, mobile application, MNA ticketing counters and authorized travel agents in both USD and MMK currencies. — MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

1. The State Administration Council has transferred and appointed Dr Aung Kyaw Thin, Rector of Bhamo University of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education, as Rector of Monywa University of the same ministry from the date he assumes charge of his duties.	
2. The State Administration Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.	
Name	Appointment
(1) U Thein Swe	Director-General Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection Ministry of Industry
(2) Dr Phyu Phyu Win	Director-General Department of Research and Innovation Ministry of Science and Technology
(3) Dr Kyaw Shwe	Rector University of Medicine-1 (Yangon) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health

Myanmar's Response to the politically motivated report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict

FROM PAGE-1

The Government of Myanmar has committed to preventing grave violations against children as a State party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Accordingly, the State Administration Council has continued the work of the Committee for Prevention of Grave Violations against Children in Armed Conflict and reconstituted the Committee on 21 July 2021. The Second National Action Plan on the Prevention of Killing, Maiming and Sexual Violence against Children in Armed Conflict (2022-2023) is at the stage of finalizing after the completion of the first National Action Plan implemented from (10.8.2020) to (10.8.2021).

In addition, Myanmar signed the Joint Action Plan with the UNCTFMR in 2012 to prevent the recruitment and use of children. The Committee on Prevention of Underage Recruitment was formed under the chairmanship of the Union Minister of Defence in 2011 and it used to work closely with UNCTFMR. Although the Committee has maintained its work with the UNCTFMR, the latter chose non-cooperation. The Committee, however, managed to convene a meeting with the UNCTFMR on 3 May 2022.

Myanmar has continued its work with or without the support of the United Nations. On 13 May 2022, 28 underage individuals were handed over to their parents

since they were unintentionally recruited in the Tatmadaw due to insufficient documentation to identify their ages. From 2012 to May 2022, a total of 1,057 underage individuals were discharged from the Tatmadaw and punitive actions were taken against 475 responsible military personnel (109 officers and 366 other ranks). The report fails to fairly reflect these factual things.

It is further observed that Kyaw Moe Tun, a dismissed civil servant who has been facing a charge of high treason, participated in the said meeting and made a misleading statement. Myanmar registered its objection against his participation with the United Nations and rejects his statement which does not represent the country.

As such acts by the United Nations will never bring any positive outcome but become increasingly politicized that is directly contrary to the principles of the United Nations, Myanmar categorically rejects unfounded allegations contained in the report and one-sided remarks made by certain countries.

Committee for Prevention of Six Grave Violations against Children in Armed Conflict Myanmar
22 July 2022

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.)

Hybrid Seminar on Innovation and Young Entrepreneurship for Regional Development opened

AN opening ceremony of the Hybrid Seminar on Innovation and Young Entrepreneurship for Regional Development was held at the Ministry of Industry yesterday with the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund (2nd batch). Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than, Deputy Minister U Yin Maung Nyunt, Minister Counsellor of Chinese Embassy Dr Zheng Zhihong, the directors-general, the managing directors, Vice-Chair U Win Zeya Tun of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation National Coordination Unit (Myanmar), international economic experts, delegations from related ministries of the Mekong-Lancang region and officials of the Ministry of Industry attended the event. Union Industry Minister Dr



Union Industry Minister Dr Charlie Than inaugurates the hybrid seminar yesterday.

Charlie Than said an economic ecosystem would be implemented through the cooperation of Mekong-Lancang regional countries – China, Laos, Cam-

bodia, Thailand, Viet Nam and Myanmar – for entrepreneurs, investors, experts and think-tank institutions and relevant individuals to carry out entrepreneurial

businesses. The Union minister stressed that the seminar aims to strengthen cooperation in innovation and entrepreneur-

ship among regional countries, share knowledge and know-how on services, distribution channels of goods, firm brands and labels, and systematically utilize the digital system in the MSME businesses. He called on young entrepreneurs to present their creations and innovations in order to improve the quality of local products. Chinese Minister Counsellor Dr Zheng Zhihong remarked that the seminar is the foundation that can share the knowledge for innovations and entrepreneurial skills in the region. It would benefit young entrepreneurs to implement new markets. The seminar will be convened for three days until 24 July, it is reported. — MNA

MoSWRR holds 4th high-level coordination meeting with ASEAN Secretariat

THE fourth high-level coordination meeting of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the ASEAN Secretariat was held yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw. The meeting was attended by Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine, the deputy minister, the chief minister of the Rakhine State government, permanent secretaries and departmental officials. The ASEAN Secretary-General, the AHA Centre executive director and officials from the AHA Centre participated online. At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine thanked the ASEAN Secretary-General for the peace and development cooperation in Rakhine State. Although there

were obstacles in socio-economic development activities due to the COVID-19 epidemic, Myanmar continues to implement the recommendations of the initial needs analysis study, and relevant ministries and the ASEAN Ad-hoc Support Team are coordinating to develop proposed projects, she said. ASEAN Secretary-General Dato Lim Jock Hoi said that ASEAN will continue to cooperate in activities related to the development of the Rakhine State and harmony between societies. Then the Ministries/Departments approved 5 proposed projects. The meeting also discussed the progress of the priority projects and new areas of business and priority projects



The fourth high-level coordination meeting between the MoSWRR and ASEAN Secretariat is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

that have the potential to further cooperate with ASEAN for the development of Rakhine

State, and the Union Minister explained the formation of committees and cooperation with

Bangladesh for the repatriation process and the Rakhine State development. — MNA

Central Bank of Russia, CBM convene 2nd meeting of banking cooperation

THE 2nd meeting of banking co-operation between the Central Bank of Russia and Central Bank of Myanmar was held virtually at 2:30 pm on 22 July.

Deputy Governor Daw Than Than Swe of the Central Bank of Myanmar and senior officials, State-owned banks, private banks and senior officials of private banks from Myanmar; the Central Bank of Russia and Russian banks attended the meeting.

First, the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar gave the opening speech and then followed by the Director Mr Andrey Lipin of the International Cooperation Department under the Central Bank of Russia.

Afterwards, representatives from the VTB Bank, Credit Bank of Moscow and Promsvyazbank



The banking cooperation meeting between the CBM and the Central Bank of Russia is underway online yesterday.

clarified the details regarding the procedures of bank account opening between the banks.

Then, the central banks from two sides shared their knowledge and facts concerning the needs of the infrastructure/network for the financial messaging system of the Bank of Russia (SPFS), the information about opening the bank account that Myanmar banks inquire and the bank account opening procedure with both local currency and foreign currency that operates with SPFS system, by responding each other's questions.

Later, Daw Than Than Swe, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar and Mr Andrey Lipin, the Director of the Central Bank of Russia delivered concluding remarks. — MNA

Monsoon onion price rockets to K1,700 per viss in Mandalay market



Myanmar ships onions to external markets beyond self-sufficiency. It is commonly grown in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions.

THE price of monsoon onions peaked at K1,700 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), according to onion traders from the Mandalay market.

Those monsoon onions are abundantly supplied by Myingyan, Pakokku and Monywa. Soon, quality onions from Myittha town

will enter the market. The price is up by K350-500 per viss compared to the year-ago period. The prevailing price of onions stands at K1,700 per viss, according to the Soe Win Myint depot.

"Large quantities of the monsoon onions are flowing into the Mandalay market and fetching a high price. The onion yield is high as well this year. Brisk domestic and foreign demand is seen. Last year, a lack of foreign demand drove the price down drastically. Growers faced market fallouts. At present, neighbouring Bangladesh purchases onions on a regular basis. Moreover, onions are also delivered to Thailand markets. The strong foreign demand and local consumption elevated the price. The growers are doing a roaring trade this year," he elaborated the owner of the depot.

Myanmar ships onions to external markets beyond self-sufficiency. It is commonly grown in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Peanut and sesame prices spiking again

THE prices of peanut and sesame seeds rise again in the domestic market, according to Mandalay's market price data.

On 1 July, the peanut price moved in the range of K4,200 and K4,400 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), whereas the price rose to K4,500-5,200 per viss on 22 July. The figures reflected an increase of K300-8000 per viss.

Similarly, the prices of sesame hit the highest of K115,000 per 45-viss bag of Niger seed, K152,000 per bag of brown sesame, and K205,000 per bag of white sesame and K245,000 per viss of black sesame (Samone variety) on 1 July. The price jumped to K130,000 for Niger seed, K190,000 for brown sesame, K250,000 for white sesame and K255,000 for black sesame on 22 July. The price of various sesame seeds showed a significant rise of K10,000 to 45,000 per bag.

After Myanmar's export ban on oil crops was lifted and Kyat weakened against the US dollar in the local forex, the prices of peanut and sesame prices inflated. The local millers are also increasingly purchasing them, scaling the stocks down, according to the commodity depots.

The market prices sand at K9,500 per viss for peanut oil and K8,000 for sesame oil.

Last April, the world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia, which is one of the main oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export ban on cooking oil export to reduce the domestic shortage. Consequently, Myanmar's Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May to have oil self-sufficiency.

Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops will resume as the world's top palm oil exporters return to normalcy, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department. — NN/GNLM

10 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 22 July,
total figure rises to 613,897

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,897** after **ten** new cases were reported on 22 July 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,777** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties. —MNA

Authorities order to install
GPS on fuel bowzers, tankers

IF the Global Positioning System (GPS) is not installed on the fuel bowzers and tankers, fuel transport will be banned, according to the Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association.

The association on 20 July instructed the fuel companies, transport companies, and private companies to install GPS tracking devices on fuel bowzers and tankers as quickly as possible on 5 August.

GPS units are installed on fuel

bowzers and tankers of the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department of the Ministry of Electric Power for departments concerned and relevant organizations to monitor the fuel transport or filling processes from one place to another and to receive information on traffic accidents in a timely manner. If the fuel bowzers and tankers are found without any work licences, supervising certificates and GPS units, their operations will be suspended. — TWA/GNLM



A fuel bowser is seen on the road transporting fuel to petrol stations.

School’s back wall
collapsed causing five
deaths in Mawlamyine



Fire brigade members and local volunteers are pictured cleaning the debris.

FIVE persons died when a school’s back wall collapsed in Mawlamyine on 22 July. The incident happened at BEHS No 5 located on the upper main road in the Shwetaung ward of Mawlamyine.

“During heavy rains, a wall fell onto adjacent shops, killing two boys and three girls on the spot. One boy has been saved alive,” explained Ko Bo Bo Win from the Bo Bo Win emergency rescue.

Five dead bodies and one injured person were sent to the Mawlamyine People’s Hospital by social organizations. Police are investigating the case.

Cleaning work is being done by fire brigade members, the Yamanya and Bo Bo Win rescue organizations and locals. —TWA/GNLM

Pigeon pea price still less volatile

AMONG Myanmar’s main pea products, pigeon pea, black gram, and mung bean, only the price of black gram is volatile in the Yangon commodity market, while the price of pigeon pea is less fluctuating and less volatile, according to a bean trader.

From the last post-Thingyan period until today, within three months, the difference between the highest and lowest price of one tonne of pigeon pea RC is half of the difference between the prices of black gram.

During the three months, 4,800 tonnes of black gram were traded while 600 tonnes of pigeon pea were traded in the Yangon bean market.

According to a recent notification of India, 250,000 tonnes of green gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon pea will be allowed to be imported annually into the country for five years. In the post-Thingyan period, people were getting ready to grow pigeon pea. Since the price of the pea is high than in previous years, the growers are encouraged to plant it. From mid-August 2017 to the end of March

2018, when the import of foreign peas was suspended, the prices of black gram and pigeon pea significantly fell. A tonne of black gram was around K400,000, and the price of pigeon pea fell to K306,000 per tonne.

From April until today, the highest price of a tonne of pigeon pea was K1,492,500 and the lowest price was K1,342,500, while the highest price of a tonne of

black gram was K1,707,500 and the lowest price was K1,410,000.

The price of pigeon pea is less than that of black gram. Pigeon pea is mainly grown in the upper Myanmar regions, which are resistant to climate. It is learned that those in possession of pigeon peas are expecting the price to rise above the current price of K1,500,000.

— TWA/GNLM



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Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council’s Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

The following telephone numbers, fax and email address can be reached to safely report information in connection with illegal trade.

Auto telephone number - 067 409 883
Mobile phone - 09 404339969
Fax - 067 409 886
Email address - antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com
Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

Public Notification

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was reconstituted under the State Administration Council’s Order No 366/2021 dated 10.12.2021, and action is being taken effectively against illegal trade under the law.

Regarding the “request for money from departmental organizations in conducting trade”, the following numbers can be reached to safely report such information.

Auto telephone number - 067 409 881
Mobile phone - 09 699611116
Fax - 067 409 887
Email address - antiillegaltradeoffice@gmail.com
Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

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,



A student in Minbya Township in Rakhine State gets COVID-19 vaccine shot on 21 July.

people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 1,685 people from eight townships in Shan State (North), 537 people from Tamway Township in Yangon Region, 10,732 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 6,311 people from eleven townships in Rakhine and Chin States, respectively.

Similarly, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 10,828 students from eleven townships in Shan State (North), 75 students from Cocogyun in Yangon Region, 9,498 students from twenty-six Townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 8,325 students from thirteen townships in Rakhine and in Chin States.

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

CRIME NEWS

Woman sentenced to 10 years in prison for human trafficking

A woman, who forced a 12-year-old girl into prostitution and exploited her for financial benefits, was sentenced to 10 years in prison with labour.

The woman convinced the girl to work as a housemaid in Pakokku town and sent her to Ma Myo's home. She forced her to work as a prostitute and exploited her for financial benefits. The Pyay Myoma Police Station charged her under Section 24 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law and the Pyay District Court sentenced her to 10 years in prison with labour on 21 July. — MNA

Stimulant pills seized in Bhamo Township

A combined team, including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force, examined a motorbike driven by Kyaw Htay on the Bhamo-Mandalay Road near the Manyut village bridge in the Manyut village-tract of Bhamo Township and seized 51,000 stimulant tablets worth K102 million at 6:30 pm on 21 July.

The suspect is prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the MPF stated. — MNA



Kyaw Htay is seen together with seized drugs and a motorbike.

Illegal timbers, car accessories and vehicles confiscated

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

A combined inspection team of Ayeyawady Region made inspections in Pyapon township on 20 July. They seized a Toyota Succeed vehicle worth K2 million and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Similarly, a combined team of the Anti-Illegal Trade Special Task Force at the Mayanchaung checkpoint in Mon State on 21 July found car accessories estimated at K4,798,900, which were more carried than the Import



Confiscated illegal teak logs in Bago Region.



Declaration and a Nissan Diesel car, including a trailer, worth K60 millions.

The total value of seizures amounted to K64,798,900 and the action was taken under the Customs Law.

Furthermore, under the supervision of the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Special Task Force, a combined team led by the regional Forest Department

made inspections in the forest reserve in Minhla and Lepadon townships on 22 July and 19.7654 tonnes of teak and timbers (estimated value of K7,787,388) were seized. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, eight cases (estimated value of K74,586,288) were arrested from 20 to 22 July, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. —MNA



Seized auto parts in Mon State.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Artificial seedling for eel production reaps success

MYANMAR Fisheries Federation has been conducting induced breeding of eel in research farms in Twantay Township, Yangon on a trial run from the first week of July and eel culture is thriving.

Injections of human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) were given to 100 female eels and sent to the farm in June. In the first week of July, eggs are floated on the water and an eel can reproduce approximately 150-200 eel larvae. The growth of larvae and research activities will be further undertaken this year.

Myanmar's eels from the wild are caught and primarily delivered to China. MFF is researching artificial seedlings for eel production businesses to prevent native species from extinction triggered by over-exploitation from natural habitats.

"Female eels are sent to the farm after injection. Eel feeds are snail meal and plant-based protein sources. Some male eels are also put into the lake. A floating mass of foam is seen during maturation and spawning periods. Eels lay eggs in a foam nest. They will record the growth rate of eels, eel population and growth period to market size. The research achieved success with larvae culture. Research activi-



The commercially valued eels will be exported to China in July.
PHOTO : KANU

ties will continue. Technology will be disseminated for the breeders as eel farming can be done everywhere and it can increase the income of those working on a manageable scale," said Dr Toe Nanda Tin, MFF senior vice-president.

Successful eel farming on a commercial scale can be seen in fields and near fish ponds in Viet Nam. Myanmar can now produce eel larvae. Therefore, artificial methods of eel production and eel larvae will be distributed to the breeders. China and some ASEAN countries have conserved fish, shrimp and eel genetics for sustainable aquaculture. Myan-

mar's Fisheries Department has also succeeded in fish and shrimp hatching under artificial conditions. The department is also providing technical assistance for the breeders so that they can be directly involved in artificial breeding to enhance the rural livestock sector.

A pedigree and genetic conservation system for the sustainable utilization of fishery products is required. It can create a sustainable supply chain for local consumption and exports. The commercially valued eels will be exported to China in July. — Nye-in Thu (MNA)/GNLM

Pharmacy companies need to seek import licences if using their individual dollar payment

PHARMACEUTICAL companies can seek import licences if they can purchase the dollars on the over-the-counter market in their own ways, according to a notification released by the Trade Department on 22 July.

Pharmaceutical importing companies must submit a report to the Public Health Department through Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturer Association to seek import licences. After scrutinizing them, the ministry will forward them to Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee.

To cut possible delays and ensure decent stocks for consumers, they can also use the black-market dollar for payment instead of buying from formal markets at the regulated reference rate. A letter of commitment signed by a company director has to be submitted to Myanmar Pharmaceutical

and Medical Device Manufacturer Association and then, it will proceed to the Foreign Exchange Supervisory Committee. The committee will make a list of those companies that do not buy dollars through official exchanges and send the list to the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce so that the department can grant import licences to those companies, without a Delivery Order.

However, those entitled companies that can purchase dollars at the reference rate have to go with normal work procedures.

At present, market prices are escalating and there is a shortage of supply due to the delay in seeking import licences with the use of dollars from the formal markets.

Additionally, some drug stores limit the sale volume of pharmaceuticals at the moment. — NN/GNLM

Forex rate gap and need for export licence pose difficulties for bean traders

BEAN traders involved in cross-border trade between Myanmar and China are battered by the currency policy and the need for an export licence.

The gap between the regulated exchange rate and the market rate and the requirement to seek an export licence for various beans and pulses are contributing factors to the trade impediment. Additionally, the prices of beans exported to China are down by K5,000-10,000 per bag for now.

Earlier, export earnings for beans were allowed to be made with Yuan-Kyat or Baht-Kyat direct payment. Starting from 30 June, transactions for 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. Mean-

while, a dollar is worth around K2,500 in the unofficial FX market, resulting in the large gap between the official and unofficial exchange rates. Therefore, traders are struggling with that.

According to the newsletter (7/2022) dated 23 May issued by the Ministry of Commerce, traders need to seek an export licence for various beans and pulses, oil crops and edible oil in order to alleviate the impacts on the domestic edible oil prices amid the global oil export slump. This notice will come into effect starting from 1 August 2022 and traders must seek an export licence for those goods whatever trade routes (sea, border or air) they use.

Recent changes in export policy hindered the trade in the Muse 105th mile trade zone. Consequently, the prices of green grams dropped from K152,000-



Myanmar conveyed US\$200 million worth over 263,000 metric tons of green grams to foreign trade partners between 1 April and 8 July of the current financial year 2022-2023, according to the Ministry of Commerce's trade data.

140,000 per bag.

China accounts for 60 per cent of Myanmar's green gram exports. China prefers green gram (Shwe Wah) varieties. China makes value-added products

from green grams and sends them to foreign markets. Moreover, it produces bean by-products as feedstuffs.

Myanmar conveyed US\$200 million worth over 263,000 metric

tons of green grams to foreign trade partners between 1 April and 8 July of the current financial year 2022-2023, according to the Ministry of Commerce's trade data. — KK/GNLM

Reduce the use of plastic products to conserve the environment

ONCE, plastic was essential for the global people in their daily routine. Currently, all the global people are facing an environmental problem of plastic pollution which can harm the whole ecosystem for both humans and animals.

Plastic is not easily decayed due to ingredients of organic elements but papers, debris of leaves, timber and bamboo can decay in a short time. Experts said disposable plastic products take more than 700 years for decaying and the disintegration of their structures takes more than 1,000 years. In the ground and water, plastic debris may become new elements which may harm chemical reactions against the environment and destroy the ecosystem by killing water creatures.

Most people commit undisciplined acts in disposing of the plastic bags in the water and on the ground. These disposed of plastic bags cause soil pollution and environmental pollution. The impacts of such pollution are harmful to the failure of growing plants in the soil. The heat from the plastic debris destroys the thriving saplings.

Indeed, Myanmar uses plastic products in all sectors. Hence, it is time for the people and the authorities to restrict the use of plastic products to some extent for the interests of the nation and the national. If so, the country can avoid unexpected losses in the future. Hence, all people need to broaden their scope to know the disadvantages of plastic debris so as to solve the plastic problems in a short time.

Environmental experts notified that if global countries fail to control the spreading of discarded plastic debris in the oceans, the plastic volume will be larger than those of water creatures in the oceans in 2050. So, it will be dangerous for all.

Indeed, Myanmar uses plastic products in all sectors. Hence, it is time for the people and the authorities to restrict the use of plastic products to some extent for the interests of the nation and the national. If so, the country can avoid unexpected losses in the future. Hence, all people need to broaden their scope to know the disadvantages of plastic debris so as to solve the plastic problems in a short time.

Some fish options for one’s health

By Yin Nwe Ko

EVERY knowledgeable person already knows that recent studies show that eating red meat, chicken, and processed products is closely linked with cardiovascular disease, which is a good reason to get more of one’s protein from white meat and fish. Red meat can make one’s blood enriched with cholesterol, especially nonbeneficial ones. A long time consumes of red meat such as beef, pork, etc. can cause the consumers many diseases in their blood vessels and cardiovascular system. However, all kinds of fish do not suit one’s health.

Fish is a high-protein, low-fat food that provides a range of health benefits. White-fleshed fish, in particular, is lower in fat than any other source of animal protein, and oily fish are high in omega-3 fatty acids or the “good” fats. Since the human body can’t make significant amounts of these essential nutrients, fish are an important part of the diet. Also, fish are low in the “bad” fats commonly found in red meat, called omega-6 fatty acids.

Another good reason to switch: the fatty acids that are found in many types of fish, known as omega-3s, have anti-inflammatory properties and are shown to help prevent coronary heart disease. When shopping, make sure you look for MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) certification, which ensures that it’s sustainably caught wild fish, not farmed, says an expert named Maiya Ahluwalia, a registered dietitian and founder of the Toronto nutrition counselling service Nourishing Balance. Wild fish, which contain fewer contaminants than farmed fish, eat an all-natural diet and so are lower in saturated fats. And always steam or bake your fish for the most health benefits. To get the biggest nutrition boost from your next meal, here are four of the healthiest fish one

can eat, according to experts.



Salmon

Among fatty fish, salmon has a reputation as being the best for humans — and rightfully so. On top of the fish’s high omega-3 content, salmon’s pink colour comes from its high levels of astaxanthin, an antioxidant that’s been linked to lowering cholesterol.

Salmon is also a rich source of vitamin B12, which we need to form red blood cells, and is a major player in the development and function of brain and nerve cells. Studies have also shown that B12 can slow the rate of brain volume loss in adults over 60 and might help treat depression.



Sardines

Like salmon, sardines are packed with omega-3, but they’re also an excellent source of calcium, which is

integral to building strong bones. Sardines also naturally contain vitamin D, which helps the body absorb calcium and contributes to a good mood.

As they are usually bought in tins, sardines are relatively inexpensive and make a great option if one is shopping on a tight budget. “Canned fish is just as healthy if you choose the ones soaked in water or oil with no added salt,” says a dietitian who was registered in Vancouver, Canada.



Cod

This white fish is rich in phosphorus, a mineral that helps one’s body use and stores energy from food and works in conjunction with calcium to build strong bones. Phosphorus can also regulate the heartbeat and promote normal muscle and nerve function.

Additionally, cod contains selenium, an essential trace mineral that plays a key role in metabolizing thyroid hormones, which are crucial to heart, muscle, and digestive function. A study in the International Journal of Endocrinology found that, in some people, the presence of selenium can prevent thyroid disorders like hyperthyroidism, which can cause undesired weight loss, a fast or irregular heart rate, and muscle weakness. Cod is great for picky eaters who do not usually like the taste of fish. It picks up the flavours from other ingredients in

a dish more than other types of fish.



Rainbow Trout

An 85-gram serving of rainbow trout delivers 81 per cent of the recommended daily intake of vitamin D. Plus, Health Canada has identified this fish as one of the options that are high in healthy fats but also especially low in mercury. Human industrial activity releases mercury into the air; and it eventually comes back down in rain and is absorbed by fish. Exposure to a high level of mercury can harm one’s brain, heart, kidneys, lungs, and immune system — and prenatal mercury exposure can lead to a number of complications for a child. Like some species of salmon, rainbow trout are low in mercury because they’re lower on the food chain and so eat fewer contaminated fish themselves.

Fish is generally a healthy food source and can be safely eaten in most cases. But depending on one’s age and health circumstances, some people should limit the amounts of fish they eat. Consider the following:

- For young children and women of childbearing age, excessive consumption of mercury-contaminated fish can severely impact a child’s development.
- Older women and men may find it an acceptable

tradeoff to exceed recommended seafood meal limits to increase their omega-3 intake.

- People at high risk of cardiovascular disease must weigh the cancer risk of eating fish high in PCBs with the benefits of eating fish high in omega-3s, in which case the benefits of omega-3s may outweigh the cancer risk (1 in 100,000 - the level recommended by the EPA). However, these chemicals are known to cause serious health problems besides cancer, so the tradeoffs are not simple.
- The good news is that there are several low-contaminant, high-omega-3 seafood options available, so there’s no need to risk eating contaminated fish. Here, one can estimate the benefit and harm of consuming fish. In Myanmar saying, people know well “Food is medicine and medicine is also food.” It means that food should be consumed like medicine. It also means that a person should not consume what he or she likes up to their heart’s content. Another instruction suggested by an experienced traditional practitioner was noteworthy for every consumer. He said, “Eat only when hungry; Eat only what is proper to one’s health; Eat less whenever one eats.” This recommendation cannot be denied from a western or eastern medical view. To summarize my short article, I would finally like to suggest my esteemed readers. Please reduce consuming red meat and follow the instructions of the experienced elders.

Reference: Reader’s Digest

WHO to decide on sounding highest alarm on monkeypox

THE World Health Organization will reconvene its expert monkeypox committee on Thursday to decide whether the outbreak now constitutes a global health emergency — the highest alarm it can sound. A second meeting of the WHO’s emergency committee on the virus will be held to examine the evidence on the worsening situation, with nearly 14,000 cases reported from more than 70 countries.

A surge in monkeypox infections has been reported since early May outside the West and Central African countries where the disease has long been endemic.

On 23 June, the WHO convened an emergency committee of experts to decide if monkeypox constitutes a so-called Public Health Emergency of International

Concern (PHEIC) — the UN health agency’s highest alert level.

But a majority advised the WHO’s chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus that the situation, at that point, had not met the threshold.

Now a second meeting will be held, with case numbers rising and spreading to six more countries in the past week.

If the committee advises Tedros that the outbreak constitutes a PHEIC, it will propose temporary recommendations on how to better prevent and reduce the spread of the disease and manage the global public health response.

But there is no timetable for when the outcome will be made public.

Information battle

Ninety-eight percent of re-



Danish company Bavarian Nordic is the lone laboratory manufacturing a licensed vaccine against monkeypox. PHOTO: FREYA INGRID MORALES/GETTY/AFP/FILE

ported cases “are among men who have sex with men (MSM) — and primarily those who have multiple recent anonymous or new partners,” Rosamund Lewis, the WHO’s technical lead for monkeypox, told a press conference on Wednesday. They are typically of young age and chiefly in urban areas, according to the WHO.

The committee will look at the latest trends and data, how effective the countermeasures are and make recommendations for what countries and communities should do to tackle the outbreak.

Regardless of the committee’s PHEIC decision, the “WHO will continue to do everything we can to support countries to stop transmission and save lives,” Tedros told the press conference.

He said the WHO was validating, procuring and shipping tests

to multiple countries, but said one of the most powerful tools in the fight against monkeypox was information.

“That’s why WHO is continuing to work with patients and community advocates to develop and deliver information tailored to the affected communities,” Tedros said. WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan said the LGBTQ community was one of the most engaged and responsible, having worked hard over decades to combat HIV, “so therefore we have full confidence that this community can, and will, and is, engaging very closely”.

A viral infection resembling smallpox and first detected in humans in 1970, monkeypox is less dangerous and contagious than smallpox, which was eradicated in 1980.

‘Scary and exhausting’

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control said that as of Monday, 7,896 con-

firmed cases had been reported from 27 countries in the European Economic Area. The worst affected were Spain (2,835), Germany (1,924), France (912), the Netherlands (656) and Portugal (515).

“Particular sexual practices are very likely to have facilitated and could further facilitate the transmission of monkeypox among MSM groups,” it said.

Danish company Bavarian Nordic is the lone laboratory manufacturing a licensed vaccine against monkeypox and jabs are currently in scarce supply.

New York, the epicentre of the US outbreak with more than 460 cases, had either administered or scheduled 21,500 vaccines by Sunday, with long lines of men aged 20 to 40 queueing to get a shot.

Loyce Pace, the US assistant secretary of state for global public affairs, said it was “very hard” for the world to handle monkeypox on top of Covid-19 and other health crises.

SOURCE: AFP

TECH/ENVIRON WORLD

NASA's new Moon rocket to launch as soon as 29 August



Artemis-1 is the first in a series of missions as the United States seeks to return humans to the Moon, build a sustained presence there, and use the lessons gained to plan a trip to Mars sometime in the 2030s. **PHOTO: NASA/AFP**

MARK your calendars: NASA's Artemis program to return to the Moon could launch its first uncrewed test flight as soon as August 29, the agency said Wednesday.

Artemis-1 is the first in a series of missions as the United States seeks to return humans to the Moon, build a sustained presence there, and use the lessons gained to plan a trip to Mars sometime in the 2030s.

NASA associate administrator Jim Free told reporters the first window of possible launch dates for the giant Space Launch System (SLS) and Orion crew capsule were August 29, September 2, and September 5.

The decision follows final checks on the ground at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida known as "wet dress rehearsals."

The last of these tests, carried out in June, met 90 percent of the team's goals, and on Wednesday Cliff Lanham, senior vehicle operations manager, said engineers have now replaced faulty seals that had caused a hydrogen leak on SLS during the final trial.

Artemis-1 is set to journey around the far side of the Moon in a mission lasting four to six weeks — longer than any ship for astronauts has done without docking, before returning home faster and hotter than every vessel before. It will also deploy a number of small satellites called CubeSats to perform experiments in space.

Artemis mission manager Mike Sarafin told reporters: "Our first and our primary objective is to demonstrate Orion's heat shield in lunar reentry conditions." — AFP

Outdoor workers seek protection as heatwave scorches Europe

THE death of a Madrid street sweeper from heatstroke during the heatwave gripping Europe shows the dangers outdoor workers face from extreme temperatures. With heatwaves predicted to become more frequent and intense, unions are pushing for more protection for rubbish collectors, farm labourers, construction workers and others who work in the heat.

Under a deal reached between Madrid city hall and unions on Tuesday, manual street cleaning in the Spanish capital will be eliminated when temperatures rise above 39 degrees Celsius (102 degrees Fahrenheit). In addition, shifts on days with extreme heat will start later to avoid the most intense heat.

The agreement comes after a 60-year-old street cleaner

on a one-month contract died on Saturday, after he collapsed in the street from heatstroke while working the previous day.

At the time temperatures in Madrid neared 40C. A 56-year-old warehouse worker in a Madrid suburb also died on Saturday after suffering heatstroke while on

the job. Emergency services said they found him unconscious, convulsing and with a body temperature of 42.9C. "It's scary," said 52-year-old construction worker Javier Herreros, who wore a thick neon vest as he replaced cobblestones in the centre of Madrid under a blazing sun. —AFP



Outdoor workers, such as this demolition site worker in Seville, face health threats from extreme heat. **PHOTO: CRISTINA QUICLER/AFP**

Wild tiger numbers higher than previously thought

THERE are 40 per cent more tigers in the wild than previously thought, but with a maximum of 5,578 on the prowl, they remain an endangered species, conservationists said Thursday.

The jump in numbers is due to improved monitoring, with the population thought to be stable or increasing, said the International Union for Conservation of Nature, but habitat protection projects showed that "recovery is possible".

The tiger reassessment came as the IUCN updated its Red List of Threatened Species — the world's most comprehensive information source on the

global conservation status of plants, animals and fungi, assessing their risk of extinction.

The migratory monarch butterfly is now classified as an endangered species on the Red List due to climate change and habitat destruction.

And all surviving sturgeon species are now at risk of extinction due to dams and poaching. "Today's Red List update highlights the fragility of nature's wonders, such as the unique spectacle of monarch butterflies migrating across thousands of kilometres," said IUCN director-general Bruno Oberle. —AFP



A picture released by the Bangladesh Forest Department shows a Bengal tiger in 2018. **PHOTO: BANGLADESH FOREST DEPARTMENT/AFP**

New AI tool that turns words into art enters testing phase

A million people eager to dabble with a new artificial intelligence tool that lets them create images simply by describing them with words will soon get their wish, its creators said Wednesday.

Artificial intelligence research firm OpenAI is conducting a wide-scale beta test of DALL-E, a cutting-edge software that creates images from textual descriptions. Although the arrival of AI

has led to fears of humans being replaced by machines in fields from customer care to journalism, enthusiasts see the technology more as an opportunity than a threat. —AFP

Hong Kong to beef up COVID-19 testing at elderly care homes

THE Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government is preparing to step up COVID-19 testing at elderly care homes, which is a focus of the local coronavirus control efforts, an official said Thursday.

Chris Sun, secretary for labour and welfare of the HK-SAR government, said he will explain to the sector later this week details of the related plan, which has a clear goal to strengthen testing and further

make the elderly care homes more capable of preventing outbreaks.

It is very important to better protect the senior residents, especially those living in elderly care homes, during the epidemic, and raising the vaccination rate and boosting tests are two of the major priorities, according to Sun. On Thursday, Hong Kong registered 4,076 locally transmitted cases of COVID-19 and 299 imported cases, official data showed.—Xinhua



Citizens wearing face masks wait to take COVID-19 nucleic acid tests in Hong Kong, south China, 26 March 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/LO PING FAI

Valneva suspends Covid vaccine production as EU shrinks order

COVID vaccine producer Valneva suspended production on Wednesday after the European Commission massively ramped down a planned order of millions of doses.

The French biotech firm announced the decision after the commission decided to scratch an initial order unveiled last year for 60 million doses and cut that to just 1.25 million.

The vaccine was the first in France and the sixth endorsed for protecting against Covid-19 in the bloc. EU states were to have bought some 27 million doses for this year with 33 million to follow in 2023.

However, the commission said in May it intended to pull out of the advance purchase agreement given high levels of global vaccine production.

Wednesday saw the commission finally agree to have EU states buy 1.25 million doses of a vaccine authorised across the bloc in June for adults aged 18 to 50, leaving the company to suspend further production.

Five countries are now to receive those doses — Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland and Germany, but not France — in August and September, the commission said.

“We do not understand this decision. All the more so given there are four million people who are not vaccinated in France,” Valneva director general Franck Grimaud told AFP. The company indicated it will now look to obtain new orders over the coming weeks before determining the future of its programme.—AFP

France urges women to report menstrual changes after Covid jabs

FRENCH health authorities have invited women who suspect their menstrual cycles were affected by Covid-19 vaccines to report any changes on a government website.

The suggestion from the National Medicine Safety Agency (ANSM) is part of efforts to probe possible side-effects of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which have been administered 70 million times to women in France.

In a statement late Tuesday, the ANSM urged women to give “as much detailed information as possible in the declaration form” which has been made available on the health ministry’s website.

It said that menstrual changes had already been reported to doctors by around 11,000 women, mostly involving “non-serious” symptoms including erratic periods, or bleeding that was heavier or weaker than usual.

These were mostly short-term effects that appeared after being jabbed, but no firm link has been confirmed.

Research published last week in the journal Science Advances found that 42 per cent of respondents to a survey reported heavier periods after



A woman is about to receive a dose of a vaccine against the Covid-19 in a social centre of La Gavotte Peyret popular neighbourhood, in Septeme-Les-Vallons, near Marseille, on 12 January 2022. PHOTO: CLEMENT MAHOUDEAU / AFP

vaccination.

It also found that some post-menopausal women and transgender men on gender-affirming hormones reported unexpected bleeding.

The survey of 39,000 people was conducted by researchers at the US-based University of Illinois and Washington University School of Medicine in April 2021.

Separate research using data from nearly 4,000 individuals by the Oregon Health & Science University showed in January that on average vaccinated wom-

en had a slight delay of almost a day in the onset of their period compared to the unvaccinated.

The slight increase in menstrual cycle length was not judged to be clinically significant, according to the lead author who published her findings in “Obstetrics & Gynaecology”.

Reports of menstrual changes were seized on by people opposed to the Covid-19 vaccination programmes implemented in many countries last year. Experts say misinformation was rampant on social media. — AFP

Egypt authorities allow street photography: ministry

VISITORS and residents no longer have to sneak their photos of Egypt’s streets, after the tourism ministry announced Wednesday amateur photography in the country’s public spaces is now allowed.

Foreign vloggers and social media influencers have in recent months brought attention to Egyptian authorities’ practice of stopping people taking photos and videos, even at tourist sites, and confiscating camera equipment.

In a statement, Egypt’s Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities announced the country’s cabinet on Wednesday “approved new regulations governing photography, for personal use” by both Egyptian residents and tourists.

Egypt has for years been



A tourists takes a picture of the famous Great Sphinx with Khafre's Pyramid in the background, at the Giza Plateau on the outskirts of Cairo, 30 September 2007. PHOTO: CRIS BOURONCLE/AFP/FILE

striving to revive the tourism as the vital sector, repeatedly hit by the country’s 2011 revolution, ensuing unrest, and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Egyptian nationals and foreign tourists alike have complained that authorities have re-

quested permits for shooting in public areas, and at times seized cameras and forbidden shooting even if a permit is in place.

Restrictions will remain in place for photographing children and for commercial photography, the statement said.—AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

ADB raises growth forecast for Philippines to 6.5 pct in 2022

THE Philippine economy is forecast to grow faster than initially expected in 2022, following the relaxation of COVID-19 mobility restrictions, the expansion of the COVID-19 vaccination programme, and a rebound in investment and household consumption, according to an Asian Development Bank (ADB) report released on Thursday.

The Asian Development Outlook 2022 Supplement says the Philippine economy will grow at least 6.5 per cent in 2022, up from the bank's April forecast of 6 per cent.

The growth projection for 2023 remains at 6.3 per cent. Downside risks to growth in the second half of 2022 may come from sharper-than-expected slowdowns in major industrial economies, possibly sustained elevated global commodity prices, and tighter financial conditions.

"The Philippine economy's growth momentum has accelerated close to its ideal growth path," said the Manila-based bank's Philippines Country Director Kelly Bird.

"Strong domestic demand supported by a pick-up in

employment and remittance inflows, private investment expansion, and large public infrastructure projects will underpin the country's recovery from the economic impact of the pandemic," Bird added.

The ADB said wider COVID-19 vaccination coverage, with adolescents among those getting inoculated, and relatively mild health impacts from the Omicron variant have allowed the government to relax restrictions, which, in turn, spurred a resumption in expanded operations for most private businesses.—Xinhua



A shopper wearing a face mask and shield walks past a billboard inside a mall in Manila on 2 June 2020, a day after the government eased up quarantine measures aimed at preventing the spread of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus in the country's capital. **PHOTO: TED ALJIBE / AFP**

UK unveils post-Brexit financial services regulation bill

BRITAIN'S new finance minister Nadhim Zahawi on Wednesday tabled legislation aimed at boosting the post-Brexit competitiveness of the country's powerful financial services industry, while still maintaining internationally respected standards. Here are the main points of the eagerly awaited bill, which still has to be debated by British MPs but

critics have already denounced as "reckless" deregulation.

Breaking from Brussels

The bill repeals hundreds of pieces of retained European Union law.

In its place, new UK rules will establish "a coherent, agile and internationally respected approach to financial services

regulation that works in the interests of British people and businesses", the government said in a statement.

Regulators under pressure

The bill puts the industry's regulators, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Bank of England, under pressure, with increased scrutiny of their actions by parliament and the finance ministry.

In particular, the government will be able to order the pair to review their regulations where they deem it in the public interest.

Growth objective

The bill also assigns a secondary objective to the regulators: promoting the financial sector's growth and competitiveness, raising fears that this could distract them from their main task.—AFP



A pedestrian walks past a branch of an HSBC bank in central London on 26 April 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Americans in Paris get more bang for their buck as euro slides

AS the dollar enjoys near-parity with the euro, Americans returning to Paris in droves after two years of Covid restrictions find that their greenbacks go a much longer way than they used to.

The euro slipped to parity with the dollar for the first time in nearly 20 years this month,

as a cut in Russian gas supplies to Europe heightened fears of a recession in the eurozone.

It has since recovered a touch, to around \$1.02 per euro, but remains a huge bargain for visitors, giving tourists from dollar countries a spending power boost of well over 10 per cent

from six months ago.

"It seems like visiting a local vacation spot in the US," said John Perides, a retired engineer from Philadelphia as he made his way among the souvenir shops and cafes in the capital's Latin Quarter with his wife and a group of friends.—AFP

Housing sector underscores US economic worries

NEW construction of US homes dropped in June to the lowest level since September, underscoring worries that the United States is on a slow path downward.

The slide occurred after new homes construction took a nose-dive the previous month, pushed by a drop in demand.

Residential housing starts decreased 2 per cent last month to a 1.56 million annualized rate, after a pace of 1.59 million in May, according to data published Tuesday by the US Census Bureau.

Total existing home sales dropped 5.4 per cent to a 5.12 million-unit pace in June, according

to a monthly report from the National Association of Realtors released Wednesday.

June marks the fifth consecutive monthly decline for resales, which fell 14.2 per cent over the past year, the report showed.

This comes amid a steep rise in mortgage rates caused by aggressive actions by the US Federal Reserve, in its efforts to get record inflation under control.

Indeed, US consumer prices skyrocketed a whopping 9.1 per cent last month, the fastest annual clip since November 1981, as inflation keeps rising, according to the US Bureau of Labour Statistics.—Xinhua



The continued slowing of housing starts is consistent with the expected impact of the monetary tightening on the slowing of economic activity. Construction workers place concrete forms into place for the base of a new single family home under construction in Centerville, Virginia. **PHOTO: AFP / PAUL J. RICHARDS**

Scholz tackles energy fears as Germany bails out gas giant

CHANCELLOR Olaf Scholz promised to shield Germans from surging energy costs on Friday as the government agreed a rescue package for key gas company Uniper, which has been brought down by market turmoil from the war in Ukraine.

Interrupting his summer holidays to give a press conference in Berlin, Scholz reassured Germans they would “never walk alone” with the burden of spiralling gas and electricity costs.

The government is planning a housing benefit reform from next year as well as flat-rate payments to help consumers



Uniper as seen is cash and gas reserves dwindle as Russia has reduced gas supplies, prompting it to seek a bailout from the German government. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

pay their bills, Scholz told reporters after the Uniper announcement.

“No one will be left alone with their challenges and problems,” he said.

Russia’s war in Ukraine has caused an

energy earthquake in Europe and especially in Germany, which is heavily dependent upon Russian gas.

EU states have accused Russia of squeezing supplies in retaliation for Western sanctions over the war, with Germany accusing Moscow of using energy as a “weapon”.

Russia on Thursday restored critical gas supplies to Europe through Germany via the Nord Stream pipeline after 10 days of maintenance, but at low volumes, and suspicions linger that the Kremlin may trigger an energy crisis on the continent this winter.

Rescue plan

German gas giant Uniper, threatened with bankruptcy as a result of the crisis, on Friday said it had agreed a rescue plan with the government.—AFP

ABB to quit Russian market over war in Ukraine

SWISS-SWEDISH engineering giant ABB said on Thursday it will quit Russia as a result of the war in Ukraine and the related international sanctions against Moscow.

Russia accounts for only one or two percent of ABB’s overall annual turnover and the decision to pull out will have an estimated financial impact in the second quarter of around \$57 million, the group calculated.

A large number of major western companies have pulled out of Russia since Moscow invaded its pro-Western neighbour on 24 February. “When the war broke out, ABB stopped taking new orders in Russia,” the Swiss group said. —AFP

sanctions,” the group said in a statement.

Russia accounts for only one or two per cent of ABB’s overall annual sales and the decision to pull out will have an estimated financial impact in the second quarter of around \$57 million, the group calculated.

“ABB has decided to exit the Russian market due to the ongoing war in Ukraine and impact of related international

Ford to cut thousands of jobs in transition to electric: US media

US carmaker Ford is preparing to cut several thousand jobs to reduce costs and intensify its transition to electric vehicles, US media reported



A Ford Mustang Mach-E GT electric SUV car is showcased at the IAA Mobility 2021 motor show in Munich, Germany, 6 Sept 2021. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/AFP/FILE

on Wednesday.

The group is expected to announce the elimination of more than 4,000 jobs in the coming weeks, according to

the Wall Street Journal, which cited people close to the matter.

Factory workers are not expected to be affected, the report said.

Bloomberg said as many as 8,000 jobs could be affected.

Contacted by AFP, a Ford spokesman did not want to comment on “speculation”.

But the group has scheduled a conference call on Thursday to give an update on its plan to transform to electric vehicles.

“Key Ford executives will provide details on how the company is

building out its industrial system to reach a global production run rate of 600,000 EVs, growing to more than 2 million EV annual global run rate by 2026,” the company said in a statement.

“As we’ve said lots of times, to deliver our Ford+ transformation and lead an exciting and disruptive new era of electric and connected vehicles, we’re reshaping our work and modernizing our organization across all of the automotive business units and the entire company,” the spokesperson said in his message. —AFP

US airlines post profits, but struggle to boost capacity

STRONG travel demand has enabled the biggest US airlines to return to profitability, but efforts to restore capacity back to pre-pandemic levels face manpower and cost challenges.

For the first time in the Covid-19 era, both American Airlines and United Airlines reported profitable quarters without the benefit of government support programs.

Delta Air Lines also

was profitable in the second quarter, but had previously reached this milestone in the third quarter of 2021.

So-called “pent-up demand” for flying has led to brisk ticket sales

despite high prices.

American’s revenues surged 12 per cent compared with the same quarter in pre-pandemic 2019, reaching \$13.4 billion in the April to June quarter, the most ever.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 17 VOY.NO. (07/2022)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCL 17 VOY. NO. (07/2022) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-7-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT-2 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S’PORE) PTE LTD

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India elects 1st president from minority tribal group

INDIAN lawmakers have elected their first president from its minority tribal communities, raising hopes that discrimination against the long-disadvantaged people in the country can be eliminated.

Droupadi Murmu, 64, won the election with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party backing her. Votes for the election, held earlier this month, were counted Thursday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed her election, tweeting that Murmu’s “early struggles, her rich service and her exemplary success motivate each and every Indian. She has emerged as a ray of hope for our citizens, especially the poor, marginalized and the downtrodden”.

Murmu comes from the eastern state of Odisha and belongs to the Santhal tribal community. She was previously a teacher and entered politics in 1997.

She became the first female governor of the eastern state of Jharkhand in 2015 and assumed the post until 2021.

India’s president, who plays a largely ceremonial role, is chosen by an electoral college consisting of federal and state lawmakers. Incumbent President Ram Nath Kovind is set to step down after his five-year term ends on 24 July.—Kyodo



An art school student gives final touches to a painting of India’s Bharatiya Janata Party’s (BJP) presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu, in Mumbai on 21 July 2022. Droupadi Murmu, a leader from India’s ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, was elected by the Indian Parliament and state legislatures in voting held Monday, making her the first president from one of the country’s tribes and the second-ever woman to hold the position. **PHOTO: INDRANIL MUKHERJEE / AFP**

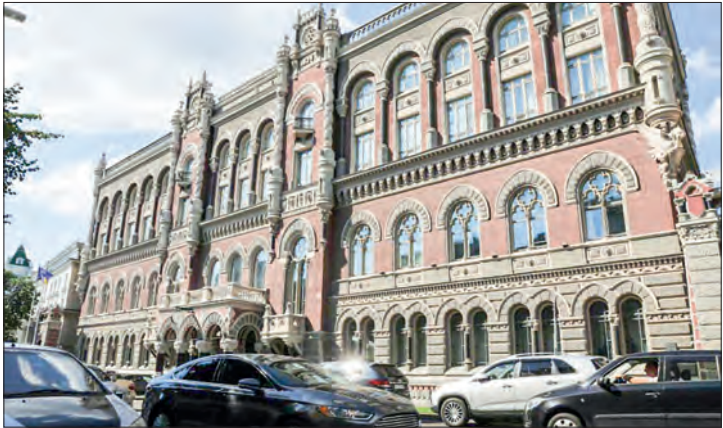
RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Ukraine devalues hryvnia over Russian invasion

UKRAINE’S central bank on Thursday devalued the official hryvnia exchange rate to protect its foreign reserves as Russia’s invasion ravages the economy.

The National Bank of Ukraine said in a statement that it was devaluing the official exchange rate from 29.25 hryvnia to the dollar to 36.57 hryvnia to the dollar in order to boost the competitiveness of Ukrainian products and shore up economic stability while the war continued. “The new hryvnia rate will become an anchor for the economy and will add its resilience in conditions of uncertainty,” it said in a statement.

National Bank chief, Kyrylo Shevchenko, said the central bank “continues to stand guard for exchange rate stability and takes the necessary measures to balance the currency market situation.”—AFP



Front view of the National Bank of Ukraine building in Kyiv on 3 July 2020. **PHOTO: SERGII KHARCHENKO/NURPHOTO/AFP**

Moscow seeks to shut down Jewish Agency branch in Russia

RUSSIA’S justice ministry is seeking to shut down the Russian branch of the Jewish Agency, the body that processes the immigration of Jews to Israel, a Moscow court said Thursday.

“The court received an administrative complaint from the justice ministry’s main department requesting the dissolution... of the organization ‘Support for links with the Jewish diaspora, Jewish Agency Sokhnut,’” said Ekaterina Buravtsova, spokeswoman for the Basmany court in Moscow, quoted by Russian agencies.

Buravtsova said the request was made after legal violations, but did not provide further details, according to Interfax news agency. The judge said there would be a preliminary hearing to discuss the demand on 28 July, the spokeswoman said, without giving details.—AFP



The agency, established in 1929, played a key role in the creation of the state of Israel in 1948. **PHOTO: CREATIVE COMMONS/AFP**

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Russia will ‘consider’ Hungary’s request for more gas: Lavrov

MOSCOW will “consider” Budapest’s request for more gas this year, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Thursday, as Russia seeks to develop its “strategic” ties with Hungary.

“Today our colleagues expressed the Hungarian government’s interest in a new purchase natural gas this year. This request will be ... considered,” Lavrov said during a press conference with his Hungarian counterpart Peter Szijjarto in Moscow.

“I really appreciate our relations. Our discussions today confirms their lasting and strategic nature. And we will develop them in every way we can,” Lavrov said.— AFP

Türkiye says ‘optimistic’ Russia can agree to grain deal

TÜRKIYE’S foreign minister said Thursday he was “optimistic” a deal could be reached soon that addressed Russian concerns and allowed Ukrainian grain to flow across the Black Sea.

Mevlut Cavusoglu’s comments came less than a day after Russian President Vladimir Putin set an unexpected new condition for resuming the blocked deliveries.

Up to 25 million tonnes of wheat and other grain have been blocked in Ukrainian ports by Russian warships and landmines Kyiv has laid to avert a feared amphibious assault.

The crisis has sent global food prices soaring and pushed millions of people in the world’s poorest countries to the edge of starvation. The first direct talks between the warring sides’ military delegations since March – attended in Istanbul last week by Turkish and UN officials – came up with an initial draft for resolving the impasse.

The sides were meant to have met again this week for the possible signature of a formal agreement.

But no talks had been confirmed by Thursday and new demands from Moscow put the prospects of an imminent deal in doubt.

“We have hope for grain,” Cavusoglu said in a televised interview. “We hope to give good news in the coming days.”

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday that he expected any agreement to also address his own country’s blocked grain exports.

The five-month war is being fought across one of Europe’s most fertile regions by two of the world’s biggest producers of grain.

Almost all of the grain is usually shipped out of the region across the Black Sea.—AFP

Pope to visit Canada on ‘penitential pilgrimage’

POPE Francis departs Sunday for a historic six-day visit to Canada where he is expected to ask forgiveness of Indigenous survivors of abuse committed at residential schools run by the Catholic Church.

The “penitential pilgrimage”, as the pontiff has described it, is seen as an important step in addressing the global scandal of clerical sexual abuse of children and decades of cover-up. It has long been awaited by Canada’s Indigenous communities.

Pope Francis will begin his 37th international trip since becoming pontiff in Edmonton, in the western province of Alberta, before heading to Quebec City and then Iqaluit, Canada’s northernmost city.

He plans to reiterate an apology delivered to Canadian delegations who visited the Vatican in April, which he then said would hopefully “contribute to the journey of healing and reconciliation already undertaken”.



Pope Francis blesses attendees as he celebrates the Easter mass on 17 April 2022 at St. Peter’s square in The Vatican. **PHOTO: TIZIANA FABI / AFP**

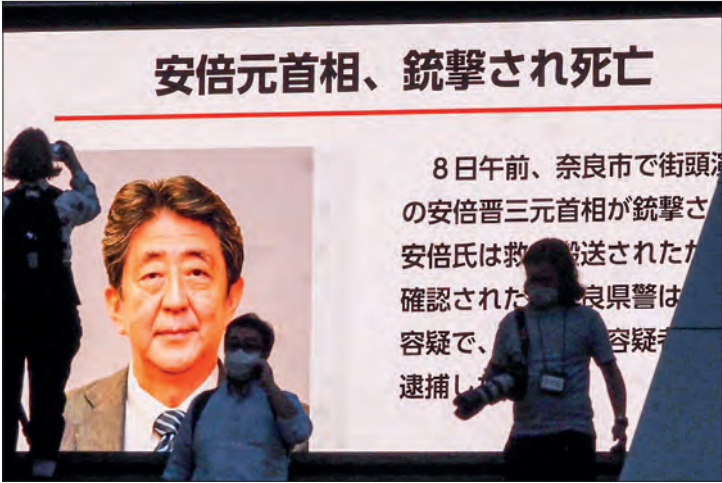
The discovery since last year of hundreds of remains of Indigenous children in unmarked graves on the site of state schools administered by the Catholic Church has forced Canada to confront its failed policy of forced assimilation.

It has similarly shone a spotlight on the Church’s role in what a national truth and reconciliation commission has called “cultural genocide”.

Around 150,000 First Nations, Metis and Inuit children were enrolled from the late 1800s to the 1990s in 139 residential schools, where they spent months or years isolated from their families, language and culture.

Many were physically and sexually abused by headmasters and teachers.—AFP

Japan goes ahead with state funeral plan for slain ex-leader Abe



Pedestrians are silhouetted against a large public video screen showing an image of former Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe in the Akihabara district of Tokyo on 8 July 2022, after he was shot and killed in the city of Nara. **PHOTO: TOSHIFUMI KITAMURA / AFP**

THE Japanese government officially decided Friday to hold a state funeral for slain former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at a Tokyo arena on 27 Sept, despite opposition figures questioning the need for the ceremony or outright opposing it.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hi-

rokazu Matsuno said at a press conference after the Cabinet decision that a secretariat was set up in the Cabinet Office to prepare for the event, to be held at the Nippon Budokan with foreign dignitaries among those attending.

It will be only the second

state funeral held for a former prime minister in postwar Japan.

Fully funded by the government, the funeral will be secular and simple, according to Matsuno. The government does not plan to make 27 Sept a public holiday.

The top government spokesman reiterated that people will not be obliged to participate in a national display of grief, but concerns persist within the opposition that staging a state funeral will, in effect, compel that response.

The secretariat has about 20 staffers and is headed by Masafumi Mori, a special adviser to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. Japan will convey information about the coming state funeral to countries and regions that have sent condolence messages to Japan, including Taiwan, Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said.—Kyodo

UK’s Tempest fighter project soars as European rival remains in limbo

BRITAIN’S future combat fighter jet project Tempest soared this week past a key barrier at Farnborough Airshow 2022, but Europe’s rival FCAS concept is stuck in limbo.

Defence spending has been a hot topic at this year’s Farnborough, as nations bolster their armed forces following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Tempest was launched to great fanfare at the previous Farnborough event in 2018, as part of the UK’s much-trumpeted combat air strategy.

Defence giant BAE Systems is a member of the Team Tempest alongside the UK government, Leonardo, European missile specialist MBDA and British engine maker Rolls-Royce.

Their objective is to develop by 2035 a twin-engined stealth aircraft that can be operated manned or unmanned, cannot be detected by radar, and will boast impressive features such as laser-directed weapons and a virtual cockpit.

Combat cloud

The consortium hope to produce a ground-breaking fighter jet capable of connecting via a “combat cloud” with its own drones and other military warfare assets.

Italy joined Team Tempest in 2019 and Sweden followed a year later.

Japan — which is already assisting with engine and radar sensor technology — is now set to jump on board.—AFP



Tempest Programme Director Jez Holmes inspects a prototype of a Tempest fighter jet at RAF Marham in Norfolk. **PHOTO: ALAMY/AFP**

Sri Lanka troops demolish main protest camp

SRI Lankan security forces demolished the main anti-government protest camp in the capital, evicting activists in a nighttime assault that raised international concern.

Troops and police Special Task Force commandos wielding batons and armed with automatic assault rifles swooped in on protesters blocking the Presidential Secretariat.

Hundreds of soldiers removed the demonstrators’ barricades outside the sea-front building, while the last remaining protesters on the premises — some still on the steps — were evicted.

The operation came hours before the country’s new president,

Ranil Wickremesinghe, swore in a new prime minister to try to manage the financial crisis that has crippled the economy and triggered months of protests.

Wickremesinghe himself was elected by legislators on Wednesday to replace Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who fled to Singapore and resigned after demonstrators chased him from his palace.

The remaining protesters — far fewer than the thousands who overran several government buildings earlier this month — have been demanding Wickremesinghe also quit, accusing him of protecting the Rajapaksa clan who have dominated politics for much of the last two decades.—AFP



MFF Referee Workshop held for football development



Myanmar Football Federation General Secretary U Ko Ko Thein delivers the opening speech during the referee course held in Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 22 July 2022. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE opening ceremony of the MFF Referee Assessor, Referee and Assistant Referee Workshop for 2022, jointly organized by the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Referee Committee and the Referee Operations Department, was held yesterday at the press conference hall in Thuwunna Stadium. Myanmar Football Federation General Secretary U Ko Ko Thein, Myanmar National League Chief Executive Officer U

Soe Moe Kyaw, Referee Committee Chairman U Tun Hla Aung, officials, referees and assistant referees attended the event.

At the ceremony, MFF General Secretary U Ko Ko Thein, Referee Committee Chairman U Tun Hla Aung and MNL Chief Executive Officer U Soe Moe Kyaw made speeches. After the referees and assistant referees were introduced individually, the ceremony ended with a group

photo shoot. The workshop will be supervised by the refereeing department of the Myanmar Football Federation in the competitions to be held during the 2022 football season. It is held to improve the skills of referees and assistant referees. A total of 16 referees plus six assistant referees are attending Group II Workshop and Group III workshop slated to be held from 8 to 10 August. — 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.

32nd SEA Games to feature both men's and women's competitions

CAMBODIA will host the 32nd SEA Games and both men's and women's football competitions will be included as sports events. The men's football tournament is regularly included in the SEA Games, but the women's football tournament is only included when the host country develops women's football. Although Cambodia has not yet developed women's football, women's football teams were formed in 2021 and international competitions have already started this year, so the 32nd SEA Games is being held as the host country for women's football event.

This year, the Cambodian women's team competed in the 31st Viet Nam SEA Games and the 2022 ASEAN Women's Championship. The SEA Games men's football competition will be held as a sea-



Myanmar star player Lwin Moe Aung (white) tries to pass over the Indonesian defence line during a previous group match of the 31st SEA Games men's football event. **PHOTO: MFF**

son-specific competition, but the women's football competition will continue to be held as an elite-level competition. The national football tournament is likely to continue as an under-22 tournament, and the number of over-age players will be confirmed soon. In the recently held 31st Viet Nam SEA Games, both men's and women's football competitions were participated in, and Myanmar teams competed. The Myanmar

national team was eliminated from the group stage, while the women's team entered the semi-finals but lost in the third round, missing out on a medal. Myanmar men's football team has won five gold medals, four silver medals and five bronze medals while the women's team has won three silver medals and seven bronze medals throughout the SEA Games football events. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Myanmar National League Week 5 continues today

WEEK 5 matches of the 2022 season Myanmar National League will begin today with defending champion Shan United facing third place team Myawady United.

Other interesting matches for this week will see Ayeyawady United vs ISPE FC on 25 July and Hanthawady United vs

GFA FC on 23 July.

On 24 July, Yangon United will take on Mahar United and defending champion Shan United will take on Myawady FC.

On 28 July, Yadanabon will play against Rakhine United. After Week 4, the defending champion Shan United is still leading the table with 12 points after

four wins. Shan United will have to play a tough match against Myawady FC, which has won three games in a row and climbed to third place. Shan United team has no more core players, but they have maintained their good form and won a series of good results. Myawady FC is tough as well, and it will be an interesting match for all the football fans. The Hanthawady team, which has lost three games in a row, will have to try to get a win in this week's match.

Rakhine United, the only team that has not won this season, will have to try not to lose any more points in the meeting with Yadanabon FC. The Yangon United, who unexpectedly lost a goal in Week 4, can continue to put pressure on Shan United if they get the victory again this week. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



Shan United players were seen during a previous Myanmar National League match. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**