

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.

It is necessary to set up a system to continuously monitor all already-grown plants: Senior General

NURTURING of saplings must be undertaken without fail depending on the season and terms of saplings, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the second monsoon tree-growing ceremony of families of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) for 2022 near Yezin Dam in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Forest and trees are an ecological chain for the survival of living beings including humans

In his speech, the Senior General said relevant ministries, regions and states and organizations are growing trees in ceremonies. Forest and trees are an ecological chain for the survival of living beings including humans. The systematic arrangements must be made for already grown plants to have actual thriving. It is necessary to consider sufficient land plots for saplings, weeding, efficient moisture and fertilizers for the saplings.

Continuous maintenance to be focused on the result of success in tree-growing ceremonies



State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the second monsoon tree-planting event 2022 of families of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 July 2022.

During the period from 2011 to 2021, the Tatmadaw has grown 168,087 saplings 32 times, securing good results in

the thriving of saplings in these ceremonies. The Tatmadaw grows the saplings suitable and valuable species for the regions.

Need to stand as a society for conserving the natural environment

Thanks to forests, people

will have to live in an environment with favourable weather and fresh air, and they will be

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

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

NATIONAL MoI Union Minister attends opening ceremony of Community Centre (Taunggyi) PAGE-4

CURRENT AFFAIRS Myanmar's CMP export earns some US\$400 mln in March, increasing by \$135 mln year on year PAGE-5



LOCAL BUSINESS Palm oil wholesale reference rate remains unchanged at K3,665 per viss PAGE-7

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

Five special civil appeal cases heard at Union Supreme Court

THE special appeal court including Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and Judges U Myo Maung, U Khin Maung Gyi, Daw Khin May Yi and U Thaung Naing heard five special civil appeal cases – No 10/2020 (Mandalay), No 28/2021 (Yangon), No 30/2021 (Magway), No 32/2021 (Mandalay) and No 20/2022 (Yangon) – at the Union Supreme Court Office 1 yesterday morning.

The hearing of these five special civil appeal cases was held as per the COVID-19 health rules.

— MNA

Launch of Court-Led Mediation in Civil Suits

FROM 1 August 2022, Court-Led Mediation in Civil Suits will be introduced in High Courts of the Region, High Courts of the State, Court of the Self-Administered Division, Courts of the Self-Administered Zone, District Courts and Township Courts nationwide according to the Supreme Court of the Union.—MNA

Situations that require mandatory wearing of face masks announced

1. The Ministry of Health has been urging people to wear face masks to prevent the spread of the disease since the beginning of the outbreak of COVID-19.
 2. As part of the personal protection rules for the COVID-19 disease that the public has to follow in their daily lives, they are informed that it is necessary to wear a face mask in the following situations: -
 - (a) being close to one person in a room;
 - (b) being with people in crowded places such as travelling in vehicles used by the public, railways, ships, planes; hospitals/health centres used by the public; offices, schools, markets, shopping centres, and nursing homes;
 - (c) Having any suspected symptoms of COVID-19 such as illness, cough, sneezing, stuffy nose, sore throat, physical discomfort, body pain, sudden loss of smell and taste.
- Ministry of Health
25-7-2022

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions



A local in Tamway Township in Yangon Region gets COVID-19 vaccine shot on 25 July.

DOCTORS and nurses from public hospitals, Tatmadaw medical teams, healthcare workers and volunteers are working hard to give COVID-19 vaccines in different states and regions as the vaccination programme is one of the most important activities in the prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 disease.

COVID-19 vaccine is administered daily to target groups regardless of race or religion, including Buddhist monks and nuns, local people over the age of 40, students, religious leaders, prisoners, people with disabilities, ethnic armed groups, people with chronic diseases, people in IDP camps and over 12-year-old students, respectively.

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 106 local people from Tachilek Township in Shan State (East), 710 people from Yankin and Tamway Townships in Region, 3,922 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 5,042 people from nine townships in Rakhine and Chin States, 7,897 people from seven districts in Mandalay Region and 789 from Htandabin Township in Bago Region, respectively.

Similarly on that day, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 5,083 students from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 8,681 students from eight townships in Rakhine and Chin States, 9,088 students from seven districts in Mandalay Region.

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

— MNA

15 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 25 July, total figure rises to 613,966

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,966** after **15** new cases were reported on 25 July 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,823** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.—MNA

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Tatmadaw is also steering and monitoring to be straightforward on building the Union Republic rooted in democracy and federal system having peace and tranquillity

HAVING duty consciousness among the country and people, loyalty and a variety of selfless performances with a spirit of goodwill by Tatmadaw have been witnessed in the past. Currently, Tatmadaw is also steering and monitoring to be straightforward on building the Union Republic rooted in democracy and federal system having peace and tranquillity, and community development. I would like to highlight that every effort partaken by Tatmadaw tend to be beneficial for our motherland and ethnic people, and Tatmadaw also performs the tasks with a spirit of goodwill to be able to stand rigidly as a country among the world.

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

It is necessary to set up a system to continuously ...

FROM PAGE-1
healthy and fit with full life expectancy. Forests are benefiting the natural environment in indirect and direct ways.

The growing of saplings must be placed under systematic arrangements for actual thriving

It is necessary to set up a system to continuously monitor all already-grown plants. Nurturing of saplings must be undertaken without fail depending on the season and terms of saplings. The growing of saplings should not be done with ordinary efforts. The plans must be adopted for nurturing the already-grown saplings and substituting the non-living trees with new ones.

Senior General and wife led the ceremony in growing the teak saplings

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla planted a teak sapling. The Vice-Senior General and wife, Union ministers and wives, sen-



The Senior General plants the teak sapling at the event.



The wife of the Senior General grows the teak sapling at the event.

ior military officers and their wives, and Tatmadaw members and their wives planted saplings

at the designated places. The Senior General and wife viewed the growing of saplings by Tat-

madaw members and families.

A total of 177,053 precious,

perennial and shade trees have been planted around Yezin Dam until the second tree-growing ceremony from 2011 to 2022

At the second tree-growing ceremony of families of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air), a total of 2,152 teak saplings and 1,076 ironwood saplings and 1,076 Manjansha saplings, totalling 4,304 were grown around Yezin Dam. Those families planted 177,053 precious, perennial and shade trees from 2011 to the second tree-growing ceremony in 2022.

The whole Tatmadaw has grown 195,038 saplings up to date

The military command commanders and officials supervised the cultivation of 195,038 saplings in all military commands and the compound of the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army).—MNA



MoI Union Minister attends opening ceremony of Community Centre (Taunggyi)

THE opening ceremony of the community centre that was completed in Taunggyi, Shan State (south), was held yesterday morning. The Ministry of Information has been implementing establishment of community centres at the Information and Public Relations Departments (IPRD), in order to make them appear as familiar places for people to come in/out, for the people can seek knowledge and information, and hold discussions and consultations on matters of the region between communities and villages.

The building was opened by Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, Shan State Chief Minister Dr Kyaw Tun, and Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ni Lin Aung by pressing a button, and they took a photo together in front of the centre.

While addressing the ceremony, the Union minister said the centre will become a place for people to seek knowledge and skills as the centre is equipped with book shops,



Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn inaugurates the Community Centre in Taunggyi yesterday.

children's reading room, mini museum, public library, meeting hall, computer room, training hall, gem and a multi-purpose hall.

He said the centre is the most suitable place for young people to meet, as well as a place where young leaders are

turned out. As the youth network expands, the community expands, and the human resource will provide the development of the nation. He also expressed words of thanks to the Shan State Government, the relevant departments and donors.

At the ceremony, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn gave 500 units of MRTV DVB-T2 Set Top Box for the people of Shan State and 500 units to the families of the Eastern Command to be able to watch the programmes being broadcasted by the Myanmar Radio and Tele-

vision. The donations were accepted by the Shan State Chief Minister and the Commander.

Afterwards, the Union minister and party presented certificates of appreciation to the donors. In addition, the DTH channels for the Shan State Government were handed over by the Director-General of the Myanmar Radio and Television to the Secretary of the Shan State Government, and the documents related to the community centre (Taunggyi) building were handed over to the Director-General of the Department of Information and Public Relations by the Myanmar Kyel Sin Lin Company. After the ceremony, the Union minister and attendees visited the community centre.

The newly opened community centre building was built by the BOT system in Shan State. It is a building opened in Taunggyi City, where people and students can get access to the information and technology, museum, and library, for free.— MNA

Standard planting plots and seed farms implemented in Yangon region

THE Department of Agriculture cultivated 1,500 acres of rice standard planting plots and 1,200 acres of seed farms in Yangon Region.

Approximately 70 per cent of the monsoon rice acreage has been cultivated with eight million acres being already grown out of the targeted 11 million acres. The farmers led by the Department of Agriculture are cultivating high-yielding plantation plots, good-quality plantations, and local species farms in 18 townships.

In Yangon, one acre of monsoon rice produced 68.28 baskets last year and 69.33 baskets are targeted to yield per acre this monsoon. Seventy per cent of monsoon rice is cultivated as of end-July.

There are 20 varieties of rice grown on the seed farms, including 14 types of high-yielding rice, five types of good-quality rice, and seven types of local species rice.

High-yielding rice such as Manawthukha, Sinthukha, Yadana Toe, Shwewatun, Theehtetyin, 90 days, Hmawby-3, Yar Kyaw can produce 100 baskets per acre. Good-quality rice such as Ayamin, Pawsanhmwe, Pawsanyin, Innmayebaw, Hmawby-2 and local rice varieties such as Meedon, Ngakywe, Ngasein, sticky rice and Ziya are under plantation in Yangon Region. A total of average 69.33 baskets is slated to produce per acre from such three kinds of rice. — Nyein Thu(MNA)/GNLM



The Department of Agriculture cultivated 1,500 acres of rice standard planting plots and 1,200 acres of seed farms in Yangon Region. PHOTO - KANU

Yangon-Pyay
express train service
suspended due to flood
erosion on Thegon-
Sinmyeeswe section

THE Yangon-Pyay express train temporarily suspended its operation due to water erosion that resulted in potholes between the Thegon and Sinmyeeswe railway section in Thegon Township of the Bago Region.

The heavy rain caused 24 potholes between 143/8 and 143/13 mileposts on the Yangon-Pyay railway recently.

Therefore, No 72 down express train and No 64 down mail train from Pyay to Yangon, No 71 up Yangon-Pyay express train suspended their services while No 63 up mail train from Yangon to Pyay stopped at the Thegon railway station.

The repair work is being carried out to resume the suspended train services, according to Myanma Railways.

The MR now arranges to run the Yangon-Mawlamyine-Yangon train daily from 25 July and two Yangon-Pyay-Yangon express trains from 20 August. The No 61 up train from Yangon will depart at 8:30 pm and arrive in Pyay at 5:15 am. The No 62 down train from Pyay will leave at 7:45 am and reach Yangon at 4:30 pm.

The MR makes arrangements to facilitate public transport and the flow of goods. It will extend the routes depending on the number of passengers. — TWA/GNLM



One section of the Yangon-Pyay railway.

Myanmar's CMP export earns some US\$400 mln
in March, increasing by \$135 mln year on year



One local CMP garment workplace.

MYANMAR earned about \$404 million from the garment export in March 2022 increasing by \$135 million compared to the same period last year, according to the Central Statistical Organization of the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

In March 2022, the

garment exports earned \$403.8 million while \$268 million in March 2021. This year earned \$135.8 million more than the same period of the previous year.

The country earned \$217.2 million from garment exports in February 2021 while \$268 million

in March, \$238.7 million in April, \$278.5 million in May, \$319.3 million in June, \$310.7 million in July, \$424.5 million in August, \$378.3 million in September, \$302.9 million in October, \$337.9 million in November, \$414.3 million in December, and \$ 410.3

million in January 2022, \$360.6 million in February and \$403.8 million in March.

In the 2019-2020FY, the country earned nearly \$4.8 billion from garment exports and the amount decreased by more than \$63 million compared to the same period, according to the ministry's figures.

The CMP sector ranks first in the investment sector in three months of this FY. It creates job opportunities for most locals and there are 671 CMP factories/industries in the country.

The Myanmar citizens make investments in CMP such as garments, shoes, bags and wig factories and the Chinese, Korean and Japanese invest in that sector most. — TWA/GNLM

Chilli prices exceed K10,000 per viss

THE new Kyaukse Demo Moe Htaung and Thazi Moe Htaung, which entered the Yangon chilli pepper market in the last week of July 2022, are sold at above K10,000 per viss, the highest price ever seen in the chilli pepper market, according to a chilli pepper trader who has been in the business for about 50 years.

It is known that these chilli peppers, whose wholesale price is above K10,000 per viss, are no

longer stored in cold storage. It is learned that the price is less likely to rise again, and there is only immediate trading in the market rather than cold storage.

On 25 July at the Yangon chilli pepper market, the new Thazi Kyaukse demo and Thedaw Moe Htaung was K11,500 per viss; Cold-pressed delta long chilli pepper was K11,500 and ordinary was K9,500 per viss respectively; Cold-pressed

Pan Ye long chilli pepper was K11,500/12,000 per viss; Cold-pressed Hm-yarni long chilli pepper was K11,500/12,000. On the same day, green chilli pepper was K12,000/12,500 per viss; Sinphyukyun green chilli pepper was K10,000 per viss and Myi-wa green chilli pepper was K11,500/12,000 per viss.

Most of the people working in the chilli pepper business said that they did not expect the price of chilli pepper to

rise to around K10,000. Thazi, Thedaw, Kyaukse rain chilli pepper growers and those who kept delta chilli peppers in the refrigerator at the price of around K4,000 a viss are getting a lot of profit this month.

In the same period on 25 July 2021, a viss of Moe Htaung chilli pepper and long chillies cost around K3,500 and the wholesale price of a viss of green chilli pepper was around K6,500. — TWA/GNLM

Yangon Eye Hospital launches online booking system

THE Yangon Eye Hospital will adopt an online booking system beginning 1 August due to the resurgence of COVID-19.

People can book medical treatment and specialists will offer treatment to those who make online bookings.

The hospital will pro-

vide medical treatment to those who make online bookings and receive appointed dates in addition to emergency patients.

Those who want to make online bookings can contact 09408609977 between 8 am and 4 pm.

During the trial period of the online booking

system, those who make online bookings will be prioritized. Moreover, the Ear, Nose, Throat, Head and Neck Hospital will also adopt phone bookings starting for new outpatients on 1 August.

The Yangon General Hospital, the North Okkalapa Hospital prac-

tised the online booking system via Viber, Messenger or Caremebot application for the outpatient department commencing on 1 February.

— TWA/GNLM

Yangon Eye Hospital.



State Administration Council Information Team holds 18th Press Conference today

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council holds the 18th Press Conference at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm on 26 July today. Local and foreign media are invited to the press conference, it is learnt.—MNA

MRTV to broadcast of SAC Information Team 18th Press Conference live

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold the press conference 18/2022 at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm on 26 July.

The conference will be broadcast live on MRTV-HD, MRTV News Channel, MWD HD Channel, MWD Variety HD Channel, MITV, MOI Website, MOI Youtube, MRTV Website and aired live on Radio Myanmar, Thazin FM, Star FM, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Padamyar FM, Cherry FM and FM Bagan. —MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, car parts, household electronics, raw chemicals and vehicles confiscated



Officials check and confiscate illegal timbers.

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

Instructed by the Chairman of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force, an on-duty team made inspections on 24 July at Kawkareik (Tadakyoe) Combined Checkpoint, according to information.

Officials captured K2.1 million worth of car tyres that did

not declare in the Import Declaration from a truck heading from Myawady to Yangon and K10.8 million worth of 1,200 bags of poly aluminium chloride that were different from the Import Declaration (ID) from a Dong-Feng truck (approximately K90 million). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, a Customs on-duty team at the Mawanchaung Permanent Checkpoint in Mon State confiscated

720 rice cookers worth K5,328,000 that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) from a Mitsubishi Fuso 12-wheel truck (approximately K40 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, a team led by the Myanmar Police Force and Forest Department made inspections under the supervision of the Ayeyawady Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

They seized a total of 70 tonnes of illegal sawn teak timber worth K21 million in Mawlamyinegyun township and action was taken under the Forest Law.

Afterwards, on 25 July, a total of 2.1804 tonnes of illegal teak and hardwood worth K1,267,220 were captured in the Bago and Thayawady districts under the management of the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

Therefore, 11 arrests estimated at K170,495,220 were made on two consecutive days on 24 and 25 July, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Stimulant pills seized in Myeik Township

THE Myanmar Police Force stated that stimulant pills were confiscated in Myeik Township.

On the night of 23 July, Sithu Han (aka) Sithu was found suspicious while a combined team including members of the Anti-Drug Police Force conducted inspections at the top of the road of the new Annawa Ward in Yepone Quarter, Myeik Township.

The team examined the suspect and seized 2,000 stimulant tablets from him. Half an hour later, 16,000 stimulant pills were captured along with Maung Than (aka) Than Wai on the Aung Thukha Road in South Myeik Village of South Myeik Village-tract, Myeik Township, according to the further investigation.

Similarly, a combined inspection team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force inspected a motorcycle driven by Aung Zaw Htwe (aka) Naung Lone on the Myeik-Taninthayi Road in Shwedu Village of Sandawut Village-tract, Myeik Township, at 6:30 am on 24 July. The suspect was seen with 20,000 stimulant tablets and was prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, the MPF said. —MNA



Two arrestees are pictured along with seized stimulant tablets.

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

LOCAL BUSINESS

Palm oil wholesale reference rate remains unchanged at K3,665 per viss

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market has stayed the same for this week according to the supervisory committee on edible oil import and distribution.

The supervisory committee on edible oil import and distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia including transport costs, tariffs and banking services and issuing the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil on a weekly basis.

The reference rate of palm oil in the Yangon market for a week from 25 to 31 July is set at K3,665 per viss. However, the market price is higher than the reference rate. The palm oil price is estimated at over K8,000 per viss in Yangon Region.



Residents queue up to buy palm oil at the palm oil wholesale reference rate in Yangon Region.

Mobile market trucks operated by 11 companies, in coordination with the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association, were back to business in some townships starting from 17 July

in order to offer palm oil at the subsidized rate of K3,800 per viss to the consumers.

However, there are limited sources of supply although they directly sell the palm oil at a

reference rate depending on the volume quota.

If those retailers and wholesalers are found overcharging, storing inventory intentionally and attempting

unscrupulous action to manipulate the market, they will face legal action under the Special Goods Tax Law, MoC released a statement.

The Ministry of Commerce is striving for the consumers not to worry over the supply of edible oil.

The ministry is also trying to secure edible oil sufficiency, supervise the market to offer a reasonable price to the consumers, maintain price stability and prevent market manipulation.

The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. Local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the oil sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000 tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported from Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/GNLM

Border Trade through Hteekhee post rises by \$213 mln in three and a half months



The Hteekhee border.

BILATERAL trade between Thailand and Myanmar through the Hteekhee border post in the past three and a half months reflected a significant increase of US\$213.755 million as against the year-ago period.

Between 1 April and 15 July in the current mini-budget period, the figures soared to \$644.5 million from \$430.77 million registered in the previous financial year, according to data from the Commerce of Ministry. Myanmar's Hteekhee border carried out the second largest trade among the Myanmar-Thailand border posts after the Myawady post.

Exports of natural gas from the Taninthayi Region contributed to the enormous increase in trade through the Hteekhee border in the previous years, the

Ministry of Commerce stated.

The trade between Myanmar and Thailand is conducted through land border posts —Myeik, Kawthoung, Tachilek, Myawady, Mawtaung, Hteekhee and Meisei.

Myanmar primarily exports natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dry), beans, corn and bamboo shoots to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, and consumer goods such as cosmetics and food products from the neighbouring country. Bilateral trade between Thailand and Myanmar through the Hteekhee border in the past three and a half months touched a high of US\$1.46 billion. — KK/GNLM

Pulses traders mull scope for possibility of market gain

THERE are no sellers in the domestic pulses market despite the demand as black gram traders are holding stock in their hands to sell them for high profit.

According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from the 2021-2022 financial year to the 2025-2026FY.

Although India will continue buying Myanmar's black gram, restrictions in Myanmar's forex market hampered export and import.

The foreign exchange earned by locals in Myanmar has to be deposited in accounts at the authorized banks and exchanged for the local currency at the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference rate of K1,850. This new policy hindered work procedures. Moreover, there is a large gap between the regulated exchange rate and the unofficial exchange rate on the

over-the-counter market. As a result of this, exporters are closely observing the market to buy the goods.

Furthermore, the traders are keeping the stocks in their hands and waiting for a good time to receive high prices, resulting in a drop.

The prices of black gram in Myanmar are correlated with India's demand, forex rate and export and import policies. It is hard to speculate about the price.

In early July, black gram prices soared to K1.7 million per tonne. The price slid to K1.6 million on 25 July.

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

Myanmar conveyed \$403.058 million worth of over 531,567 tonnes of various beans and pulses to foreign trade partners between 1 April and 15 July 2022 in the current financial year 2022-2023.

The country shipped \$309.053 million worth of over 391,987 tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through the sea route, and 139,579 tonnes worth \$94.005 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through the land border.

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

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

Prevent deforestation in various ways as much as possible

UNDER the arrangements of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the Ministry of Defence, seed balls were scattered at deforestation areas of five forest reserves in Union Territory Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State by helicopter on 10 July 2022.

The helicopter dropped 100,000 seed balls to 88.96 acres of three areas in the upper Hsinthe forest reserve in the watershed area of Hsinthe Creek in Tatkon Township. The seed balls were combined with seeds of perennial trees suitable for the region. A total of 200,000 more seed balls were also dropped on east Inlay and west Inlay Forest reserves in the watershed area of Inlay Lake in Nyaungshwe Township in Shan State.

In the monsoon of 2021, the helicopter from the Tatmadaw (Air) was used in dropping 200,000 seed balls on the watershed area of Inlay Lake and around Hsinthe Creek in Tatkon Township in order to take preventive measures against deforestation as much as possible.

The government is making efforts for greening all over the country to ease climate change. Accordingly, the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory was a tropical area with a lesser amount of rainfall in successive eras. Currently, the thick foliage of forests in the Nay Pyi Taw area creates green environments with high rainfalls. Various ministries and organizations also grow saplings in the area and nurture them for thriving on a yearly basis.

Indeed, an adequate amount of rainfall can ease extreme climate change. It reduces the high temperature of Myanmar's tropical regions under the arrangements of growing shade trees and perennial crops to maintain moisture in the atmosphere and coolness from breezing

air under the shade for the people.

Growing trees play a key role in addressing the degradation of the environment. Such degradation triggers various natural disasters, catastrophic events, loss of biodiversity and deforestation. Truly, the growth of saplings to establish forests is the best way to solve these problems. Actually, natural forests and forest plantations fulfil the needs of the people and are of importance in the conservation of biodiversity.

Myanmar possesses massive land areas with vacant and virgin lands. Global warming gradually reduces the forest lands across the world including Myanmar. Only when all governments and global peoples are to join hands in preventing global warming by growing trees will they free from the life of losing forest areas and facing unfavourable climatic conditions for avoiding the nature of a barren world.

China's COVID-19 vaccines safe, effective



A medical worker injects a booster shot of COVID-19 vaccine for an 89-year-old citizen at Aoyuncun Subdistrict in Chaoyang District, Beijing, capital of China, 13 July 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA

THE COVID-19 vaccines produced by China are safe and effective, according to health officials and experts attending a press conference held by the State Council joint prevention and control mechanism against COVID-19 on Saturday.

HIGH VACCINATION RATE

So far, 92.1 per cent of the population from the 31 provincial-level regions and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps have received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccines, 89.7 per cent are fully vaccinated, and 71.7 per cent have received the booster, said Zeng Yixin, deputy director of the National Health Commission (NHC).

Among those aged 60 and above, 89.6 per cent have received at least one dose, while the full vaccination rate and booster vaccination rate are 84.7 per cent and 67.3 per cent, respectively.

"All China's incumbent Party

and state leaders have completed vaccination against the coronavirus with domestically developed vaccines," Zeng said.

It fully demonstrates that Chinese leaders attach great importance to COVID-19 prevention and control and have high trust in the vaccines produced by the country, Zeng added.

MULTIPLE TECHNICAL ROUTES

China is currently conducting monovalent and multivalent vaccine research and development against Omicron variants through multiple technical routes.

"Chinese vaccines still protect against severe illness and death caused by Omicron variants," Feng Zijian, executive vice-president and secretary-general of the Chinese Preventive Medicine Association, told the press conference.

The monovalent inactivated vaccines are undergoing clinical

trials in the provinces of Zhejiang and Hunan as well as in Hong Kong.

The tetravalent recombinant protein vaccines have obtained approved documents for phase III clinical trials in the United Arab Emirates, and relevant studies have been carried out.

China is pushing forward its vaccine research and development against Omicron variants rapidly and steadily, said Feng.

NOT CAUSE OF LEUKEMIA AND DIABETES

The COVID-19 vaccines are safe, and the vaccination does not lead to leukemia or diabetes, said Wang Fusheng, an academician with the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Wang said various vaccine substances are safe for humans and will not directly cause diseases. The reagents used in the production of vaccines have been strictly verified by competent in-

stitutions and meet related standards.

He noted that the inactivated vaccines, the most widely used in China, have sufficient safety guarantees and have been recognized by international organizations.

The COVID-19 vaccines neither affect growth and development nor lead to tumor metastasis and antibody-dependent enhancement, as some internet sources claimed, according to Wang.

Wang further noted that clinical monitoring and statistical data show that in the four years before and after COVID-19 outbreak, the number of visits and hospitalizations for diabetes and leukemia are virtually the same, with no significant changes.

HOMOLOGOUS AND HETEROGENEOUS BOOSTER

The protective effect against COVID-19 can significantly improve by either homologous vac-

cination (enhanced with vaccines from the same technical route) or heterogeneous vaccination (enhanced with vaccines from different approved technical ways), said Zheng Zhongwei, an official with the NHC who also heads a vaccine research and development working group under the State Council's inter-agency task force.

Zheng said the protective effect of both homologous and heterogeneous booster shots are quite remarkable in preventing infection, severe cases, and death.

Wang Junzhi, an expert from the vaccine research and development working group under the State Council's inter-agency task force, said that the data from animal tests and human clinical trials during vaccine research and development showed that China's COVID-19 vaccines meet the national standards in both safety and effectiveness.

SOURCE: XINHUA

Heart issues after Covid jabs very rare but research lacks clarity

RESEARCH shows that the risk of developing heart conditions after a messenger RNA Covid vaccine is very low, and should not call into question the value of life-saving vaccination campaigns rolled out across the world.

But the risk is "non-negligible", and the available evidence is difficult to assess precisely, researchers have said, calling for better data on the subject.

"That we are now more than a year and a half into mass mRNA vaccination and still do not have strong certainty about the incidence of this clinically important outcome is disappointing," US researchers Jing Luo and Walid Gellad wrote in a commentary in the BMJ journal in mid-July.

Their opinion piece was based on a large study in the same issue which reviewed the available research about the frequency of myocarditis and pericarditis, two inflammations in the heart, following vaccination with Pfizer and Moderna's

mRNA shots.

It has been a delicate subject for the scientific community. The risks were quickly identified after the launch of mass vaccinations campaigns last year, but were then greatly exaggerated by vaccine sceptics seeking to oppose all jabs.

The heart conditions have been very rare after vaccination and most of the time have not caused serious complications. The fact that Covid itself presents cardiovascular risks is also part of the equation.

'Question of major importance'

So the value of mRNA vaccines has not been called into question. But for the researchers writing in the BMJ, the current state of knowledge about the risks remains inadequate.

"Clearly, the incidence of myocarditis is rare after vaccination," they wrote. "Just how rare remains a question of major importance."

The review they comment-

ed on, in which other researchers analyzed the results from around 50 previous studies, provides some answers.

It largely confirmed previous findings, including that the risk of myocarditis after vaccination appears to be higher for young men than any other group.

And, though the conclusions are less clear, there also seems to be a slightly higher risk after a dose of Moderna's vaccine, compared to Pfizer's.

That would appear to bolster the decision by some countries, including France, to only allow people over 30 to get the Moderna vaccine. Other countries such as the United States have made no such distinction.

The research pointed towards a lack of clarity in other areas.

It found that some results could vary widely depending on different methodologies while others could be seen as unsatisfactory.

That was the case for a par-

ticularly sensitive topic: vaccinating children.

Numerous countries have authorised vaccination for young children, but uptake has often been sluggish due in part to the reluctance of parents.

Myocarditis in children aged five to 11 years is "very rare", the researchers said, but added that the "certainty was low".

Boosters less of risk?

The researchers raised other issues.

Most cases of myocarditis and pericarditis were resolved without serious illness. But they were rarely followed over a long period of time, meaning they could not rule out future complications.

The research was also unclear about whether a booster dose posed as much risk as initial vaccination.

It could be a pressing question as many developed countries with largely vaccinated populations consider how often



A picture taken on 16 December 2021 shows phials with Covid-19 vaccines in a cooling box during the on going mass vaccination in Nairobi. Kenya has detected its first three cases of the Omicron variant of Covid-19. PHOTO: SIMON MAINA / AFP

they should roll out additional doses.

However a French study released on Friday shed some light on the subject.

The study, which has not yet been peer-reviewed or published in a scientific journal, was conducted by Epi-Phare, part of France's medicine safety agency ANSM, looking at the public

health data of millions of French people.

It found less risk of myocarditis from booster doses of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines than during initial vaccination.

"In addition, the risk decreases with the length of time between each successive dose," the researchers said.

SOURCE:AFP

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 25 July 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 26 July 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway regions and (northern and eastern) Shan, Rakhine, Kayah states, fairly widespread in lower Sagaing region and southern Shan state and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon regions and Kayin, Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 - 7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Weak monsoon.

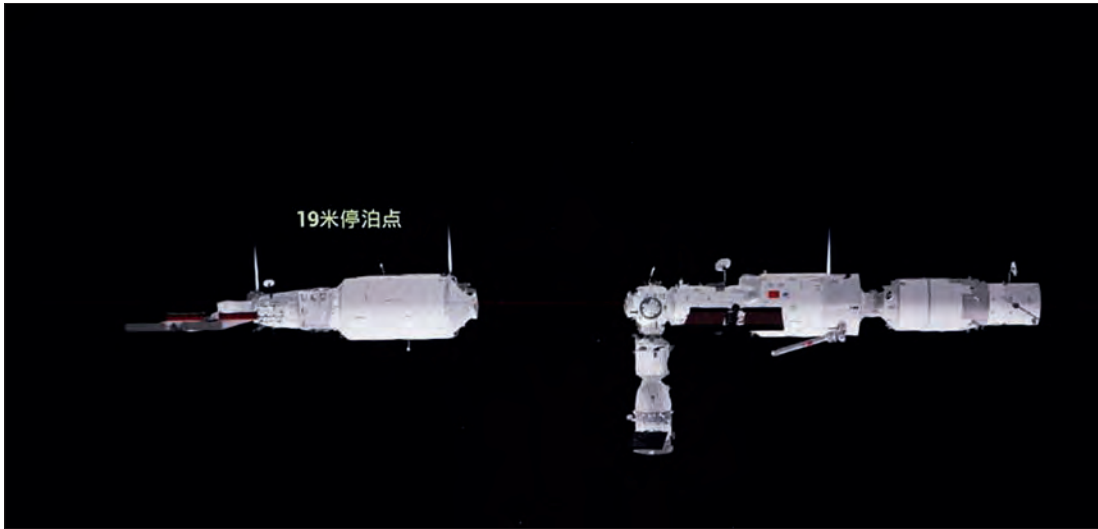
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 July 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 July 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 July 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

China's Wentian lab module docks with Tianhe core module combination



Simulated image captured at Beijing Aerospace Control Centre on 25 July 2022 shows that Wentian lab module carrying out rendezvous and docking with the front port of Tianhe core module combination. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

WENTIAN, the first lab module of China's space station, has successfully docked with the combination of the Tianhe core module, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA).

The Wentian module, launched on Sunday afternoon, docked with the front port of

Tianhe at 3:13 am Monday (Beijing Time), after it entered the planned orbit and completed state setting.

The whole process took approximately 13 hours, the CMSA said. It is the first time that China's two 20-tonne-level spacecrafts conducted rendez-

vous and docking in orbit, and also the first time that space rendezvous and docking were carried out during the astronauts' in-orbit stay in the space station, the CMSA said. Later, the Shenzhou-14 astronauts will enter Wentian as scheduled, the CMSA said. —Xinhua

Sakurajima volcano in southwestern Japan erupts for 2nd day in row

A volcano on Sakurajima in Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan, erupted early Monday for the second straight day, with the country's weather agency maintaining a heightened alert.

There were no reports of injury or damage from Sunday's eruption, when the Japan Meteorological Agency raised its eruption alert for the volcano to the highest level.

Following the eruption around 8:05 pm the previous day, the agency raised the alert for

the volcano from level 3 to 5 on its 5-point scale, warning people to evacuate. It was the first time that a level 5 alert was issued for the volcano.

The government is continuing to assess the situation, including on any damage caused by the eruptions.

Sakurajima is one of the most active volcanoes in Japan and is connected to the Osumi Peninsula on Kyushu, the country's southwestern main island.—Kyodo



Photo taken in Kagoshima on 25 July 2022, shows a car covered with volcanic ash after a volcano on Sakurajima erupted a day earlier. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Call for max working temperature cap after EU heatwave deaths

TRADE unions called Monday for the European Commission to impose maximum temperature limits for outdoor workers, after three people died while on shift in Madrid during last week's withering heatwave.

While a handful of member states have legislation limiting working hours in excessive heat, the thresholds vary and many nations have no nationwide heat limits.

According to research by the polling agency Eurofound, 23 per cent of all workers across the EU were being exposed to high temperatures a quarter of the time. That figure rises to 36 per cent in agriculture and industry and to 38 per cent for construction workers.

Previous research has linked high temperatures to a number of chronic conditions and an elevated risk of workplace injury.

"Workers are on the frontline of the climate crisis every day and they need protections to match the ever-increasing danger from extreme temperatures," said Claes-Mikael Stahl, deputy secretary general of the European



A street sweeper works in Ronda on 21 July 2022. 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. **PHOTO: AFP**

Trade Union Confederation.

The ETUC said that most EU nations have no maximum temperature legislation for workplaces, although Belgium, Hungary and Latvia all have some curbs on activity.

In France, where there are

currently no working temperature limits, 12 workers died due to heat exposure in 2020 alone, the union said.

'Can't ignore the danger'

Spain, where three workers died in extreme heat last week, does have temperature limits in

place, but only for certain professions.

A 60-year-old street cleaner on a one-month contract died in Madrid 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.

Security forces on Thursday announced the death of a worker due to heat in Paracuellos de Jarama, on the outskirts of the capital.

Last week, the city reached a deal with unions to restrict manual street cleaning work to below 39C.

With global average temperatures more than 1.1C warmer than the pre-Industrial era, Europe is being hit with more and more record-breaking hot spells.

Global heating will continue to make deadly heatwaves more frequent and intense with ever higher levels of atmospheric carbon pollution, scientists say.

The UN's climate science panel this year warned that tens of millions more people would be subjected to extreme heat days under 2C of warming; countries' climate plans have Earth on course to warm by 2.7C.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC
WORLD

JR Kyushu to suspend 120 train services due to staff virus cases

KYUSHU Railway Co, which serves the southwestern Japan region, said Monday it will temporarily suspend 120 limited express train services due to staff shortages caused by the spread of coronavirus infections among onboard crew.

From Wednesday through 5 August, a total of 100 Sonic limited express trains running from Hakata to Oita stations, and 20 Kamome trains that run from Hakata to Nagasaki will be suspended, the operator said.

According to the company

commonly known as JR Kyushu, a total of 38 crew including train drivers and conductors have been infected with COVID-19 or identified as close contacts as of Monday.

While the operator had been rearranging staff holidays and procuring employees from other operations with crew experience to deal with the shortage, the rapid spread of the virus has forced them to decide on the suspension, JR Kyushu said.

“The number of crew postponing their time off has

increased, and it has become necessary to temporarily rearrange the work system,” a JR Kyushu official said.

No other services have been affected, and customers with tickets for the suspended limited express trains will be eligible for refunds without a cancellation fee, the operator said.

Japan’s daily COVID-19 cases have climbed to a new record of over 200,000 cases on Friday, driven by the highly transmissible Omicron subvariant known as BA.5.—Kyodo

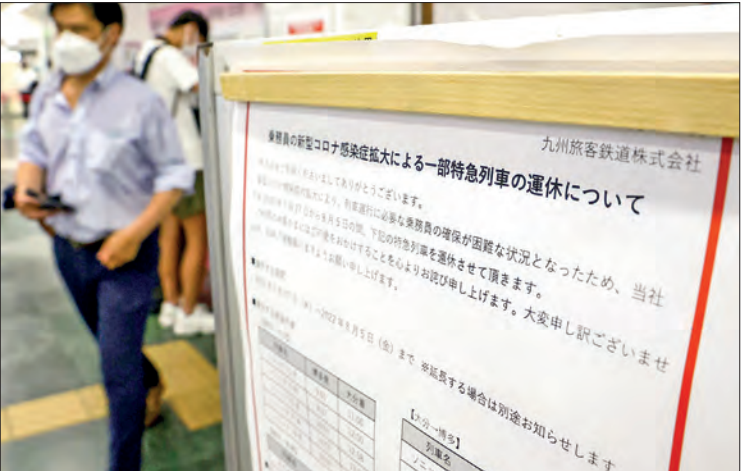


Photo taken on 25 July 2022 at Hakata Station in the southwestern Japan city of Fukuoka shows an advisory by Kyushu Railway Co explaining that some limited express are to be suspended. **PHOTO: KYODO**

India’s daily COVID-19 caseload slips to 16,866



A woman (C) reacts while being administered a booster shot of a vaccine against the Covid-19 coronavirus at a residential colony in Ahmedabad on 21 July 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

AFTER days of reporting over 20,000 new cases a day, India’s daily caseload on Monday slipped to 16,866, officials said.

According to federal health ministry data released on Monday morning, 16,866 new cases of COVID-19 were reported during the past 24 hours, taking the total tally to 43,905,621 in the country.

The cases reported on Monday mark a decrease in comparison to the daily caseload of Sunday (20,279).

With the reporting of fresh cases, India’s active caseload currently stands at 150,877.

The country also logged 41 related deaths during this period, which has pushed the overall death toll to 526,074 since the beginning of the pandemic, the ministry said.

With the increase in cases, the daily positivity rate has risen to 7.03 per cent and the week-

ly positivity rate was recorded 4.49 per cent, the ministry data showed.

The ministry said so far 43,228,670 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals, of whom 18,148 were discharged during the past 24 hours.

According to the federal health ministry, the cumulative COVID-19 vaccination coverage in the country has exceeded two billion doses and until Monday morning 2,021,766,615 doses were administered.

So far over 872 million COVID-19 tests have been conducted across the country.

A cumulative total of 872,759,815 samples had been tested up to 24 July, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said Monday. Out of these 239,751 tests were conducted on Sunday alone.—Xinhua

EU approves smallpox vaccine for use against monkeypox

THE European Commission has approved a smallpox vaccine for use against monkeypox after the World Health Organization declared monkeypox a global health emergency, the Danish drugmaker that developed the jab said on Monday.

“The European Commission has extended the marketing authorization for the company’s smallpox vaccine, Imvanex, to include protection from monkeypox” in line with a recommendation by the EU’s medicines watchdog, Bavarian Nordic said in a statement.

“The approval... is valid in all European Union Member States as well as in Iceland,

Liechtenstein, and Norway.”

On Saturday, the WHO declared the monkeypox outbreak, which has affected nearly 16,000 people in 72 countries, to be a global health emergency — the highest alarm it can sound.

Imvanex has been approved in the EU since 2013 for the prevention of smallpox.

It was also considered a potential vaccine for monkeypox because of the similarity between the monkeypox virus and the smallpox virus.

Monkeypox is less dangerous and contagious than smallpox, which was eradicated in 1980.

The first symptoms of monkeypox are fever, headaches, muscle pain and back pain during the course of five days.

Rashes subsequently appear on the face, the palms of hands and soles of feet, followed by lesions, spots and finally scabs.

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.

The EMA carries out a scientific assessment of drugs and gives a recommendation on whether any medicine should be marketed or not.— AFP

Over 194,000 people in Hong Kong take 4th dose of COVID-19 vaccines

OVER 194,000 people in Hong Kong have taken the fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccines, official data showed Monday.

Since the start of a mass inoculation programme in February last year, about 6.76 million people, or 92.9 per cent of the eligible population in Hong Kong, have taken at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccines, while over 6.5 million, or 89.4 per cent of the eligible population, have taken two doses. As of Monday, 66.6 per cent of the eligible people in Hong Kong have taken the third dose. On Monday, Hong Kong registered 3,906 confirmed locally transmitted cases of COVID-19 and 224 imported cases, official data showed. — Xinhua

Japan’s 1st case of monkeypox confirmed: gov’t source

JAPAN confirmed its first case of monkeypox on Monday with a man in his 30s in Tokyo testing positive, a government source said.

Earlier in the day, government officials held a meeting to discuss measures needed to respond to a possible outbreak of monkeypox in the country after the World Health Organization on Saturday declared the outbreak of the infectious disease a global health emergency.

Infections have been reported since May outside Central and West Africa, where the disease is endemic. Symptoms of the disease, spread through close physical contact, include fever, extensive rashes, skin lesions and swollen lymph nodes following an incubation period of five to 21 days. — Kyodo

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan prices predicted to rise 2.6% in FY 2022 amid Ukraine crisis

JAPANESE consumer prices, including fresh food, are expected to rise 2.6 per cent in the current fiscal year through March from a year earlier, mainly due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the impact of the yen's depreciation, the Cabinet Office said Monday.

It also revised Japan's real gross domestic product growth downward to 2.0 per cent from the previous estimate of 3.2 per cent released in January.

"Rising prices are a risk to the economy recovering from the coronavirus pandemic,"



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (2nd from L) speaks at a meeting of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy at his office in Tokyo on 25 July 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said at a meeting of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, where the projections were presented.

To prevent consumption from sliding amid surging prices of essential items, the government has pledged to take necessary steps, including giving reward points to households that reduce electricity consumption and aiding farmers grappling with high fertilizer costs.

The government plans to spend a total of about 260 billion

yen (\$1.9 billion) on the countermeasures by tapping into a reserve fund.

For fiscal 2023, the Cabinet Office predicted a 1.7 per cent increase in consumer prices. It expects crude and other energy prices will remain high.

The Bank of Japan has estimated prices, excluding fresh food, will rise 2.3 per cent in the current fiscal year.

The key economic council includes members of Kishida's Cabinet, BOJ Governor Haruhiko Kuroda and business leaders.— Kyodo

Pandemic reveals Australians' growing preference for remote work

AS the pandemic has seen swathes of Australian workers and businesses transition to remote work out of necessity, the period has resulted in a cultural flashpoint for the way people want to work.

For Shelly, a 28-year-old marketing employee who lives in Sydney's north, over the last two years the option for remote work has become a mandatory checkbox when hunting for jobs.

"I recently changed jobs and it was one of the main factors I was looking out for," she told Xinhua on Monday.

Data released on Sunday from one of Australia's largest online job seeking platforms, SEEK, showed that "work from home" had become the most searched term on their platform in the June quarter.

A further survey of users showed that 61 per cent would resign if remote work options were revoked.

Shelly said that working from home allowed for a better work life balance and had allowed her

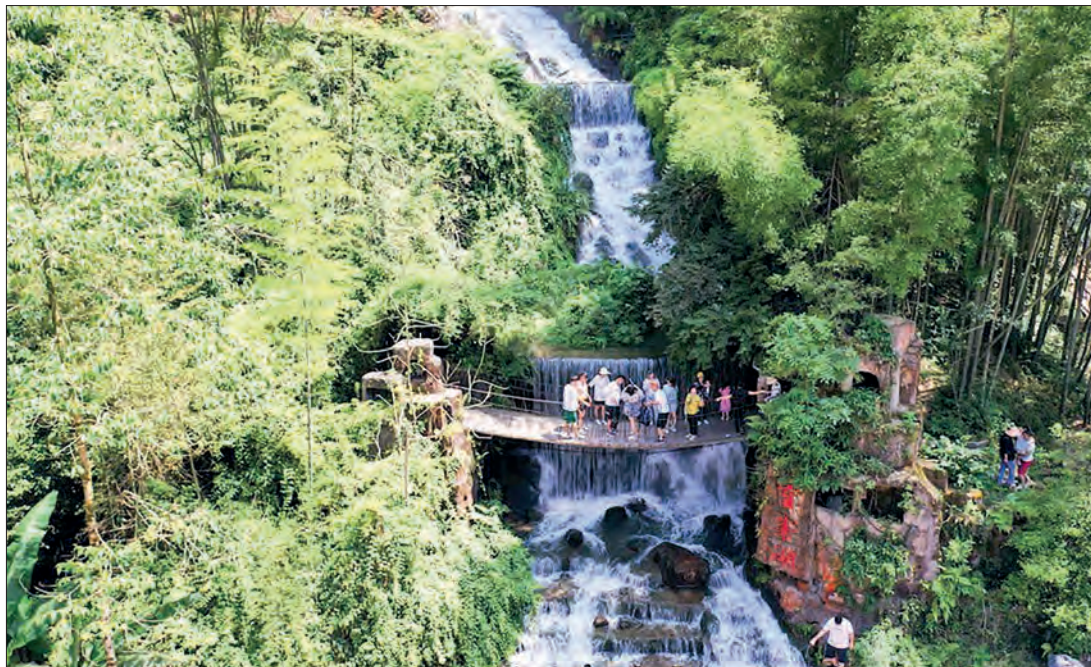
to save on travel and food costs. She added that many of the benefits also came with downsides. "When I work from home it's just me all day, while that's good it can get a bit lonely because I don't see anyone."

Prior to the pandemic the per cent of Australians working from home had been increasing steadily by around 1 percentage every two years according to data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Over the course of the pandemic, this trend exploded, the rate of employees who worked from home in some capacity jumping from 26 to 41 per cent. What began as part of a public health response has quickly morphed into a defining aspect of people's work lives.

Expert on the impact of work and organizations on employees' health, Associate Professor at La Trobe University, Jodi Oakman, told Xinhua on Monday that the pandemic has opened up a new conversation around the viability of remote work. — Xinhua

China to offer more financial aid to culture, tourism firms



Tourists visit the Baofeng Lake scenic area in Zhangjiajie, central China's Hunan Province, 8 July 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA will roll out more financial support to help COVID-19-hit cultural and tourism firms, authorities announced Monday.

Credit services to culture and tourism market players will be boosted by monetary policy tools like relending and rediscount, according to a guideline released by the People's Bank of China and

the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Local authorities and banking institutions are urged to offer targeted financing services to firms that are identified as having difficulty in normal operation.

The guideline is the Chinese government's latest move to keep the economy running

within a reasonable range as the culture and tourism sector plays an important role in domestic consumption growth.

China saw more than 1.455 billion domestic tourist trips in the first half of 2022 and total domestic tourism revenue reached 1.17 trillion yuan (about 173.3 billion US dollars) during the period.— Xinhua

Singapore's MAS core inflation rises to 4.4 % in June

THE Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) and Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) announced on Monday that the MAS core inflation on a year-on-year basis rose to 4.4 per cent

in June from 3.6 per cent in the previous month.

Meanwhile, the CPI-All Items inflation rose to 6.7 per cent year on year in June from 5.6 per cent in May.

Singapore's MAS core inflation excludes the costs of accommodation and private transport, and CPI-All Items inflation represents the rise in the consumer price index (CPI) for all items.

According to MTI and MAS, the increase in core inflation this June reflected stronger price increases across the broad categories of services, food, retail and other goods, as well as electricity

and gas.

The CPI-All Items inflation picked up due to the rise in core inflation, as well as higher private transport and accommodation inflation.— Xinhua

Chinese property stocks rally on pledge of state support

BATTERED Chinese property stocks rallied Monday after Premier Li Keqiang pledged to support developers and hinted at possible state funding at a cabinet meeting.

Debt-laden developers have come under increasing pressure after the government squeezed funding sources and demand cooled owing to economic uncertainties caused by the pandemic.

Frustrated homebuyers in some cities have also stopped making mortgage payments on units in unfinished projects in recent weeks.

The property market debt crisis has been a major drag on the economy over the past year, and officials have rushed to offer support after dismal second-quarter growth of 0.4 per cent — the worst since the pandemic began.

“City-specific policies will promote the steady and healthy development of the real estate



A general view shows Evergrande residential buildings under construction in Guangzhou, in China's southern Guangdong province on 18 July 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

market,” Li said at a cabinet meeting held late Friday, without offering details.

He also urged regulators to

“do a good job in policy-based development financial instruments”, hinting at state funding to bailout developers.

The comments pushed the Hang Seng Mainland Properties Index — which tracks major Chinese developers listed in Hong

Kong — up more than three per cent Monday.

Among the top gainers, CIFI Holdings (Group) surged 12 per cent and Guangzhou R&F Properties was up six per cent.

Shanghai-listed Cinda Real Estate, Poly Developers and Gemdale group were all up between three and six per cent.

The announcement comes with embattled Chinese real estate giant Evergrande expected to reach a restructuring agreement with debtors, to whom it owes an estimated \$300 billion.

Property and related industries are estimated to contribute as much as a quarter of China's gross domestic product.

Dozens of local governments have issued statements in recent weeks relaxing rules for new home buyers to access loans as they scramble to prevent the property crisis from spreading further across the country's financial system.—AFP

Ryanair flies back into quarterly profit

IRISH budget airline Ryanair said Monday that it returned to profit in the first quarter as demand jumped on the travel sector's nascent recovery from the Covid pandemic.

Net profit hit 170 million euros (\$174 million) in its first quarter or three months to June, the Dublin-based carrier said in a statement.

That contrasted sharply with a net loss of 273 million

euros a year earlier, when it continued to be hit by Covid travel restrictions.

Traffic increased more than five-fold to 45.5 million passengers.

However, Ryanair's performance still fell short of its pre-pandemic net profit of 243 million euros in the first quarter of its 2019/2020 financial year.

“While traffic recovered strongly... Russia's invasion of

Ukraine in February damaged Easter bookings and fares,” said chief executive Michael O'Leary.

He also warned of ongoing threats to the sector's fragile outlook.

Global aviation is still in recovery mode from the deadly Covid pandemic, which ravaged travel demand, grounded planes and sparked sector-wide losses. —AFP

German charter airline Condor orders 41 Airbus A320 jets

GERMAN charter airline Condor has ordered 41 A320 Airbus jets as it renews its fleet with aircraft using less fuel and emitting less carbon dioxide, the two companies said on Monday.

The order is for 13 A320 and 28 A321 jets fitted with Pratt & Whitney engines for delivery starting in Spring 2024, Condor and Airbus said in a joint statement.

The catalogue price is about 5.0 billion euros (\$5.1 billion) but the final purchase

price usually differs due to possible discounts offered to big-ticket customers.

“With the replacement of our entire long-haul fleet with the latest two-litre aircraft by early 2024, it is the obvious next step for us to modernize our short-haul and medium-haul fleet as well,” said chief executive Ralf Teckentrup.

“With our new A320neo and A321neo aircraft, we are consistently developing our fleet and ourselves as a company,” Teckentrup said.

“(We are) also taking care of our own ambition to enable responsible and at the same time comfortable travel with significantly reduced carbon emissions, lower fuel consumption and less noise.”

Airbus International chief, Christian Scherer, said that “following Condor's earlier decision to order the A330neo for its long-haul network, we are doubly grateful the airline has now also selected the Airbus A320neo family to modernize its single-aisle fleet.” —AFP

Stock markets drift lower as traders prepare for big week

EQUITY markets in Asia and Europe slipped Monday at the start of a key week for equities as the Federal Reserve prepares to lift interest rates again and some of the world's biggest companies report earnings.

While the US central bank is widely expected to hike borrowing costs by 75 basis points, traders will be poring over policymakers' views on the outlook for the world's biggest economy as they try to rein in inflation while nurturing growth.

The decision comes a day before second-quarter gross domestic product data is released, with some observers warning it could show a second successive contraction, which is considered a technical recession.

All three main indexes on Wall Street ended last week with a loss, ending a three-day rally, following a big data miss on the crucial services sector.

Asia and Europe fared little better, with Tokyo, Hong

Kong, Shanghai, Sydney, Taipei, Mumbai, Manila, Jakarta and Wellington all in the red, while London, Paris and Frankfurt dropped in early trade.

There were small gains in Singapore, Bangkok and Seoul.

Investors are also awaiting the release of earnings from business titans Apple, Amazon and Google parent Alphabet.

The figures will provide a clearer idea about the impact of surging inflation and rising interest rates on consumer spending and companies' bottom lines.

But analysts remain cautious about the outlook, while attention on trading floors turns from rising prices to economic growth, with some saying a slowdown could allow banks to ease up on their monetary tightening.

Fed chiefs have already said their main priority was bringing inflation down from four-decade highs, even at the expense of growth.—AFP

GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

Droupadi Murmu sworn in as India's first tribal president

DROUPADI Murmu was sworn in as India's president on Monday, making her the first person from one of the country's marginalized tribal communities to serve as head of state.

The former school teacher and state governor was elected to the largely ceremonial position last week with 64 per cent of the vote by members of India's parliament and state assemblies.

Murmu, who is from the Santhal tribe and was born in eastern Odisha state, paid her respects before her inauguration at a memorial dedicated to India's independence hero Mahatma Gandhi in New Delhi.

"I started my life journey from a small tribal village," Murmu, 64, said after taking the oath of office in parliament.

"From the background I come from, it was like a dream for me to even get elementary education," she added.

"But despite many obstacles, my resolve remained strong and I became the first daughter



India's outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind (centre L) and new President Droupadi Murmu (centre R) arrive to inspect a guard of honour during a ceremony at presidential palace Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on 25 July 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

from my village to go to college."

Murmu's win was considered a certainty because of the strength of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies in the

parliament and state assemblies.

Analysts said the move will likely help Prime Minister Narendra Modi extend his base among the poor tribal commu-

nities ahead of his re-election bid in 2024.

"Her assuming the Presidency is a watershed moment for India especially for the poor,

marginalized and downtrodden," Modi said on Twitter after Murmu's address.

Murmu said her election would give hope to those left behind by India's recent economic growth.

"It is a matter of great satisfaction to me that those who have been deprived for centuries, who have been away from the benefits of development... are seeing their reflection in me," she said.

India's prime minister wields executive power, but the president can send back some parliamentary bills for reconsideration and also plays a guiding role in the process of forming governments.

Murmu is the country's second woman president after Pratibha Patil, who held the position for five years from 2007.

She succeeds Ram Nath Kovind, the second president from the Dalit community, the bottom of the Hindu caste system.—AFP

Philippines' Marcos Jr unveils economic blueprint for 'turbulent time'

PHILIPPINE President Ferdinand Marcos Jr vowed Monday to slash poverty, rein in soaring food prices and boost renewable energy, as he unveiled an ambitious blueprint for his six-year term.

In his first State of the Nation address, Marcos Jr offered a laundry list of targets, ranging from getting children back into classrooms, easing the debt burden of farmers, and expanding internet access.

Unlike his predecessor Rodrigo Duterte, who used to frequently go off script in a stream of consciousness and threaten to kill people, Marcos Jr stuck to a prepared speech that was methodical and heavy on numbers.

After inheriting an economy ravaged by Covid-19 lockdowns and inflation, the new president expressed cautious optimism for the future — even as the war in Ukraine and supply chain disruptions drive up food and

fuel prices.

"I do not intend to diminish the risks and challenges that we face in this turbulent time in global history," he told the audience of lawmakers, diplomats and judges.

"And yet I see sunlight filtering through these dark clouds. We have assembled the best Filipino minds to help navigate us through this time of global crisis."

Marcos Jr, who is the son and namesake of the country's late dictator, spoke for 74 minutes without mentioning human rights, corruption or peace talks with militant groups.

Instead, the 64-year-old scion focused on the economy, clean energy, agriculture, and helping poor Filipinos.

Marcos Jr vowed to more than halve the poverty rate to single digits by the end of his term and offer financial relief to many farmers, including forgiving debts.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia says Odessa strikes hit Western arms

RUSSIA said its missile barrage on a Ukrainian port central to a landmark grain export deal had destroyed Western-supplied weapons, after the attack sparked an outcry from Ukraine's allies.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was embarking on a tour of several countries in Africa and on his first stop in Egypt Sunday sought to reassure Cairo that Russian grain supplies would continue.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky denounced Saturday's strike on the Odessa port as "Russian barbarism" and said it amounted to desperation after the warring sides struck a deal to release exports from the facility.

"Even the occupiers admit that we will win. We hear it in their conversa-



A handout image made available by the Odessa City Council Telegram channel on 24 July 2022, shows Ukrainian firefighters battling a fire on a boat burning in the port of Odessa after missiles hit the port on 23 July 2022. **PHOTO: STR / ODESSA CITY COUNCIL TELEGRAM CHANNEL / AFP**

tions — all the time, in what they tell their loved ones when they contact them," he said Sunday in his nightly address.

Turkey helped broker the accord and said immediately after the double cruise missile hits that it had received assurances

from Moscow that Russian forces were not responsible.

But Russia's defence ministry rolled back on the denial Sunday, saying the strikes had destroyed a Ukrainian military vessel and arms delivered by Washington.—AFP

Indonesia foot and mouth outbreak prompts NZ, Australia restrictions

PRIME Minister Jacinda Ardern warned an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Indonesia could cost thousands of New Zealand jobs, as her nation and neighbouring Australia stepped up border biosecurity restrictions.

“While not a threat to humans, it would devastate our national herd. Essentially, all animals that are of cloven hoof are at risk,” Ardern told reporters in Wellington.

Ardern warned that the disease, first detected in Indonesia in April, has the potential to threaten up to 100,000 jobs in New Zealand’s agriculture sector.

Foot and mouth disease is a severe, highly contagious viral disease of livestock.

It can have a significant economic impact, especially on a

country like New Zealand which exported around 17 million sheep and two million cattle in the eight months up until May 2022.

A foot-and-mouth outbreak has ripped through two Indonesian provinces, killing thousands of cows and infecting hundreds of thousands more.

Ardern said New Zealand has never had an outbreak — and wants to keep it that way by tightening border restrictions.

“We want to make sure that we’ve got all our settings in place to protect ourselves from this emerging threat,” she added.

There are currently no direct flights from Indonesia to New Zealand, but Ardern said it is important to stop it from entering the country, potentially via Australian tourists who had



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern speaks during a joint press conference with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices in Sydney on 8 July 2022. PHOTO: AFP

visited south-east Asia.

Travellers from Indonesia will not be allowed to bring meat products into New Zealand,

baggage from China and Indonesia are now being checked and there are also foot mats at airports in response to the disease.

Canberra has so far rejected opposition calls to close the border to Indonesia completely, but further measures have not been ruled out.

Ardern said her government is working with Australian authorities to try to further reduce the risk.

New Zealand is set to fully open its borders at midnight on Sunday to all visitors.

New Zealand’s Biosecurity Minister Damien O’Connor said “vigilance is absolutely crucial” as the disease could also affect up to 77 per cent of the country’s wildlife population, including wild deer, pigs and sheep.—AFP

Pope to apologize to Canadian Indigenous school survivors



Pope Francis speaks to members of the Indigenous community at Muskwa Park in Maskwacis, Alberta, Canada, on 25 July 2022. PHOTO: AFP

POPE Francis will make a historic personal apology Monday to Indigenous survivors of child abuse committed over decades at Catholic-run institutions in Canada, at the start of a week-long visit he has described as a “penitential journey”.

The leader of the world’s 1.3 billion Catholics arrived Sunday in Edmonton, in western Alberta province, to visit one of the largest former residential schools where the abuse of First Nations, Metis and Inuit children took place.

The 85-year-old pontiff’s trip is primarily aimed at apologizing to survivors for the Church’s role in the scandal that a national truth and reconciliation commission has called “cultural genocide”.

In Maskwacis, an Indigenous community south of Edmonton where the Ermineskin residential school was located until its closure in 1975, several hundred people dressed in traditional clothing gathered Monday morning under a light rain, two hours ahead of the

pope’s arrival.

The pope’s words were expected to have a powerful effect. Counsellors were waiting near teepees set up to provide support to those who may need it, while among the crowd volunteers distributed small paper bags for the “collection of tears”. “The First Nation believes that if you cry, you cry love, you catch the tears on a piece of paper and put it back in this bag,” explained Andre Carrier of the Manitoba Metis Federation.—AFP

NEWS IN
BRIEF

Japan faces calls to address unprofitable local railways

THE Japanese government should enhance discussions on how to deal with unprofitable local railway services given the drop in demand for travel due to the coronavirus pandemic and the depopulation of rural areas, a transport ministry panel said Monday.

Proposals made by the panel include the creation of a council to discuss with local governments and railway operators how to encourage people to use trains on routes where occupancy rates have dropped considerably.

They will also discuss bus transportation as an alternative if such railway lines are closed. The discussions should be concluded within three years, said the panel.—Kyodo

Overboard sailor survives night off Australian coast

A Chinese sailor was rescued off Australia’s west coast Monday after falling from a cargo ship and enduring a long night adrift in sharky waters.

The man, in his 30s, was left bobbing in the inky Indian Ocean for more than 12 hours after he went overboard from the Chinese-flagged bulk carrier Guang Mao on Sunday evening, according to police and maritime authorities.

Aerial and marine crews struggled to find him during initial efforts before suspending searches overnight. — AFP

Kabul faces water shortage: local media

AFGHANISTAN’S capital city Kabul has been facing water shortage due to years of drought and recession of groundwater, a local television channel reported Monday.

“The successive drought has reduced our water supplying services to 40 per cent and that is why our company can’t provide water round the clock to Kabul residents,” Sardar Wali Malikzai, an official with the Water Supplying Company, was quoted by Tolonews as saying.—Xinhua

Droupadi Murmu
sworn in as India's first
tribal president

PAGE-14



SPORT

PSG hit 6 past Gamba to complete Japan tour in style

NEYMAR, Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe all scored as Paris Saint-Germain overpowered Gamba Osaka 6-2 on Monday to wrap up their preseason tour of Japan with three straight wins. After beating two-time defending J-League champions Kawasaki Frontale 2-1 on Wednesday and Urawa Reds 3-0 on Sunday, PSG had their best offensive return at a full Panasonic Stadium against a Gamba side fighting relegation from the Japanese top flight. Gamba keeper Masaaki Higashiguchi could do little to stop Pablo Sarabia from finding the net in the 28th minute after initially saving from Messi. Neymar won a penalty and converted from the spot four minutes later before Keisuke Kurokawa tapped in a loose ball

for Gamba in the 34th minute following a cross from Kosuke Onose. PSG responded immediately, however, as Nuno Mendes blasted home from a tight angle, and Messi steered in a Neymar cross to give the visitors a 4-1 lead at the break. Messi returned the favor for Neymar on the hour mark after playing through the Brazilian, who rounded Higashiguchi to score his second, before Gamba grabbed their second 10 minutes later through substitute Hiroto Yamami. But substitute Mbappe made sure he got on the scoresheet too by winning a penalty and burying it himself four minutes from time. —Kyodo



Lionel Messi (30) celebrates after scoring Paris Saint-Germain's fourth goal against Gamba Osaka during the first half of a football match on 25 July 2022, at Panasonic Stadium in Suita, Osaka Prefecture. PHOTO: KYODO

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.

Ayeyawady United shares points with ISPE FC in MNL Week 5

AYEYAWADY United drew ISPE FC 0-0 in the Week 5 of the Myanmar National League at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday. In this season, the strength of ISPE has improved significantly and is playing defiantly against the big teams, managed to get a draw from the Ayeyawady. Both teams made some changes to the teams' line-ups. Ayeyawady United used main players including goalkeeper Aung Myo Htwe, Si Thu Naing, Aung Zeya, Aung Naing Win, Myo Wai Lin, Zin Ko Htet, Yan Naing Lin, Nyi Nyi Aung, Yazar Aung, Kaung Myat Thu, and Yan Kyaw Htwe. Meanwhile, ISPE used its star players goalkeeper Zin Nyi Nyi Aung, Zin Ye Naung, Soe Htet Win, Lin Htet Soe, Wai Lin Aung, Aye Chan Thet, Pyae Phyto Khaing, Moe Swe Aung, Min Myat Soe, Kyaw Myo Naing, and Khin Kyaw Win. The ISPE team did not play defence but attack, so the match was mutual. Both teams were unable to capitalize on scoring opportunities, resulting in their first draw of the season. After playing five games each, Ayeyawady had three wins, one draw, and one loss with a score of 10 points, and ISPE FC had two wins, one draw, and two losses with seven points. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Myanmar gets sweet victory in ASEAN U-18 Women's Championship opener

MYANMAR U-18 Women's Team beat Malaysia Team 2-0 in their opening match of the ASEAN U-18 Women's Championship in Indonesia yesterday. Team Myanmar was able to get full points in the first group match without making any mistakes. The women's squad did not play an international warm-up match before the tournament, so this match was their first international match, and although they struggled a bit, they were able to beat the Malaysian team. Myanmar team line-up includes May Khin Oo (goalkeeper), May Thet Mon Myint, Kyel Sin, Shun Lei Naing, Phyu Phyu Win, Wai Phoo Eain, Hay Marn Soe, Nang Cho Hmwe, Wai Hnin Phyo, Yin Loon Eain, and Zin Moe Pyae. As it was the first international match, most Myanmar players struggled in the first



Myanmar National Women's Football Team poses for a group photo before the ASEAN U-18 Women's Championship. PHOTO: FAM

half and could not score a goal. In the 60th minute, Myanmar broke the deadlock, and Su Myat Noe scored the first goal. After getting the first goal, team Myanmar played better and May Thet Mon Myint scored the second goal that ensured victory in the 82nd minute. In the other Group B match, the Australian team beat the Philippines by four goals. The Myanmar team will play against the Philippines on 27 July in the second group game. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM