

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.

Press Release

Foreign Ministry protests and rejects in the strongest terms on the statements issued by certain countries and regional/international organizations

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has observed statements issued by certain countries and regional/international organizations with respect to the verdicts of four convicts who were given death sentences in accordance with the Penal Code and the Counter-Terrorism Law of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as they were found to be guilty of masterminding, arranging and committing brutal and inhumane terror acts and murders which have resulted in the deaths of many innocent civilians.

SEE PAGE-2

Yangon Port handles 49 cargo ships in July

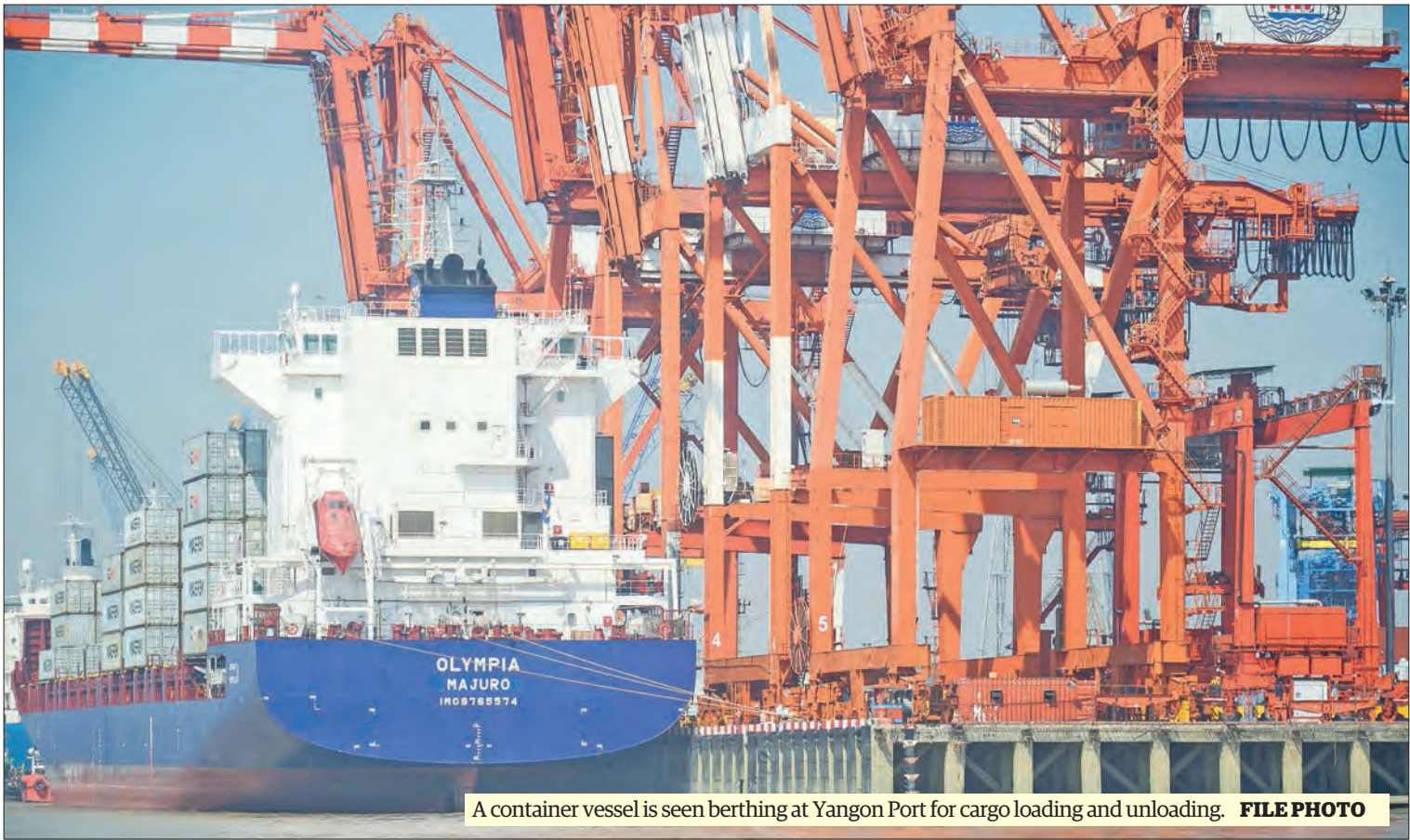
A TOTAL of 49 cargo ships docked at Yangon Port in July, according to the Myanma Port Authority.

Export, import, cargo sector

In maritime trade, agricultural and livestock products, textiles and other products are exported via five jetties of Yangon Port and two jetties of Thilawa Port Terminal. The sea trade is conducted with two sectors — Import Cargo and Export Cargo, — and the Export Cargo is allowed after the inspection of the Customs Department with official documents of the Myanma Port Authority. In the Import Cargo sector, containers are piled up at a temporary yard and customers can withdraw them with the documents by paying taxes.

Convenience

In world trade, the maritime route is becoming more beneficial during the global pandemic as it is cheaper than other freight



A container vessel is seen berthing at Yangon Port for cargo loading and unloading. FILE PHOTO

modes. The government supports the export and import sectors facilitating container ships, sea trade, agricultural and livestock zone export/import. — Nyein Thu(MNA)/GNLM

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Union Foreign Affairs Minister receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar

PAGE-3

NATIONAL

MoH holds coordination meeting on COVID-19 and Monkeypox

PAGE-4

NATIONAL

SAC Information Team holds 18th Press Conference

PAGE-5

CURRENT AFFAIRS

MoU system allows over 700 Myanmar workers to enter S Korea in July

PAGE-6

LOCAL BUSINESS

Shwebo Pawsan rice price peaks at K7,600 per bag

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

enduring 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 home 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*



THE SUPREME COURT
OF THE UNION

Press Statement

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

14 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 26 July, total figure rises to 613,980

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **613,980** after **14** new cases were reported on 26 July 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,836** have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at **19,434** without more casualties.—MNA

Press Release

FROM PAGE-1

The Government of Myanmar has taken legal actions against these four convicts in line with the Penal Code and the Counter-Terrorism Law of Myanmar with a view to maintaining the rule of law and peace and stability of the State as well as ensuring public safety.

The provisions of international counter-terrorism laws and agreements reject and condemn terrorism

in all its forms and manifestations under any circumstances and situations, and also state to take effective legal actions against those who committed terrorist activities.

Countries and international organizations should practise and strictly adhere to the fundamental principles of respecting the sovereignty, equality, and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states in the conduct of interna-

tional relations.

As regards the present cases, the incumbent Government which has been vested with the three pillars of powers and authorities by the State Constitution (2008), has effectively taken legal actions against terrorist acts under the existing laws. The Ministry cautions that such concerns and criticisms of the Myanmar government's legal actions could be tantamount to interfering in

the internal affairs of the country and indirectly abetting terrorism. Therefore, the Ministry strongly protests and rejects such one-sided statements that neglect the deaths of numerous innocent lives and injuries as well as the destruction of education, health and economic infrastructures.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated, 26 July 2022



A student in Kyaukpyu Township in Rakhine State gets COVID-19 vaccine shot on 26 July.

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

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

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

Yesterday, doctors and nurses from public hospitals, medical teams from the Tatmadaw, relevant healthcare workers in collaboration with volunteers gave COVID-19 vaccines to 590 people from Yankin and Tamway Townships in Region, 2,575 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 4,491 people from eleven townships in Rakhine and Chin States, and 238 from Toungoo Township in Bago Region, respectively.

Similarly on that day, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 14,248 students from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 4,408 students from seven townships in Rakhine and Chin States.

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

Further invitation to remnant groups to hold talks

DEMOCRACY as well as federalism requires equal rights. Talks will continue with the ethnic armed organizations to restore peace. Good results came out from the talks with EAOs. Efforts will continue to restore peace by holding better talks. Some EAOs cannot participate in the talks for various reasons. In line with the firm implementation of two political visions, the government further invites remnant groups to hold talks.

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

Union Foreign Affairs Minister receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar

U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Vinay Kumar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at 11:00 am on 26 July 2022 at

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. During the call, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the promotion of bilateral relations, enhancement of mutually beneficial cooperation as well as close collaboration in the international fora. — MNA



Indian Ambassador Mr Vinay Kumar calls on MoFA Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 July 2022.

Libraries should prioritize vocational education books, knowledge books and journals for youths: MoI Union Minister



Union Information Minister U Maung Maung Ohn looks into the inside display of IPRD office in Nyaungshwe Township.

THE vocational education books, knowledge books and journals should be kept on priority at the library for the youths, said Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn during his visit to the IPRD office in Nyaungshwe Township yesterday. He continued that the IPRD offices are established in every district and township and the relevant officials should create youth-based centres with proper

activities or programmes for the young people at the offices and libraries. The township is also a tourist destination and arrangements should be made to explore the tradition and cultural heritage. The government now grants allowance for house renting fees to government employees and so the staff should serve the interests of the country and its citizens. All should openly discuss resolving the difficulties

and work in unity. The Union minister then provided cash assistance to the staff. The libraries should provide proper services to lure the interest of the youths to promote their reading. Young people should know that libraries are their best friends and there should be quality library staff, financial assistance, modern technology and ICT facilities for the libraries. — Htun Htun/GNLM

The State has adequate foreign currency reserves and reserved funds: Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun

MAJ-GEN Zaw Min Tun, Leader of the Information Team of the State Administration Council, said at the 18th Press Conference that the State has adequate foreign currency reserves and reserved funds. “Since the State has sufficient funds, civil servants will be provided with eight per cent more of the original salary to the married employees and four per cent more to single employees, under the decision of

the economic committee meeting chaired by the Prime Minister, which was held on 22 July,” the Maj-Gen said. In addition, policemen will be entitled to receive K10,000 more from August for working hard, he said. Also, plans are underway to lend K400 billion from the balance of the National Disaster Management Fund, to local businesses, the SAC’s Information Team leader elaborated. — TWA/GNLM

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

MoBA Union Minister receives Ambassador of India to Myanmar



The meeting between MoBA Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Indian Ambassador Mr Vinay Kumar is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

UNION Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung of the Ministry of Border Affairs received Indian Ambassador Mr Vinay Kumar to Myanmar at the Ministry's meeting hall yesterday.

During the meeting, both parties openly discussed peace and development of border regions between the two countries, the development of human resources in border regions, and the success of development activities that were implemented in the Chin State and Naga Self-Administered Zone with funding assistance by the Republic of India, following the Myanmar-India Border Area Development Plan, which was a coordination plan between the two countries, and further cooperation in various sectors.

— 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

MoH holds coordination meeting on COVID-19 and Monkeypox

THE Ministry of Health held a coordination meeting on COVID-19 and Monkeypox, which have been recognized as international public health emergencies, yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win said that although Myanmar is currently in a position to control the wave of the COVID-19 disease, infections of the two variants of COVID-19, BA.4 and BA.5, are spreading to countries around the world. It has been found that there is an increase in regional countries and neighbouring countries. BA.4 and BA.5 were found to have low disease severity and low mortality but high infection rates, and prevention and control activities, and Genomic Sequencing needs to be continued at a rapid pace, he said.

At this time, as the rate of infection among those returning from foreign countries is increasing, it is necessary to prepare



Union Health Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win chairs the coordination meeting on COVID-19 and Monkeypox, which is declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by WHO on 23 July.

for the guidelines related to the inspection of the COVID-19 disease and to speed up the disease control activities, and at the same time, it is necessary to consider not to affect the socio-economic life of the public.

As seasonal flu and monkeypox prevention methods are similar in nature to COVID-19 disease prevention methods, it is important to follow the disease prevention regulations that must be followed by individuals, he stressed.

Monkeypox has spread to non-endemic countries and was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organization on 23 July. According to the WHO Risk Assessment, Myanmar has not yet been found to be affected by the disease, so it is included in the group (1). He said preparations are being made to prevent the spread of disease through foreign countries.

As cases of monkeypox have been found in the neighbouring

countries that have a lot of interaction with Myanmar, such as India, Thailand, and Singapore, there is a special need for related departments to cooperate with the Ministry of Health on the prevention and control of monkeypox. He said that he is working to connect with the WHO and the ASEAN to obtain the vaccine against the disease.

Afterwards, officials from the Central Infectious Disease Control Division of the Department of Public Health, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Immigration and Population and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism explained the preparedness of their respective ministries and the activities to be cooperated with. Deputy Minister Dr Aye Tun supplemented the discussion and Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win concluded the meeting. — MNA

SAC Information Team holds 18th Press Conference

THE 18th Press Conference of the Information Team of the State Administration Council was held yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Information. At the conference, Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, leader of the SAC Information Team, clarified the issues related to the visit to Russia, financial matters, the term “Pyu Saw Htee” which was invented by some terrorist groups and some subversive media, issues related to ethnic armed organizations, education issues. Member of the Union Election Commission U Khin Maung Oo explained the issues related to the election commis-

sion. It was attended by the members of the SAC Information Team, representatives from the ministries, officials from the Tatmadaw Information Team, invitees, and journalists from local/foreign news agencies.

First, Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun explained the situation of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and the Russian Federation, the visit of the Myanmar delegation led by the Prime Minister to the federation from 10 to 16 July, and discussions and negotiations



The eighteenth Press Conference of the SAC Information Team is underway in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

with officials from various sectors for Russia-Myanmar bilateral cooperation, criticisms of rumours on the instructions and announcements issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar, plans to support civil servants (eight per cent of the basic salary for permanent employees as house rent if married and four per cent if single) and K10,000 monthly support for hardship and risk duty expenses for members of the Myanmar Police Force, and programmes

that will provide low-interest loans to local businesses.

He also clarified the term Pyu Saw Htee, which was invented by some subversive media and terrorist groups, and the history of the formation of Pyu Saw Htee. He said both the government and the Tatmadaw did not establish the Pyu Saw Htee as the 'pocket army' like AFPFL, a democratic hypocritical authoritarian system. If permission to form a militia is submitted for the security of

neighbourhoods in villages and wards, verification of the permission to form, equipping the necessary weapons, battlefield discipline and military training are provided.

He also highlighted the peace talks between nine ethnic armed organizations-EAOs – seven NCA signatories and two non-signatories – and the Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister at his invitation, arrangements to meet with these nine organi-

zations for the second time and plans for some ethnic armed organizations to discuss with.

He continued that there have been no clashes between Tatmadaw and AA since 2020 and although peace was established to a certain extent, AA abducted some innocent civilians, government employees and security force members in previous months. The unscrupulous persons who do not want peace in Rakhine State also spread misinformation and fake news to create misunderstanding between the two groups to cause war with suspicion.

He also stressed the disagreements in KNU regarding peace, opening the door for those who want peace really and walking on the NCA path to peace talks and other issues related to Kaung for You Online education established by terrorist group NUG.

Then, Union Election Commission Member U Khin Maung Oo explained with PowerPoint presentations regarding the inspections of political parties, field census on voter lists including work plans of the UEC.

Afterwards, the officials answered questions raised by media outlets. —MNA

Notification to the public

1. The Ministry of Electric Power is working for power generation and power transmission in order for the public and industry to use electricity in respective regions and states. In addition, plans are being made to increase distribution for increasing power consumption.
2. At normal times, the maximum power generation is about (4,200 mW). However, as the production of LNG power plants, about (750 mW), has been stopped due to rising gas prices and two power lines that transmit electricity generated from the Baluchaung hydropower plants were destroyed with mines by PDF insurgents, about 170 mW that is being regularly sent to the power system are not able to be sent, and there is a power cut. The total power generation capacity (920 mW) is decreasing, but now that the rainy season has arrived, due to the decrease in power consumption and the increase in irrigation water from hydropower plants, the power system is being regulated and distributed to ensure the continuous supply of electricity to the users.
3. However, on 21-7-2022, the Zotika gas pipeline was blown up with a mine by PDF terrorists, re-

sulting in the inability to transmit 200 megawatts of power produced by the power plants using the gas into the power system and the 132 kV Shwesayan-Tagundine towers in the upper part of the power system was down to the ground, stability in the power system decreased and the entire power system experienced a power outage on 24-7-2022 due to load consumption and power transmission distribution conditions.

4. Furthermore, due to heavy rains and strong winds on 26-7-2022, a power outage occurred in the 132 kV Tikyit-Kalaw power line, and the 230 kV Shwesayan-Aungpinle power line also experienced a power outage, reducing a total

of 1,120 mW of power production in the power system and the stability of the power system, and another power outage occurred at about 15:36 hour.

5. Repairs are also being made to restore power to the current situation as soon as possible.
6. Therefore, as the power transmission lines and natural gas pipelines were blown up and destroyed, the public are requested to understand the power outages and to help and protect us from the acts of vandalism.

Ministry of Electric Power



The 132-kV Shwesayan-Tagundine power line was mined down to the ground.



The natural gas pipelines were blown up and destroyed.

CURRENT
AFFAIRS

Income from trading, non-trading activities scrutinized at banks

IN relation to foreign currency remittance abroad, the commercial income and non-trading business income flowing into the bank have been verified and permitted, said Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun, SAC's Information Team leader, at the eighteenth SAC Press Conference.

"The foreign exchange supervision committee was formed to implement the necessary measures to stabilize the foreign exchange rate and use it efficiently. Regarding foreign currency transfer, commercial income and non-trading business income which enter the bank are scrutinized and supervised," he said.

In addition, in the case of foreign loan suspension, he said, it is important to have capital and labour availability for the economic recovery in the post-COVID-19 period. A



The SAC Information Team leader gives information and facts at the 18th Press Conference.

period to pay the loans back is extended and there will be interest to pay. The central bank's suspension for a period of time is to provide support to speed up the businesses.

He also said there is no reason that Myanmar will become a country like Sri Lanka as an adequate amount of Yuan

and USD have been collected. There are limitations on imports to save foreign currency. In the case of goods which are not limited by the Ministry of Commerce, importation can be done with set regulations. If they are limited goods, they are not yet to be allowed to import. — TWA/GNLM

MoU system allows over 700 Myanmar workers to enter S Korea in July

A total number of 797 Myanmar workers entered the Republic of Korea in July, according to the statement of the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul.

For agricultural, livestock, and industrial jobs for foreign labour, Myanmar is one of the countries included in the South Korea MOU system.

A total of 797 Myanmar workers were sent to South Korea from 7 to 26 July – 613 for industries, 164 for agriculture and 20 for construction. They were sent from Yangon to Incheon Airport.

A labour attaché from the Myanmar Embassy welcomed the workers, informed them of

the rules and delivered them to their workplaces.

In Myanmar, the EPS-TOPIK qualification exam was held 13 times, which is a part of the Employment Permit System (EPS) in Korea. Workers who have passed the exam are sent according to the schedule.

Twenty-five per cent of the remaining 3,900 workers has been sent from 1 January to 30 May 2022 in the post-Covid-19 period.

In the last year, 42,832 workers who passed the EPS-TOPIK exam, were legally sent to South Korea. Around 27,000 Myanmar workers are currently working in South Korea. — TWA/GNLM



MoU workers are pictured departing for S Korea in July.

CID investigating online gambling games

THE Criminal Investigation Department (CID) conducts an investigation on online gambling games, said an official of the Ministry of Home Affairs during the 18th Press Conference of State Administration Council.

"The online gambling games are not permitted according to the Gambling Law. There is Technology Department under CID. It will uncover the account owners of online games and take action as per the law. The Financial Investigation Unit

is watching the money transfer and inspecting the suspected bank accounts. Some hide their profiles and so we cooperate with the communication ministries concerned. We carry out with the technological assistance of CID," an official said.

Currently, the various online games are advertised with unofficial monetary payment on social networks and young people become more interested in such sector, retired teacher Daw Yin May told The GNLM. — TWA/GNLM

Bayintnaung market: weekly commodity prices

BETWEEN 20 and 26 July, the onion, chilli and rice prices are high and the black gram and pigeon pea prices drop in the Bayintnaung market.

Onion

On 26 July, a total of 120,000 visses of onion entered the Yangon market at higher prices. On the same day, Seikbyu onion price was K1,350-1,650-1,850-1,950 per viss and Monywa onion fetched K1,450-1,750-1,950-2,050 a viss. The price almost reached K2,100 per viss of large-size Monywa onion on 14 June.

The onion prices are also

high in the countryside. In the Pakokku market, the highest price was K1,650 per viss on 26 July while K1,550 per viss in the Seikbyu market and K1,700 a viss in the Myingyan market. The price rose by K50 on 25 and 26 July.

Garlic

Shan (Aungban) garlic was priced at K2,000-2,600-3,200-3,700 per viss and K3,200 a viss of Kyukok garlic.

Potato

Shan Aungban's new potato price was K1,200-1,300-1,350 a viss while the Chinese potato

price was K1,650-1,700 per viss on 26 July.

Chilli

The chilli prices drastically surged in late July in the Yangon market. The Moe Htaung chilli and Bell Pepper prices were about K10,000 a viss. The chilli prices are from K9,500 and K12,500 per viss depending on the type of chilli.

Rice

The leftover amount of Shwebo Paw San is low in Shwebo and the new rice will be produced by the end of the year and the prices become

high. However, the Shwebo Pawsan price was K3,000 per pyi despite the different brands and prices in the market.

The special Shwebo Pawsan price was K78,000 per bag and K70,000 per bag of low-grade, and the Pawsan of the delta region can slightly be high. The low-grade rice price remains unchanged and the broken rice prices decline. It was K54,000-55,000 per bag of Pathein-Myaungmya rice, K52,000-53,000 per bag of Pyapon rice, and K50,000 per bag of Bogale-Mawkyun rice, K42,000 per bag of Pawkywe, K35,000-37,000 per bag of 90

days rice, K32,500 per bag of double-cropping rice and K28,500-29,000 per bag of broken rice on 26 July.

Black gram, red pigeon pea

On 26 July, black gram (FAQ/RC) was priced at K1,630,000 per tonne in the Yangon market while K1,865,000 per tonne of SQ/RC and K1,487,500 per tonne of pigeon pea (Red/RC). On 20 July, black gram (FAQ/RC) was priced at K1,670,000 a tonne while K1,490,000 a tonne of pigeon pea (Red/RC). The prices of the two types of beans drop this week. — TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Shwebo Pawsan rice price peaks at K7,600 per bag

THE price of the Shwebo Pawsan rice variety hit a high of K76,000 per bag in the domestic market, according to the Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre.

On 1 July, the highest price was only K66,000 per bag, whereas it significantly rose to K76,000 per 108-pound bag on 26 July, showing an increase of K10,000 within 20 days.

On 1 July, high-quality Pawsan varieties produced in different regions were priced at K49,000 per bag at minimum and K53,000 per bag at maximum. On 26 July, the prices increased to K52,000-55,000 per bag, reflecting an increase of K2,000-K5,000 within 20 days.

Traders remarked that rice prices jumped tracking unhusked

rice. The prices of unhusked rice are moving onwards on low inventory, moving between the range of K1,150,000 and K1,260,000 per 100-baskets.

The Myanmar Rice Federation, the Myanmar Rice Industry Association, and traders and brokers engaged in the Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre are working together and offering rice at reasonable prices to consumers in Yangon Region.

Each consumer can purchase one to five bags of some rice varieties at the Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre (contact number 09421167474, 01218266-68) every day between 9 am and 3 pm in Lanmadaw Township. This scheme commenced on 14 September last year. — NN/GNLM



Farmers are pictured drying the harvested paddies. PHOTO: WAI PHYO AUGN(IPRD)

Sino-Myanmar bilateral trade down by \$345 mln as of 15 July



China shut down all the checkpoints linking to the Muse border amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the checkpoints, Kyinsankyawt has resumed trading activity from 26 November on a trial run.

FOLLOWING changes in some trade policies, the value of border trade between Myanmar and a major trade partner China dropped by US\$345 million in three and a half months in the current financial year 2022-2023 compared to the corresponding period last year, the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce indicated.

At present, cross-border exports came to a halt owing to a volatile forex market, the gap between the regulated exchange rate and the market rate and a red-tape (seek an export licence for various beans and pulses).

The value of Myanmar-China border trade in all five border areas touched a low of \$654.296 million between 1 April and 15 July, comprising exports worth

\$548.7 million and imports worth \$105.569 million.

The figure significantly plummeted from over \$999 million recorded in the year-ago period.

In the past three and half months, border trade values amounted to \$526.94 million through Muse border, \$59.378 million via Lweje, \$25.95 million via Chinshwehaw, and \$38.074 million via Kampaiti, and over \$3.952 million via Kengtung. The Commerce Ministry's data showed a drop in trade value through all border posts between Myanmar and China, except Kampaiti.

Earlier, China banned Myanmar trucks and drivers to enter its side owing to the COVID-19 protocols and only Chinese short-haul drivers were allowed

to transport the goods. This caused the problem of delays and bulk supply owing to the lack of Chinese short-haul truckers, prompting the operators to charge the transport rate to exorbitant prices.

Myanmar trucks are given the go-ahead for border-crossing through the Kyinsankyawt-Wang Ding trade channel out of Muse border points under the driver-substitution system starting from 16 May 2022, said U Min Thein, vice-chair of the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre.

China shut down all the checkpoints linking to the Muse border amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the checkpoints, Kyinsankyawt has resumed trading activity from 26 November on a trial run. Myanmar daily delivers rubber, green gram, chilli pepper, onion, mango and other food commodities to China through the Kyinsankyawt post.

Myanmar has opened five border trade zones with China; Muse, Lweje, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung. The majority of the trade is carried out through the Muse land border, the Ministry of Commerce's data indicated.— KK/GNLM

Kyat weakens against dollar at K2,500 despite CBM reference rate at K1,850

KYAT depreciates against the safe-haven US dollar at approximately K2,500 on the over-the-counter market although the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) set the reference exchange rate at K1,850, according to local forex traders.

In order to strengthen the Kyat value in the local forex market, the CBM set the exchange rate margin within 0.5 per cent of the reference rate for the transaction, selling or buying, according to a notification issued by the CBM on 9 November.

As a result of this, financial institutions including banks and informal money changes set a dollar value at K1,850 for buying and K1,855-1,859 for selling.

Regardless of the CBM's foreign exchange policy, Kyat devalued above K2,000 starting on 15 July. On 26 July, the selling price of a dollar was K2,490, while the buying price was K2,440 in the unauthorized financial market.

The CBM sold dollars at its auction market for the sectors in need, to govern the market volatility. A total of \$443.8 million were sold at an auction

rate in 2021 as well.

Last 28 September 2021, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K3,000 in the black market and consequently, pure gold reached a record high of K2.22 million per tical (0.578 ounce, or 0.016 kilogramme) in history.

Under the guidance of the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods, the Monitoring and Steering Committee on Gold and Currency Market was formed on 17 December 2021 as gold and currency market stability play a crucial role in trade facilitation.

The objectives of the committee are inspecting and prosecuting market manipulation, checking whether there is compliance with payment rules in the domestic market, and proceeding against those unscrupulous traders who intend to interfere with the free and fair operation of the market under the existing laws, by-laws and regulations in line with official directives, illegal foreign currency holding, illegal trade and taking legal actions against price manipulators. — NN/GNLM

OPINION

Grasp skill recognition certificates to earn incomes in jobs

ALL the jobs must be operated by skilled labour but they must be qualified for relevant professions. In this regard, they have to show off certificates representing their qualification and skills. Such a certificate is a piece of evidence for their skills and qualification.

In seeking jobs, they need to show certificates of recognition on skills and qualifications. If they pass the tests for skills, they can obtain certificates. To have certificates of skills and work experiences, they have to spend their time taking relevant training severally.

Nowadays, some Myanmar people are seeking jobs abroad to earn income for their families with the aim of uplifting their living standards. Salaries and wages they have earned are remitted to their families in Myanmar. Hence, they have to be qualified in relevant professions of their choice as accepted by bosses from respective businesses at home and abroad.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism stated that skill standards will be approved for six kinds of jobs related to the hotels and tourism sectors under the ASEAN curriculum guidelines at respective qualification levels.

Myanmar allowed the landing of international flights on 17 April 2022 as infection of Covid-19 has been under control to some degree. Now, 11 international airlines operate the running of flights for 15 trips in Myanmar.

Moreover, the government allowed tourist visas for applicant foreigners to be able to pay visits to Myanmar as of 20 May 2022. Up to 14 July, international tourists from 47 countries including China, India, Thailand, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Taipei, Viet Nam, Singapore and the US tour various areas and pleasant destinations in Myanmar.

As such, services for those tourists are being given for their convenience in travelling. Hence, the ministry will approve the skill standard for employees in six jobs of the hotels and tourism services — receptionist, housekeeper, baker, waiter, tour consultant and ticket sale manager.

After assessing their skills and qualifications, certificates of recognition for relevant jobs will be issued to them. To do so, the National Tourism Professional Board-NTPB and the Tourism Professional Certification Board-TPCB are holding coordination meetings one after another so as to approve the qualification and skills of candidates.

Hence, young people seeking jobs with deserved salaries and daily wages at home and abroad need to enhance their capacity at all times to be able to firmly show off their skills and qualification with the help of recognition certificates to the bosses of jobs for earning incomes of high salaries.



Pitter-Patter

By Chit Ko Pe

THE pitter-patter from the rain dropping on the car's window pane is soft, but it smashes the silence in the car I'm riding along with our Company's driver. It bears a resemblance to an affectionate situation experienced some 8 years ago, and I'm unknowingly dragged into thought.

It was one early morning in June 2014 when Thai Airways International flight TG 950 touched down on the tarmac of Copenhagen Airport. It drizzled outside dipping on the plane's window panes. All passengers aboard the plane were ushered in with its pleasant and rhythmic pitter-patter. I arrived in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark well known for being the greenest city on the earth with amazing ambience, colourful houses, castles,

churches, museums and parks. History has it that Copenhagen hosted the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2009. It produced the international agreement and commitment to limiting global warming. It is later widely known as the Copenhagen Accord to which every global environmental issue is referred.

I was then flying from Singapore with a stopover in Bangkok, Thailand. The travel duration of 16 hours and 50 minutes from Singapore to Copenhagen got me jet-lagged. Exhausted, but I was made afresh with the sights of astonishing surroundings at Copenhagen Airport facilitated by an array of shops, bars, cafes, restaurants, refreshment outlets and friendly services. It is learnt that Copenhagen Airport is the

largest one in Scandinavia and Nordic countries as well as one of the oldest in Europe.

After enjoying a short time there, I boarded a local train departing from Copenhagen Airport to Copenhagen Central Station located at the heart of the city. It took about 13 minutes. With the biggest and busiest railway hub status in Denmark, Copenhagen Central Station with seven platforms and 13 tracks has been serving domestic and

international commuters since 1911. Copenhagen proudly boasts its historical and significant places of interest such as Tivoli Amusement Park, Christiansborg Palace, Rosenborg Palace, Nyhavn Harbour, The Round Tower, Amalienborg Castle, Kastellet & The Little Mermaid and others to name a few.

There, I hopped onto an international train bound for Lund, Sweden which was the last destination on my itinerary list. Actually, I was heading to Lund University which is a public research university founded in 1425. At the University, the international safety conference would be held under the backdrop of Achieving Sustainable Construction Health and Safety. It was organized by the International Council for Research

“I was lost in thought a while ago. The bridge on which our Company's car is passing through now is Thanlyin Bridge across Bago River, not the one abroad mentioned above.



By Chit Ko Pe

world. It was like a dream come true. At end of the bridge, Malmo was the first stopover on the Sweden side before reaching my final destination, Lund with a total train travel time of about an hour. Lund Cathedral built around 1100 is Lund's a towering landmark that I visited later.

I was lost in thought a while ago. The bridge on which our Company's car is passing through now is Thanlyin Bridge across Bago River, not the one abroad mentioned above. At its mid-span, a gust of wind brings a sudden shower hitting the car's window panes with pitter-patter that awakens me from memoirs. Oh! I'm on the way to work!

At present, it is raining at Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Thanlyin which houses factories, workshops, plants, shops, workplaces and offices including ours. With dark clouds looming in the sky, a non-stop downpour is certainly expected throughout the day. There will be more pitter-patter on the office's window pane just next to my desk, I fondly imagine.



Study: High blood pressure may double risk of severe COVID, despite full vaccination

ACCORDING to a new analysis of adults hospitalized with COVID-19 in Los Angeles between December 2021 and April 2022, high blood pressure more than doubled a person's risk for hospitalization from an Omicron-variant COVID-19 infection — even in the presence of full vaccination including a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccines.

Even in the absence of other chronic conditions like type 2 diabetes, kidney disease, or heart failure, high blood pressure, often known as hypertension, continued to have an effect on the severe COVID-19 sickness.

According to the study's lead author Joseph E. Ebinger, M.D., M.S., an assistant professor of cardiology and the director of clinical analytics at the Smidt Heart Institute at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, “These findings are important since approximately half of the adults in the US have high blood pressure.”

Worst side symptoms



High blood pressure more than doubled a person's risk for hospitalisation from an Omicron-variant COVID-19 infection — even in the presence of full vaccination including a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccines. **PHOTO: AFP**

Early in the pandemic, COVID-19 vaccinations assisted in reducing mortality as well as some

of the worst side symptoms of the infection. An observational study in Israel found that a booster dose

of the COVID-19 vaccine further reduced the risks of severe illness by up to 70%. Nevertheless, some

people who had received the full dose and the booster dose still needed to be hospitalized for COVID-19 during the first Omicron variant outbreak.

The Omicron version, which is still the predominant type, was discovered for the first time in the United States in December 2021, according to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. Seven Omicron subvariants have been found as of July 2022.

Even though the study group included participants who had received the whole COVID-19 vaccine series and a booster dose, Ebinger and colleagues sought to investigate the features of those individuals who had COVID-19 cases severe enough to necessitate hospital care.

Underlying medical issues

The data revealed that other older persons without other underlying medical issues are also at risk, according to Ebinger. Even if a person does not have any other significant chronic diseases, a

breakthrough Omicron infection serious enough to require hospitalization can affect an adult of any age, particularly if that person has high blood pressure. Not always who we assume they are are the folks who are most at risk. The discovery that they are not the sickest of the ill was unexpected.

During an Omicron surge, between December 2021 and April 2022, in the greater Los Angeles area, 912 adults who had received at least three doses of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines, authorised by the US Food and Drug Administration) and were treated for COVID-19 underwent a retrospective cohort study. Age, gender, race, ethnicity, and clinical data from electronic health records were among the demographic details that were looked at.

Chronic medical illnesses

The existence of chronic medical illnesses such as type 2 diabetes, kidney disease, heart at-

tack, heart failure, and past chronic pulmonary obstructive disease or asthma are examples of critical clinical traits and variables that researchers have uncovered.

According to the data, roughly 16 per cent of the 912 people who received the three doses of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccination needed to be hospitalized.

* The risk of hospitalization was found to be increased by advanced age, high blood pressure, chronic kidney disease, heart attack, heart failure, and the interval between the last immunization and COVID-19 infection.

* Even when they had no other serious chronic health conditions, people with high blood pressure were 2.6 times more likely to need hospital care for a severe COVID-19 illness.

* Of the 145 patients admitted to the hospital, 125 (86.2 per cent) had high blood pressure.

More research is required

“We need to increase knowledge and comprehension that obtaining three doses of vaccination might not completely protect people from developing severe COVID-19, particularly in those with high blood pressure. Additionally, more research is required to determine the reasons behind the association between high blood pressure and a heightened chance of developing COVID-19 disease, according to Ebinger. On how to lower the risks of serious COVID-19 infection, whether, through more specialised vaccine regimens, novel treatments, or a combination strategy, researchers indicated additional research is necessary. The biological mechanism underlying the link between severe COVID-19 and high blood pressure is another area that researchers believe requires additional research. The findings might not be generalizable because researchers used data from a single medical site for retrospective analysis.

SOURCE: ANI

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, petroleum, consumer goods, auto parts and vehicles confiscated

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

Under the instructions of the Chairman of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force, a team made inspections on 23 July, according to information.

Officials confiscated K14,372,000 worth of consumer goods and auto parts without official documents from a truck with a semi-trailer (approximately K25 million) at the 20/5 milepost on PyinOoLwin Road. The action was taken under the Maritime Customs Act.

In addition, on 24 July, a combined team conducted inspections and seized 850 gallons of illegal crude oil worth K1,442,110 in Chauk township. The action was taken under the Myanmar Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.



A seized race car in Bago Region.



Seized goods on the lorry in Mandalay Region.

Afterwards, a total of 1.8004 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1,018,302 were captured at the 160/6 milepost on the Pathein-Monywa Road in the Thayet district. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

Similarly, on 26 July, a to-

tal of 35.9558 tonnes valued at K11,992,614 were impounded in Maungtaw and Taungup townships under the supervision of the Rakhine State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

In addition, a total of 7.7374 tonnes of illegal timbers worth

K3,935,492 were confiscated in Bago and Thayawady districts and action was taken under the Forest Law.

A team led by Myanmar Police Force made inspections in Bago township and seized an unregistered Nissan Fairlady-350z

race car (approximately K3.5 million). The action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Therefore, 13 arrests estimated at K61,260,528 were made on 23, 24 and 26 July, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Over 130 tonnes of illegal timbers impounded in Nay Pyi Taw, regions/states



Confiscated illegal timbers.

THE Forest Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation adopts various ways and means, including the Community Monitoring and Reporting System (CMRS), to curb illicit timbers and forest products.

According to the data gathered between 18 and 24 July, a total of 130.3464 tonnes of illegal timbers — 38.0078 tonnes of teak, 35.6166 tonnes of hardwood and 56.7220 tonnes of others — were confiscated in regions/states and Nay Pyi Taw and 28 suspects captured with 37 vehicles, the department stated. — MNA

K1.93 billion worth of heroin impounded in Mandalay

THE Anti-Drug Police Force seized 77.52 kilogrammes of heroin worth K1.93 billion in the Yamethin township of Mandalay Region.

The combined team consisting of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a Dyna vehicle driven by Aung Myo Htet (aka) Nge Nge accompanied by Yarzar Soe (aka) Soe Nge at Thinpangon junction in Yamethin township of Mandalay region at 1:30 am on 20 July. They found 77.5 kilogrammes of heroin and as an interrogation result, the team found Zaw Oo, Khun Htun Lin, Maung Nyein, Ko Lay(aka) Thant Zaw Tun, Aik Aum, Thein Lin Maung (aka) Dozer, Tun Tun Oo (aka) Kyiba and Kyaw Thu, who are drugs dealers, from a lodge in Shwepyitha, Aungmingalagyi ward of Yamethin at 4 am. The team confiscated 0.02 kilogramme of heroin, a Hijet vehicle, a Surf vehicle, and a four-wheel double-cab. The total weight of the seized heroin was 77.52 kg and worth K1.93 billion. According to the examination, stockpiled heroin will be carried from Shan State (South) to Mandalay Region and they are prosecuted under respective laws and perpetrators of the crime chain are being investigated and identified, it is learnt. — MNA



Arrestees are pictured along with seized heroin and vehicles.

HEALTH/PANDEMIC
WORLD

China’s tourism sector eyes steady recovery amid epidemic



Tourists visit the West Lake scenic area in Hangzhou, east China’s Zhejiang Province, 1 October 2020.
PHOTO: JIANG HAN/XINHUA/FILE

FROM lofty mountains in Xinjiang to the courtyard of Naxi culture in Yunnan, tourism in many parts of China is seeing rebounds and looking to upgrade the market.

Asia’s largest professional travel expo, the China International Travel Mart (CITM) 2022 concluded Sunday in Kunming, capital of the southwestern province of Yunnan, amid warm response. It drew exhibitors from over 70 countries and regions, who set up nearly 4,200 standard booths on an exhibition area of 80,000 square meters.

After a travel lull since March due to sporadic resur-

gences in COVID-19 cases, northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region is experiencing a surge in tourism. Since July, the leading tourist destinations in the entire region have seen over 110,000 daily visits, up more than 200 percent from June.

Yunnan, the host province of CITM, has also witnessed a tourism boom. In the second half of June, the hotel occupancy rate in the province increased by over 30 per cent for the first time this year, and the number of air and railway passengers increased by 75 per cent and 46 per cent, respectively, over May.—Xinhua

BioNTech vaccine booster more effective against Covid Omicron variants – Study

RESEARCH from the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) Faculty of Medicine has found that people taking the BioNTech mRNA vaccine as the third booster dose produces more neutralizing antibodies against Omicron variants.

The study carried out by Dr. Daniel Baptista-Hon, an Assistant Professor of the Faculty of Medicine, and Professor Ligong Lu, the Director of the Zhuhai People’s Hospital was published

in ‘Signal Transduction and Targeted Therapy’

According to a statement by the university, the research led by Dr Baptista-Hon and Prof Lu found that in people who have received two doses of the inactivated virus vaccine, those who receive the BioNTech mRNA vaccine as a booster produce more neutralizing antibodies effective against the Omicron BA.2 variant.

The latest community out-

break, which saw about 1,800 confirmed cases found in the SAR involved predominately the Omicron BA.2 variant.

“The results of our study show that the choice of the booster shot is very important, and the data in our study is in line with the recommendations of the Health Bureau of the Macau SAR Government that people should consider the mRNA vaccine as their booster dose”, says Dr. Baptista-Hon.—Xinhua



Medical staff prepare syringes that contain the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine against Covid-19 at a mass vaccination center on 1 July 2021 in Leipzig, Germany. PHOTO: JENS SCHLUETER/GETTY/AFP

Research breakthrough in mystery child hepatitis



British researchers reported a breakthrough Monday in mysterious hepatitis cases affecting young children, finding the serious liver condition was linked to co-infection of two common viruses, but not the coronavirus. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ CHANDAN KHANNA/AFP

BRITISH researchers reported a breakthrough Monday in mys-

terious hepatitis cases affecting young children, finding the se-

rious liver condition was linked to co-infection of two common viruses, but not the coronavirus.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported at least 1,010 probable cases, including 46 that required transplants and 22 deaths from the illness dating back to last October. Previous theories had centered on a spike in commonly found adenovirus infections being behind the cases.

But in two new studies carried out independently and simultaneously in Scotland and London, scientists found another virus, AAV2 (adeno-associated virus 2) played a significant role and was present in 96 per cent of all patients examined.—AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

France opens monkeypox vaccination centre in Paris

FRENCH Health Minister Francois Braun announced on Monday that a high-capacity monkeypox vaccination centre will open to the public from Tuesday in Paris.

According to Public Health France, the capital region recorded 726 monkeypox cases, almost half of the 1,567 confirmed cases in France last week. The health minister said the number of confirmed cases now stands at more than 1,700.—AFP

Africa CDC calls for boosting surveillance, contact tracing against monkeypox

THE Africa Centre for Disease Control (Africa CDC) on Monday recommended its members to boost surveillance and contact tracing efforts against monkeypox disease.

In a press release, Africa CDC called on African states to strengthen laboratory diagnostic capacities and genomic sequencing capacity for monkeypox.—Xinhua

ECONOMY

WORLD

Japan upgrades key view on economy on recovering consumption



People walk in Tokyo's Asakusa area on 6 May 2022. PHOTO: KYODO

THE Japanese government on Tuesday upgraded its key economic assessment for the first time in three months, reflecting a recovery in personal consumption as economic activities continue to return to normal from coronavirus restrictions.

“The Japanese economy is picking up moderately,” the Cabinet Office said in its monthly

report for July, an upgrade from saying it shows signs of picking up in the previous report, citing improvements in private consumption, imports and employment.

As for short-term prospects, the monthly report warned of downside risks derived from “fluctuations in the financial and capital markets amid glob-

al monetary tightening,” referring to moves by major central banks including the US Federal Reserve.

The government also cited such risks as rising raw material prices and supply-side constraints, although it dropped wording saying they have been affected by the war in Ukraine as some commodity prices have fallen after surges following Russia’s invasion.

As for July, the government revised upward its assessment of private consumption for the first time in three months, saying it is “picking up moderately” on the back of recovering services-related spending such as eating out and travelling, as well as transportation.

Sales by major department stores have improved on the back of brisk demand for summer clothing amid rising temperatures as more people go out, the government said.—Kyodo

S.Africa bets on private investors, solar to fix power crisis

SOUTH Africa will open up to private investments to establish a competitive electricity market, President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Monday, as he outlined sweeping plans to deal with a prolonged energy crisis.

Ramaphosa said the government will accelerate the procurement of new capacity

from renewables, gas and battery storage — and remove a licencing threshold for private power generation projects.

“This will enable private investment in electricity generation to rise to higher levels,” he added.

The ultimate objective “is to achieve long-term energy se-

curity, so that we never have to experience an electricity shortage again,” Ramaphosa said in a televised press briefing.

“We aim to do this by ... improving plant performance, establishing a competitive electricity market, opening the way for private investment in new generation capacity and increasing our investment in renewables.”

Power cuts are a major source of frustration in the country and Ramaphosa has been under pressure to address blackouts that have been costing Africa’s most industrialized economy millions of dollars a day.

Ramaphosa said beleaguered public utility firm Eskom, which generates more than 90 per cent of the country’s energy will increase the budget for critical maintenance and add new capacity to the grid “on an urgent basis”.—AFP



The Sere Wind farm, close to Vredendal, about 350 km from Cape Town. PHOTO: AFP / RODGER BOSCH/FILE

Biden presses Congress to pass \$52 bln semiconductor subsidies

PRESIDENT Joe Biden on Monday pushed Congress to pass a bill providing domestic semiconductor manufacturers with \$52 billion in subsidies to cut reliance on foreign sourcing for the vital component.

Speaking to senior economic and national security staff and representatives from manufacturers and a trade union, Biden said government backing for domestic producers means the United States will “be able to stay in the game”.

“Congress must pass this bill as soon as possible,” he said, citing both the economic and national security “imperative” of securing production of the tiny components needed for everything from smart phones

to cars and weapons.

“America invented semiconductors, but over the years we let the manufacturing of those semiconductors go overseas,” Biden said. “The United States has to lead the world in production of these chips.”

Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo called the microchips “a cornerstone technology that underpin our entire economy” and warned that the United States has already fallen far behind.

US importers are “utterly dependent on Taiwan for the leading edge chips,” she said, while China is already investing heavily in its state-sponsored semiconductor industry.

— AFP



SMIC, China's largest chipmaker, is among Chinese firms banned from receiving US investment due to suspected ties to defence or surveillance technology PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Abuse of foreign trainees continues under technical internship programme

HARASSMENT and other abuses of foreign trainees in Japan are mounting, arousing criticism that the supervisory agency in charge of the government-sponsored technical internship programme has failed in its role to oversee the programme.

According to support groups, investigations into companies that accept foreign trainees have been insufficient at best, while, years after the programme's inception, there is still no viable framework available to lend trainees a helping hand.

At a press conference held in the Miyagi prefectural government building in Sendai in April, three Vietnamese women complained that they had been scolded loudly by their superiors and were not paid for labor they had done before they officially began working at a fishery processing company in the prefectural city of Ishinomaki. In February, they said, they were urged to quit by their employer.—Kyodo

5 years on, land-sea trade corridor accelerates China, ASEAN economic integration

X9575, a freight train, having departed from Chongqing Municipality in southwest China, arrived at the Qinzhou Port East Station in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Monday.

Loaded with goods such as auto parts, chemicals and Chinese pickles from regions along the land-sea freight route, part of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, X9575 transfers at the Qinzhou Port where the cargo will be shipped to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries.

"It used to take about a month for commodities



Machinery is seen moving containers at a port in Qinzhou, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, in March. PHOTO: XINHUA

from our western regions to reach ASEAN countries via the Yangtze River and sea route," said Liang Yu, deputy head of the station.

Now cargo consigned in Chongqing could be delivered to Vietnam through the corridor in just four days, Liang added.

Launched in 2017, the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor is a trade and logistics passage jointly built by western Chinese provinces and ASEAN countries.—Xinhua

General Motors Q2 profits fall 40% on supply woes, confirms forecast



A GMC Hummer EV seen on an assembly line in Michigan is part of the new electric fleet being developed by General Motors, which reported lower profits due to the semiconductor shortage. PHOTO: AFP

GENERAL Motors reported a big drop in second-quarter profits Tuesday due to the grinding semiconductor shortage, although the automaker confirmed its full-year forecast amid strong pricing.

Profits fell 40 per cent to \$1.7 billion as the Detroit giant was unable to deliver more than 90,000 vehicles unfinished due to missing parts. But the car manufacturer said production in the second half of 2022 would be "up sharply".

Revenues rose 4.7 per cent to \$35.8 billion.

GM reported sharply lower auto deliveries in all regions, including China, where government restrictions connected to the latest Covid-19 outbreak dented sales. A silver lining has continued to be limited dealership inventories that has kept pricing strong. In the United States, the average price was up \$6,600 compared with the year-ago period.

GM alluded to strong customer demand "with most vehicles turning immediately as they arrive at dealers," the company said in a powerpoint.

"We have been operating with lower volumes due to the semiconductor shortage for the past year, and we have delivered strong results despite those pressures," said GM Chief Executive Mary Barra in a statement.—AFP

Kremlin says Odessa strikes should not hamper grain exports

THE Kremlin said Monday that Russian strikes on Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odessa "should not affect" a UN-brokered deal between Moscow and Kyiv to unblock grain exports.

"This cannot and should not affect the start of shipment," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, two days after Moscow hit the port.

He said Moscow's strikes targeted "exclusively" military infrastruc-

ture and were "not connected with the agreement on the export of grain".

The weekend strikes on Odessa came less than a day after Moscow and Kyiv signed a landmark deal to release grain ex-

ports from Ukraine's ports.

Western countries denounced the move, with the US saying it cast "serious doubt" on Russia's commitment to the deal.—AFP

Japan to give 92.9 bil. yen subsidy to Kioxia-Western Digital chip plant

JAPAN will provide a subsidy up to 92.9 billion yen (\$680 million) to Kioxia Corp. and Western Digital Corp. for a semiconductor production facility as part of efforts to secure stable domestic chip production, the industry minister said Tuesday.

Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Koichi Hagiuda said the government had approved the capital investment plan to enhance the capacity of the facility, which is a joint venture by Kioxia with the US chip giant.

"The plan will contribute to developing a resilient chip supply chain, making progress in the semiconductor industry as well as strengthening Japan-US cooperation," Hagiuda said, referring to the facility in Yokkaichi, Mie Prefecture.

The development of a resilient supply chain for semiconductors is likely to be on the agenda when Hagiuda visits the United States and holds the first economic "two-plus-two" dialogue involving foreign and industry ministers of the two countries on Friday in Washington.

"We appreciate the support of the Japanese government and will continue to produce cutting-edge flash memory which is indispensable for a digital society where cloud services, 5G communications, IoT, AI and automated driving are expanding," said Nobuo Hayasaka, president of Kioxia, formerly known as Toshiba Memory Corp.

With the subsidy, Kioxia and Western Digital said they will continue to accelerate the development and production of cutting-edge flash memory at the Yokkaichi plant as well as contribute to fostering chip-related industries and talent.—Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PROGRESS VOY.NO. (N024)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PROGRESS VOY.NO. (N024)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-7-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** 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: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department

Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S INTER ASIA LINES

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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Nepal unveils action plan for tourism revival

THE Nepali government on Sunday announced a number of measures to revive the tourism industry battered by the COVID-19 pandemic, including a plan to declare the years between 2023 and 2033 as Visit Nepal Decade.

Unveiling the Tourism Rehabilitation Action Plan, Jeevan Ram Shrestha, Nepal's minister for culture, tourism and civil aviation, said the government is breaking the tradition of announcing a single year as Visit

Nepal Year so as to run a sustained campaign to promote tourism, a major foreign exchange earner and job creator for the country.

As per the action plan, the Visit Nepal Decade is expected to come out within the next three months. The government plans to attract 1 million foreign tourists in the 2022-23 fiscal year which began in mid-July. "We have not yet set any target for the planned Visit Nepal Decade. We have to

do further homework and consultations with the stakeholders," Hom Prasad Luitel, joint secretary at the tourism ministry, told Xinhua.

Nepal received 1.19 million foreign visitors in 2019 and sought to attract 2 million in 2020 when Visit Nepal 2020 was launched, but COVID-19 forced the government to call off the campaign. As the pandemic persisted, the tourism sector fared poorly in 2020 and 2021.— Xinhua



As per the action plan, the Visit Nepal Decade is expected to come out within the next three months. A private aircraft prepares to land at the Tenzing-Hillary airport in Lukla, a small town in the Khumbu Pasanglhamu rural municipality of the Solukhumbu District, Nepal on 23 April 2021. **PHOTO: PRAKASH MATHEMA / AFP/FILE**

Singapore asked to indict Sri Lanka's exiled leader

AN international human rights group has formally asked Singapore to indict Sri Lanka's deposed president Gotabaya Rajapaksa for crimes against humanity during his country's decades-long civil war, officials said Monday.

Rajapaksa fled his country earlier this month after his official residence was stormed by tens of thousands of protesters infuriated by the island nation's painful economic crisis.

He later escaped to the Mal-

dives in a military plane and travelled on to Singapore, from where he tendered his resignation.

Rajapaksa helmed Sri Lanka's defence ministry while his brother Mahinda was president and was in charge when the coun-

try's brutal Tamil separatist conflict came to a bloody end in 2009.

Rights groups accused government forces of killing 40,000 Tamil civilians in a no-holds-barred offensive during the war's final weeks. The South

Africa-based International Truth and Justice Project said it had urged Singapore to exercise its universal jurisdiction to arrest the former president for grave breaches of international humanitarian law.— AFP

RUSSIA - UKRAINE CONFLICT

Zelensky urges Europe to boost Russia sanctions over 'gas war'



An employee of Uniper Energy Storage walks through the above-ground facilities of a natural gas storage facility at the Uniper Energy Storage facility in Bierwang, southern Germany. **PHOTO: AFP**

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelensky on Monday called on Europe to retaliate against Russia's "gas war" by boosting its sanctions against Moscow.

"Today we heard new gas threats to Europe... This is an open gas war that Russia is wag-

ing against a united Europe," Zelensky said, reacting to Gazprom's announcement of a new cut in gas deliveries to Europe.

Russia's state-owned energy giant said it will cut daily gas deliveries to Europe via the Nord Stream pipeline to 33 million cu-

bic metres a day — about 20 per cent of the pipeline's capacity — from Wednesday.

It said it was halting the operation of one of the last two operating turbines due to the "technical condition of the engine".—AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

Gazprom to drastically slash deliveries

RUSSIAN energy giant Gazprom says it is cutting daily gas deliveries via the Nord Stream pipeline to 33 million cubic metres a day — about 20 per cent of the pipeline's capacity — from Wednesday.

It says in a statement that it is halting the operation of one of the last two operating turbines due to the "technical condition of the engine". The German government says there is "no technical reason" for Gazprom's announcement. Heavily dependent upon Russian gas, Germany has accused Moscow of using energy as a "weapon", and EU states accuse it of squeezing supplies in retaliation for Western sanctions over the war in Ukraine.

Grain deliveries to start 'this week'

UKRAINE expects the first grain shipments under a UN-Türkiye brokered deal to leave its ports "this week", its infrastructure minister says, despite Russian strikes on the Black Sea port of Odessa, which is crucial for grain exports.

"We are preparing for everything to start this week," says Oleksandr Kubrakov, who led the Ukrainian delegation that reached a deal last week with Russia on unblocking Ukraine's grain exports.

The future of the agreement, seen as crucial to relieving a global food crisis, had appeared in jeopardy after Russian forces launched strikes on Odessa a day after the agreement was signed.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov says the missile strikes "should not affect the start of shipment".

Russia fights for Donbas, Ukraine for Kherson

THE Ukrainian presidency says that a Russian strike trapped seven people under a collapsed cultural centre in the northeastern Kharkiv region. Three were pulled out alive and the rescue operation was ongoing.

SOURCE: AFP

Japan executes assailant in fatal 2008 rampage in Tokyo's Akihabara

JAPAN executed a man on Tuesday over a 2008 rampage in Tokyo's Akihabara district in which seven people were killed and 10 others injured, the justice minister said, marking the country's first hanging since last December.

Tomohiro Kato, 39, ran down pedestrians with a truck in a vehicle-free pedestrian zone in the district on 8 June 2008, killing three people and injuring two. After exiting the vehicle, he fatally stabbed four other people with a

dagger and injured another eight, according to the ruling finalized in 2015. Justice Minister Yoshihisa Furukawa said the incident had had a "significant impact on society as it deprived seven people of their precious lives," telling a news conference that he had signed the order last Friday after "careful and then more careful consideration".

The execution was the second under the administration of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who took office in October last

year. Three death-row inmates were hanged in December for their roles in multiple murders.

The execution brought the total number of death-row inmates in the country to 106.

The Akihabara district, once known primarily as an electronics mecca, is now better known as a hotspot for Japanese youth culture, drawing fans of manga and anime in particular. The vehicle-free pedestrian zone was suspended for more than two years after the rampage.—Kyodo



Photo taken 8 June 2008, shows the site of a stabbing rampage at an intersection in Tokyo's Akihabara district. **PHOTO: KYODO**

12 countries to join Indonesia, US joint military drill on Sumatra



This handout photograph taken on 24 July 2022 and released by the Indonesia Military shows US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley (centre) inspecting the troops in Jakarta. **PHOTO: AFP/HANDOUT**

OVER 4,000 troops from a dozen countries will join an annual joint military exercise between Indonesia and the United States next month amid simmering tensions in the South China Sea, according to Indonesian officials.

The "Super Garuda Shield" exercise will be held on the main Indonesian islands of Sumatra

and Kalimantan from 1 to 14 August, involving such countries as Australia, Japan, South Korea and Britain. Ground drills and beach-landing exercises are being scheduled.

Indonesia will dispatch 2,000 soldiers, and the United States over 1,100 personnel to the exercise that dates back to 2009, Gen.

Andika Perkasa, commander of the Indonesian military, told reporters Sunday.

Previous exercises only involved army soldiers. This year, however, Indonesia and the United States decided to involve all branches, including their air forces, the navies and special forces.

"It's to improve our capabilities in dealing with challenges, including the security ones, natural disasters and humanitarian missions," Andika said in his joint press conference with the visiting chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen Mark Milley.

Milley said this year's edition will be "a very, very important and significant exercise, the largest one that we've run to date".

China claims much of the South China Sea and has militarized outposts in areas of the sea that are also contested by neighbouring countries, such as the Philippines and Viet Nam.—Kyodo

Shortages leave bankrupt Sri Lanka's hospitals empty

ENTIRE wards are dark and nearly empty in Sri Lanka's largest hospital, its few remaining patients leaving untreated and still in pain, and doctors prevented from even arriving for their shifts.

An unprecedented economic crisis has dealt a body blow to a free and universal healthcare system that just months earlier was the envy of the country's South Asian neighbours.

Suffering from diabetes and high blood pressure that inflamed her joints, Theresa Mary travelled to the capital Colombo for treatment at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka.

Unable to find a ride for the last leg of her journey, she had to limp the last five kilometres (three miles) on foot.

She was discharged four

days later, still finding it difficult to stand on her feet, because the dispensary had run out of subsidised painkillers.

"Doctors asked me to buy medicines from a private pharmacy, but I don't have money," Mary, 70, told AFP.

"My knees are still swollen. I don't have a home in Colombo. I don't know how long I have to walk." The National Hospital normally caters to people all over the island nation in need of specialist treatment, but it now runs on reduced staff and many of its 3,400 beds are lying unused. Supplies of surgery equipment and life-saving drugs have been almost exhausted, while chronic petrol shortages have left both patients and doctors unable to travel for treatment.—AFP



Nurses walk outside the National Hospital in Colombo, where many of its 3,400 beds are lying unused. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ecuador prosecutor investigates ex-president over missing artifacts

THE Ecuadoran public prosecutor's office said Monday it is investigating former president Lenin Moreno over the disappearance of priceless artifacts from the presidential palace.

The public prosecutor's of

fice said on Twitter it was searching Moreno's home "in the context of an investigation into the alleged crime of embezzlement related to the alleged disappearance of heritage pieces" from the government building.

Embezzlement is punishable by up to 13 years in prison in Ecuador. Moreno, who was president from 2017-2021, was accused of taking the artifacts by an ally of his predecessor Rafael Correa.—AFP

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SPORT

Myanmar golfer wins third in 17th Viet Nam Amateur Open 2022 Golf Tournament

MYANMAR golfer Hlaing Min Htet competed in the 17th Viet Nam Amateur Open 2022 Golf Tournament held in Viet Nam from 21 to 24 July, and won the third prize, according to the Myanmar Golf Federation (MGF).

Hlaing Min Htet won the third prize with 75+73+73+71 with a total of 292 shots in four rounds.

More than 90 players from various countries participated in the competition.

After the competition, Tunyapat Sukkoed (Thailand) won the first prize while Nguyen Anh Minh (Viet Nam) won the second prize.

On the pre-tourna-



ment practice day of this tournament, Hlaing Min Htet also scored a hole-in-one at hole No 13. — GNLM

Japanese police raid home of Tokyo Olympics executive: reports

JAPANESE police on Tuesday raided the home of a 2020 Tokyo Olympics board member who allegedly received money from a sponsor he signed a consulting contract with, local media reported.

Haruyuki Takahashi, 78, is suspected of receiving hundreds of thousands of dollars from high

street business suit retailer Aoki Holdings Inc., an “official partner” of last year’s pandemic-delayed mega-event. Kyodo news agency reported that could constitute bribery, as Takahashi was considered a quasi-civil servant who was not permitted to accept money or gifts related to his position. —AFP

Myanmar National League Week 5 matches continue today

THE remaining matches of the Myanmar National League Week 5 will resume today, according to the Myanmar Na-

tion-al League. In the remaining matches, Myawady United will take on Shan United today and Rakhine United will play against Yadanabon FC on 28 July.

Defending champion Shan United, who can go on for four games and is leading at the top of the standings, will be tested

again against the top-ranked Myawady team, which has won three games in a row.

The Myawady team is made up of local players and does not have any famous players, but they have been getting good results this season.

Shan United, the current champion team, did not have most of the star players before the start of this season, but they can show good performance

and have won four games in a row.

Rakhine United, which is the only team that has lost every game this season, will have to try to get its first win, while the Yadanabon team has lost three consecutive games since winning the opening game of the season.

In the previous matches of Week 5, Hanthawady United beat GFA 10-0 while Yangon United won Maha United by five goals. The match between Ayeyawady United and ISPE FC finished with a goalless draw. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM



Myanmar National League Week 5 match between Ayeyawady United and ISPE FC. PHOTO: MYANMAR NATIONAL LEAGUE FB

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

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

2. Economic affairs

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

3. Social affairs

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

Myanmar to play Philippines today in AFF U-18 Women's Championship

MYANMAR U-18 women's football team will play the second group match of the ASEAN AFF U-18 Women's Championship against the Philippines team in Indonesia today.

In the previous Group (B) matches played on 24 July, the Myanmar team beat the Malaysian 2-0 while the Australian team made a victory over the Philippine team by four goals.

Therefore, if Myanmar and Australia win again in this match, they will have the right to advance to the semi-finals before the last group match.

The Myanmar U-18 team struggled a bit in the first group match against Malaysia but managed to win.

The Philippine team is expected to try hard in this match as they lost in the opening game and with two international players also participating, the Myanmar team is likely to struggle in this match to win.

Team Myanmar matches will start at 3 pm Myanmar Standard Time and Australia vs Malaysia match will begin at 7 pm Myanmar Standard Time. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM