

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 on the birth of a new white elephant



A ten-day-old baby white elephant is pictured at the Myanma Timber Enterprise in Taungup Township, Rakhine State.

A 33-YEAR-OLD female elephant called Zar Nan Hla kept by the Myanma Timber Enterprise in Taungup Township of Rakhine State has given birth to one white male elephant at 6:30 am on 23 July 2022. The baby elephant is two feet and five inches in height, three feet and one inch in girth, two feet in back length and has one foot and

six inches long tail with its birth weight of about 180 pounds. According to the experts, the white elephants consist of eight unique features: pearl-coloured eyes, plantain branch-shaped back, white hair, a distinctive tail, auspicious plot signs on the skin, soft reddish-brown skin, each limb having five claws and big ears.

The newly born white elephant has pearl-coloured eyes, plantain branch-shaped back, white hair, a distinctive tail, auspicious plot signs on the skin, reddish-brown or pinkish skin, five claws on the front legs and four on the back legs and big ears. Therefore, these features conform with seven out of eight characteristics.

Out of the previous nine white elephants, only one meets seven unique features and the rest eight meet only six. The new ten-day-old white elephant is two feet and 5.5 inches tall and about 190 pounds. He lives together with his mother happily. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

Yangon Port handles 335 cargo ships in past 7 months

A total of 335 cargo ships arrived at Yangon Port in the past seven months (January-July), according to the Myanma Port Authority. In August, 55 cargo ships carrying many containers have been scheduled to enter Yangon

Port. The number of cargo ships entering Yangon Port stands at 49 in January, 48 in February, 50 in March, 52 in April, 54 in May, 53 in June and 49 in July, respectively.

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The photo shows an aerial view of several overseas-going merchant vessels being berthed for loading and unloading at Yangon Port.

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Announcement for opening reception centres to receive CDM staff, students and youths

THE State Administration Council has been striving for the all-round development of the country including economic, social, education and health sectors. In addition, security forces are performing their duties day and night so that the entire mass of national people in various regions across the Union should be able to lead their lives and earn their living in the peace of mind. The State Administration Council gives priority to achieving genuine and perpetual peace, building up the united strength of the national brethren.

In order to prevent the unnecessary loss of human resources, the State Administration Council has publicly invited the basic education staff who are absent from duty to resume their duties and those who take part in armed resistance under various names of groups,

including PDFs, to return to the legal fold if they wish to, and is systematically receiving the returnees.

It is found that, due to the persuasion, instigation and coercion of CRPH and NUG terrorist groups, some CDM staff, students and youths went to the strongholds of some ethnic armed organizations and received training in arms, ammunition and explosives.

It is known that some of those who have completed the training no longer want to be involved in terrorist attacks and so they fled to the regions within and without the country and are working there for their living. When they see terrorist attacks with their own eyes, they cannot accept such terrible acts at all. On the other hand, they have come to believe in the government's five-point roadmap and its endeavour for

endurable peace. Moreover, they want to live peacefully in their hometowns again with their parents and relatives. Nevertheless, they cannot do so because of the coercion and intimidation by CRPH and NUG terrorist groups and their subordinates, it is learnt.

Therefore, the government is taking measures to be able to open reception centres in border areas for those who would like to return homes to their respective regions. Moreover, those wishing to return home can contact Tatmadaw units and police stations. It is guaranteed that they will be able to lead their daily lives peacefully.

Information Team
State Administration Council

U Aung Kyaw Zan appointed as Ambassador of Myanmar to the Federative Republic of Brazil

THE Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Aung Kyaw Zan, Director-General of the Planning and Administrative Department, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federative Republic of Brazil. —MNA

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 524



A local in Tamway Township, Yangon Region gets COVID-19 vaccine shot on 2 August.

people from three townships in Yangon Region, 4,427 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 1,562 people from seven townships in Rakhine State, 5,280 from seven districts in Mandalay Region and 268 from Toungoo Township in Bago Region.

Similarly on that day,

healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 2,949 students from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region and 472 students from three townships in Rakhine State. It is reported that officials from the respective Military Commands visited the sites and coordinated the necessary work. — MNA

Yangon Port handles 335 ...

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Starting from May, shipping lines are increasing their services to facilitate exports and imports. The turnaround time at the port was designated as approximately three days, under the guidance of the Myanma Port Authority and the cooperation of the ocean liners, exporters and importers. Therefore, the arrival of the ships has increased.

The Myanma Port Authority and Yangon inner terminals are providing services to ensure the fast and reliable freight handling and withdrawal of the containers in order for trade flow to return to normalcy.

Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems preventing their sailing on the Yangon River. The draft extension is up to 10 metres with the new navigation channel accessing the inner Yangon River.

The value of Myanmar's maritime trade between 1 April and 22 July of the current financial year 2022-2023 soared to US\$8.047 billion. The figure reflected an increase of \$2.25 billion year on year. Sea trade rose from \$5.79 billion during the year-ago period, the statistics of the Customs Department showed.

Exports through sea trade were valued at \$3.437 billion, imports were registered at \$4.6 billion.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials.

The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade and includes Yangon inner terminals and outer Thilawa Port.

Yangon inner terminals and outer Thilawa Port received over 152 larger ships of above 30,000 DWT (deadweight tonnage) in the first five months (February-June) 2021 after the draft limit was extended up to 10 metres. — Htet Myat/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

15 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 2 August, total figure rises to 614,128

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 614,128 after 15 new cases were reported on 2 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 592,922 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll still stands at 19,434 without more casualties.—MNA

Further invitation to remnant groups to hold talks

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

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

MoHT Union Minister receives representatives from Best Int'l Travels & Agency, Thai television media groups

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Htay Aung met with representatives from Thai media outlets, including Best International Travels & Agency, MONO 29, Channel 5, Thairath, and Workpoint in Nay Pyi Taw on 31 July afternoon in order to broadcast on Thai television programmes and promote more access to the Thai tourism market so that Thai tourists can visit more destinations in Myanmar. During the meeting, the Union Minister explained the tourist attractions and destinations in Myanmar, including its beauty, culture, and religious places for Buddhists, which attract most Thai tourists to Myanmar. In Myanmar, international airlines have been allowed to resume operations since 17 April, and e-Visa (Tourist) has been allowed since 20 May. Up until now, there has been an increase in the number of do-



At the meeting, a video file on the promotion of tourism in Myanmar was shown and an explanation was given regarding the tourism industry in Myanmar. After that, Thai television groups openly inquired about the work for the development of Myanmar's tourism industry, arrangements made and the conditions that will continue to be implemented so that more Thai tourists can visit Myanmar. After the meeting, the Union minister and the representatives from the Thai media groups visited the Gems Museum. It is reported that the groups will visit the National Museum, Uppatasanti Pagoda, Minwun Mountain, Defence Services Museum, and Leklok Mountain on 1 August in Nay Pyi Taw. They will visit tourist attractions in Yangon, record videos, and show them on Thai television programmes. — MNA

State-level coastline natural resources administrative committee's 2nd meeting held

THE State-level coastline natural resources administrative committee's second meeting was held at the Ingyin Hall of the Forestry Department in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Committee Chairman MoNREC Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi, Vice-Chairman MoALI Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo and committee members attended the meeting with respective region/state ministers joining it virtually. Firstly, the committee chairman said the State is improving administrative processes of the coastal and mangrove sector with an added momentum as a national task, implementing a blue economy

not only for business development but also for the sustainability of coastal resources, the stability of the ocean ecosystem and socioeconomic development of the people, who are living in developing countries, identifying policies related to the development of Myanmar's blue economy and implementing the basic national-level coastal resource all-round management plan. Union Minister U Khin Maung Yi mentioned that Myanmar's coastal line possesses the three-fifths of the whole ecosystem in the Bay of Bengal, which has a diverse marine ecosystem; it is necessary to resolve the loss of marine biodiversity,

coral reefs, mangroves, sea grasses and water resources in order to secure food security and avoid decreasing in vocational careers. Collaborative efforts are exerted to control waste disposals such as plastic garbage, electronic waste, and agricultural residues, he elaborated. Then, Committee Vice-Chair Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo gave remarks and the committee secretary briefed the undertakings of the committee. The committee members discussed the relevant sectors, difficulties and the plans to be carried out before concluding the meeting. — MNA

Daily imports of essential Anti-Covid-19 equipment conducted in smooth process

THE Ministry of Commerce supervises the import of essential medical supplies for anti-Covid-19 prevention, control and treatment activities through border trade posts, international airports and seaports.



A company imported a total of 11.5 tonnes of masks by a vehicle from the Chinshwehaw border trade camp. Officials from relevant departments provided necessary facilities in order to beef up the standard operating procedures-SOP for the import process. The public can browse the Ministry's Website — www.commerce.gov.mm — for notifications on the importation of medicines and related accessories. —MNA

Barrel oil price, 18-litre container oil price same in palm oil market



THE Yangon-based palm oil reference price between 1 and 7 August is K3,525 per viss, the officials announced yesterday.

In a two-week duration from 18 to 31 July, the price was K3,665 per viss.

The consumer can buy about one viss of oil from the oil shops and trucks in their regions in addition to the Bayintnaung market at the set reference price.

Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association operates mobile market trucks to sell oil to the public.

es. However, the wholesale price in the market including in Yangon was about K8,500 per viss on 1 August, said an oil purchaser. In the market, the various brands of tin oil cans imported via border areas in addition to plastic containers are available, according to the market.

One 18 litres container was priced at K87,000 while a tin oil at K86,000. The weight of the plastic container is 10 visses and 55 ticals and the tin oil is 10 visses and 60 ticals. The empty barrel can be sold at K2,000 and the oil is at K8,500 per viss.

The oil colour is much better

than oil from a barrel. On 28 July, the palm oil price was \$861.852 per metric ton, the exchange rate was K1,850 and about K1.6 million per tonne in foreign countries. The barrel oil exchange prices outside the Yangon market are higher than the oil price in Malaysia. Therefore, oil barrels that can be easily carried from foreign countries enter the country via border routes. As it makes large profits, people sell the oil at the same prices as the barrel oil prices that are higher in the market, said oil dealer Ko Tin Tun. — TWA/GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, consumer goods, foodstuff, car parts, industrial materials and vehicles confiscated

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

A combined team conducted the inspections on 30 July under the instructions of the Chairman of the Anti-Illicit Trade Task Force.

Officials confiscated a total of 6.222 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K933,300 from a wooden boat and related things (approximately K920,000) about 0.6 mile north of the Kalwin lighthouse in Myeik township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, an on-duty team of the Bago Township

Customs Department carried out inspections under the supervision of the Bago Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force on 31 July.

They captured K16,435,000 worth of foodstuffs, consumer goods, car parts, old clothes and Buddha images without official documents from a Ni Di bus (approximately K25 million) heading from Myawady to Yangon. Similarly, officials confiscated K1,470,500 worth of industrial materials without official documents from a Yutong Express bus (approximately K40 million) heading from Mawlamyine to Yangon at Phayagyi toll-gate. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, a combined inspection team made inspections at the Kawkareik (Tadakyoe). Officials confiscated K3 million worth of foodstuffs from a truck. The action was taken under the Custom Procedures.

Afterwards, on 1 August, an on-duty team at the Mandalay International Airport captured K1.87 million worth of a pair of DJI Drone without official documents to import and action was taken under the Custom Procedures.

Therefore, ten arrests (approximately K89,628,800) were made on three consecutive days from 30 July and 1 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA



The DJI Drone Unit was seized at Mandalay International Airport.

A wild calf rescued from old well



The female calf is pictured being rescued. She re-entered the forest later.

A wild calf was rescued from an old well aside from the locally called Lappaysin jungle trail located at the Kwinkaut Village of Kwinkauk Village-tract, Thabaung Township, Pathein District in Ayeyawady Region at 7:30 am on 2 August.

A combined team which includes Ranger U Myo Min Latt of the Thabaung Department of Forest staff, Police Captain Hla Aye of the Forestry Security Police Force and members, SIP Aung Ko Ko of the Hlaygyitat Police Outpost and associates and Village Administrator

U Win Htay of the Kwinkauk Village-tract, came to rescue the wild calf that was fell in the old well which located in U Khin Maung Htay's rubber farm near the Lappaysin jungle trail, Kwinkauk Village of Kwinkauk Village-tract, according to the information.

The team managed to salvage the wild calf with the use of an excavator from the well at 8:45 am. It is learnt that it was a female calf aged around five and she re-entered the forest safe and sound. — Myo Zaw Thein-Thabaung IPRD/GNLM

Man arrested after stealing bus, ramming into car, lamp post with 3 deaths

A man who stole an empty YBS 94 bus from a CNG filling station and rammed into another vehicle was arrested by the public on 2 August.

The accident left three people, including a 12-year-old child, dead.

Ludu Partner bus line announced that their bus was stolen while queuing to fill gas at the gas filling station.

The YBS 94 bus driver queued at CNG gas station in Shwepyitha township at 3:40 am on 2 August and he left the car to inquire at the station. Then, the suspect who used drugs stole the bus and drove to the Danyingon junction and smashed into a Light Truck. "A 12-year-old child died on the spot. One of the three victims



Stolen YBS 94 bus is seen after ramming into the lamp post .

died at the hospital. The driver continuously drove to Phawkan after the accident. He rammed into Htawlagyi (tractor) parked near traffic light on Japan road and a mentally disabled woman

who slept on platform. She also died there. The bus stopped in opposite lane after crushing into the lamp post," said a responsible person of the social welfare team. — TWA/GNLM

Over K2 billion presented to 41st Aung Bar Lay lottery winners



The 41th Aung Bar Lay Lottery.

A total of 325,600 lottery tickets were sold for the 41st Aung Bar Lay Lottery, according to a statement from the Aung Bar Lay Lottery Branch of the Internal Revenue Department under

the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

As the lottery ticket sales were K3,256 million, the lottery prize will be K2,279.200 million which is 70 per cent of the total

ticket sales. The prize includes prizes such as one K500 million prize and one K100 million as the special prize, two K50 million prizes, six K20 million prizes, seven K10 million prizes, eleven K5 million prizes, fourteen K2 million prizes, eleven K1 million prizes and fifty K300,000 prizes, four hundred K200,000 prizes, twelve thousand K100,000 prizes in Wai Wai Sar Sar Padetha.

Moreover, the government gave six prizes at K1 million, ten prizes at K300,000 and 100 prizes at K200,000 using K29.350 million in confiscated finance.

Moe Yan lottery shop was securing K500 million at the 41st Aung Bar Lay Lottery. —TWA/GNLM

Bayintnaung market: weekly commodity prices

THE rice, chilli and potato prices were high while the market received a large amount of onion at low prices between 27 July and 2 August 2022. The Shan garlic was priced at K2,000-2,600-3,150-3,700 per viss and K3,200 per viss of Kyukok garlic. Moreover, the pigeon pea price rose to about K100,000 per tonne during this week and the black bean prices did not change.

Rice

The Rice NGO announced that they will sell one rice bag to one household at the Wadan wholesale centre at fairer prices on 3 August. On 2 August, the Shwebo Pawsan was priced at K80,000-87,000 per bag while K65,000 per bag of Pathein-Myaungmya rice, K63,000 per bag of Pyapon Pawsan, K45,000 per bag of Pawkywe, K40,000 per bag of 90-day rice and K34,000 per bag of double-cropping rice, according to the Bayintnaung market.

The rice prices to be sold at the Wadan wholesale centre are K75,000-77,000 per bag of Shwebo Pawsan, K52,000-55,000 per bag of Ayeyawady Pawsan, K55,000-60,000 per bag of Kyapyan and K35,000-37,000 per bag of 90-day rice.

Cooking oil

The Yangon-based palm oil reference prices dropped to K3,525 per viss from K3,665 per viss and the barrel oil price of outside the Yangon market is still about K8,500 per viss. One 18-litre container oil is priced at K86,000-87,000.

Onion

The onion prices rose K50 per viss in three successive days from 25 to 27 July. The price remained unchanged from 28 to 30 July and it dropped K50 per viss on 1 August. A total of 210,000 visses of onion entered the market on the same day while 150,000 visses on 2 August.

On 2 August, the Seikbyu onion price did not change while the Monywa onion price declined a little. It was K1,350-1,650-1,850-1,950 per viss of Seikbyu onion and K1,400-1,800-1,900-2,000 per viss of Monywa onion.

Potato

The Chinese potato prices were K1,850 per viss on 2 August while K1,000-1,200-1,500-1,700-1,800 per viss of Shan Aungban potato.

Chilli

The Chilli prices rose to K12,500 per viss more than last week's prices and reached K1,450-1,500 per viss on 1 August.

Beans

On 2 August, the black gram (FAQ/RC) was priced at K1,650,000 per tonne in the Yangon market while K1,910,000 per tonne of SQ/RC and K1,572,500 per tonne of pigeon pea (Red/RC). The pigeon pea price was high about K100,000 per tonne during this week. On 26 July, it was K1,487,500 per tonne of pigeon pea and rose to K1,580,000 on 1 August. — TWA/GNLM

Tamarind prices remain unchanged until mid-year

IN early 2022, as the tamarind production rate in the new tamarind season is low and the price can be high during this year some people store the tamarind, the merchants considered.

However, the tamarind dealers from the Bayintnaung wholesale centre said the tamarind prices would not be high during this year.

In early 2021, chopped tamarind was priced at K2,300 per viss while Pwint Kat at K2,400-2,500, flesh K2,900-3400, and the Pwint Kat K1,500-1,600 and flesh K2,200-2,700 in May, and in December the price of Pwint Kat was K1,700 and flesh K2,700-2,800.

In mid-January 2022, the new tamarind entered the Yan-

gon market. Before the entry, the old Pwint Kat price was K1,800 per viss. On 14 January, the new chopped tamarind price was K2,000 per viss and the price dropped to K1,800 in February.

During these days, the new Pwint Kat was priced at K2,100-2,200 per viss and the old flesh was K2,000-2,900 per viss. In

early March, the chopped was K2,000 per viss while K2,200 per viss of Pwint Kat and K3,200 per viss of flesh. The new tamarind from Pyay, Padigon and Thegon regions entered the Yangon market. The new tamarind from Yamethin, Popa, Kyaukpadaung, Mahlaing and Pakokku regions also entered the market in the early period of the year.

A clear salutation of whether the tamarind price this year will be high as the prices in 2020 can be found within the next four or five months. On 1 August, the Pwint Kat was priced at K2,100-2,200 per viss and flesh at K2,400-3,650 per viss, according to the tamarind wholesale centre on Khayay street of Bayintnaung. — TWA/GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Companies registered on MyCO top 7,300 in past seven months: DICA

THE number of companies registered through the online registry system, MyCO, reached 7,353 in the past seven months (January-July) this year; the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) indicated.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018 under the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

The figures of registered companies stood at 8,011 in 2021, 15,080 in 2020, 17,380 in 2019 and 8,506 in 2018, as per statistics of the DICA.

The previously registered companies had to re-register on the MyCO and a total of 46,377 companies were re-registered on the MyCO between 1 August 2018 and 31 January 2019.

In addition, all registered companies need to file annual returns (AR) on the MyCO regis-



The office of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration – DICA in Yangon.

try system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation) under Section 97 of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

According to Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously.

All overseas corporations

must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, over 400 companies are suspended

every month for failing to submit AR forms within the due date.

Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns. The DICA has notified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents.

If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/GNLM

Peanut, sesame prices inflate to over K6,000



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

THE prices of peanut and sesame seeds spiked again to over K6,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the domestic market, according to Mandalay's market price data.

In early July, the peanut price moved in the range of K4,200 and K4,400 per viss depending on varieties, whereas the price jumped to K5,700-K6,300 per viss in early August. The figures reflected an increase of K1,500-K1,900 per viss within one month.

Similarly, the prices of sesame hit the highest of K115,000

per 45-viss bag of Niger seed, K165,000 per bag of brown sesame, and K208,000 per bag of white sesame and K245,000 per viss of black sesame (Samone variety) on 1 July. The price touched a high of K135,000 for Niger seed, K190,000 for brown sesame, K220,000 for white sesame and K235,000 for black sesame in early August. The price of various sesame seeds showed a significant rise of K10,000 to K25,000 per bag in early August.

After Myanmar's export ban on oil crops was eased and Kyat

depreciated against the US dollar in the local forex, the prices of peanut and sesame prices rose, according to the commodity depots. At present, newly harvested peanuts and sesame are entering the market when foreign demand dries up. The local millers are also increasingly purchasing them, according to the commodity depots.

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

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

55 cargo ships to dock in Myanmar in August

THE Myanmar government is providing more support to export and import sectors to facilitate the trade flows of locally-produced products. A total of 55 cargo ships will dock at Yangon Port and Thilawa Port in August, according to the Myanmar Port Authority.

Myanmar mainly exports maritime products, forest products, agricultural produce and fishery products, while it imports raw textile, construction

materials, machinery and commodities. The trade inflows via maritime routes are operating as usual.

As the country boasts of proper sea trade, it benefits the shippers, entrepreneurs, agricultural and livestock businesses and also can create job opportunities. Therefore, 55 cargo ships will dock at five ports in Yangon and two ports in Thilawa Ports this month. — Nyein Thu(MNA)/GNLM



One merchant vessel is seen berthing alongside the Yangon Port.

US sanctions target Iran petrochemical sales to Asia

THE US government blacklisted six companies Monday that it said helped Iran export petrochemicals to East Asia in avoidance of sanctions over Tehran's nuclear program.

Three Hong Kong-based trading companies and one United Arab Emirates firm were hit with US Treasury sanctions for helping Iran's Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industry Commercial Co. ship "millions of dollars worth" of petroleum and petrochemical

products to unnamed East Asian buyers, the Treasury said in a statement.

The companies were part of "an international sanctions evasion network" helping Iran gain export earnings as it struggles under international economic pressure, according to the Treasury.

In addition, the US State Department blacklisted two shipping firms, one based in Qingdao, China and the other in Singapore, for helping

arrange the shipments of the petrochemicals to buyer.

A tanker ship controlled by the Qingdao firm, the Panama-flagged Glory Harvest, was also placed on the blacklist. —AFP

PGPICC is a subsidiary of Iran's petrochemical conglomerate Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industry Co. (PGPIC), which accounts for half of all of Iran's total petrochemical exports. PHOTO: AFP/FILE



Eurozone unemployment holds stable at historic low



Unemployment in the eurozone remained at its lowest recorded level in June, 6.6 per cent of the active population, the EU statistics agency announced Monday. PHOTO: AFP

UNEMPLOYMENT in the eurozone remained at its lowest recorded level in June, 6.6 per cent of the active population, the EU statistics agency announced Monday.

In May, the proportion of job hunters in the single currency bloc fell to its lowest level since April 1988, when Eurostat started recording it.

Remaining stable in June means that it has fallen from 7.9 per cent in the same period last year, with an estimated 12.93 million out of work in the EU.

In the 27-nation European Union as a whole, including countries that have not adopted the euro, June unemployment was stable at 6.0 per cent.

Youth unemployment, job seekers under 25, ticked up slightly between May and June, to 13.6 per cent in both the eurozone and whole EU. —AFP

Ecuador says will pay \$374 mn to oil company Perenco

ECUADOR said Monday it would pay \$374 million due to Anglo-French oil company Perenco under a settlement ordered in a dispute over profits.

Work was under way to figure out payment terms, the economy ministry said, after Perenco announced it had secured a freeze of all Luxembourg bank accounts used by Ecuador to make bond coupon payments.

Perenco filed suit over a decade ago against Ecuador for \$1.42 billion, after the South American country increased from 50 per cent to 99 per cent its share of profits after an increase in the oil price.

In 2019, Perenco was award-

ed a settlement against Ecuador by the International Centre for Investment Disputes (ICSID), an autonomous organ of the World Bank. In a statement on Monday, Perenco said it had managed to freeze "bank accounts in Luxembourg from which payments are made on Ecuador's bond coupons". —AFP

Israel limits cash payments to fight financial crimes, tax evasion

AN Israeli law that goes into effect on Monday limits cash payments in one business transaction to 6,000 new shekels (1,785 US dollars), as the country works to combat organized crime, money laundering and tax evasion.

The law, which was introduced by the Israel Tax Authority last week, requires that any payment to a business over 6,000 shekels must be made through other means such as digital transfer or a debit card. Individuals who are not listed as business owners can use up to 15,000 shekels in cash when it comes to trading. Previously, the maximum amount of cash that can be used in one business transaction is 11,000 shekels.

According to a statement issued by the Israel Tax Authority, restrictions on cash use do not apply to money transfers between family members, with the exception of rent payments for which the maximum amount has been reduced from 50,000 shekels to 15,000 shekels.

Analysts believe the law will compel people to pay with digital methods rather than cash so that transactions can be easily tracked. Cash payment limitations are intended to rein in tax evasion, black market activity, and even terrorist operations.

Uri Goldman, an expert in international taxation, economic crime, and money laundering prohibition, told Israeli media that the law primarily impacts people such as plumbers and handymen, as well as small landlords.

The lowering of the cash payment ceiling "would have a significant impact on those who sells products like electrical goods and furniture," he said.

Heavy fines are imposed for violators of the law, starting at 15 per cent of the cash payments of fewer than 25,000 shekels, rising to 20 per cent for payments of 25,000 to 50,000 shekels, and reaching 30 per cent for bigger payments, according to the Israel Tax Authority.

The ultra-Orthodox Jewish charitable funds that give and receive money in cash are exempt from the law. The enforcement of the law is currently not applicable to non-Israelis in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and Israeli citizens who give or receive cash to or from non-Israeli residents in the two regions. —AFP

Make well-preparation to respond to possible natural disasters

NOW is a time of mid-monsoon in Myanmar which has faced some strong winds and storms with heavy rains and flooding. Thanks to well-prepared measures arranged by the government, this year's natural disasters cannot severely affect the nation till today.

Myanmar had gravely faced the most severe impacts of the cyclonic storm Nargis which hit a large area of Myanmar in 2008, leaving hundreds of thousands of people dead and injured. The people residing in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions terribly lost a large number of lives in the bitter disaster.

While studying changing natures of natural disasters across the world, all need to make the best arrangements in Myanmar

Only when relevant authorities join hands with the people in fighting against natural disasters can the whole nation escape from the severe events. Collaborative efforts will be sweet after overcoming the challenges of disasters. As a Myanmar saying goes: Many hands make light work, all the people residing in Myanmar should join hands in responding to all kinds of natural disasters with conscience forever.

establish natural disaster management bodies and mobilize the people and charity organizations under the provisions in the action plan for responding to the natural disasters.

Leaders need to have capabilities for deploying the human resources, infrastructures and useful materials in relevant areas with readiness to respond to various disasters. As such, they can conquer natural disasters in a short time so as to reduce loss and damage in the events.

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is marked on 13 October every year for raising public awareness of minimizing loss and damage in natural disasters. This year, the Vice-Senior General called for public participation in the disaster risk reduction measures by successfully holding the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction this year.

Only when relevant authorities join hands with the people in fighting against natural disasters can the whole nation escape from the severe events. Collaborative efforts will be sweet after overcoming the challenges of disasters. As a Myanmar saying goes: Many hands make light work, all the people residing in Myanmar should join hands in responding to all kinds of natural disasters with conscience forever.

for responding to the natural disasters with existing human resources, depending on seasons and regions.

A firm organizational setup, proper work system and harmonious coordination are essential in measure of disaster management. Different levels of the management system must be established with proper policies, plans and standard operating procedures.

The management bodies must have individual skills and teamwise skills for all participants Ministries, and region and state governments should place an emphasis on the improvement of the management system, human resource development, enhancement of capacity and esprit de corps of staff.

It is necessary to organize the participants in advance, take practice as rehearsals against natural disasters, raise awareness of disaster risk, es-

By Aung Kyaw Thant

IF A workplace has been established, it must be healthy. If so, those working at the workplace will be free from the impacts of health hazards. On the other hand, employees working in relevant sections of the workplace must be healthy. As such, those workers may stay away from infection of diseases each other in time if any disease breaks out. Moreover, the authorities will have adequate time to take preventive measures against infectious diseases in the workplace.

Importance of employees' health

I would like to recount my experience which faced about the last decade for enabling the readers to review the past event with regard to the importance of health for workers and the emergence of healthy workplaces.

At that time, I worked at a company. So, I will start my presentation from the event of a head of the branch from the company. The head of the branch worked at the office next to the corner of the hall where computers were placed in accord with the nature of the work. His office was facilitated with an air-conditioner. But he missed the chance to close his office because many staff and employees frequently enter his office to seek orders, instructions and decisions as well as to coordinate some challenges of daily work to be overcome. As such, the breezing air released from the air-conditioner went out of the office all the time.

Start of cough

One day, the head of a branch was ill. He suffered from coughing. It seemed he might be caught a cold from some places. His coughs were very noisy not only in his office but in the whole hall where all the employees worked. According to the structure display of the hall, computers could not be settled in a separate pool. These were placed in a corner of the hall. These computers run by computer operators were displayed in a row. In addition, the corner was combined with a large laser printer and a photocopier. Some computers handled by employees were settled in front of the office of the head of the branch. According to the nature of the workplace, as the hall was formed with many computers, it was equipped with three air-conditioners. So, if anyone who arrived in the hall to start the daily works forgot to switch on the air-conditioners, he might automatically cough due to facing worse smell and dust released from computers and printers. The ailing head of the branch coughed for similar reasons.

Unfortunately, the coughing of the head of the branch could not easily be cured. After two weeks, some staff and employees urged the head of the branch to take a medical checkup. But it was not easy for him because he could not afford to leave the office duties when he took medical checkups as he did not have any day off every week. Regularly, he started office work from 2 pm but his duties

might not finish at even 2 am and more. An office missing chance to enjoy the day-off all year round faced a health hazard due to some 16 long working hours a day.

After one month, the body of the head of the branch looked thin. So, he tried to take a medical checkup without fail. At that time, everybody was sad about the answers to the medical examination, showing that the head of the branch was suffering from the



Multidrug Resistant TB disease. Hence, he took medical treatment without fail. But he still missed the chance to enjoy the day off from the workplace while receiving medical treatments. Whatever it may be, medical treatment for the head of the branch successfully was accomplished and then happily continued at his workplace. That being so, an employee was suffering from TB disease although anyone could not definitely tell that the employee was infected by TB virus from the head of the branch

but the Multidrug Resistant TB disease. In addition, a daughter of the head of the branch who lived at home together with her father head of branch was also a victim of the Multidrug Resistant TB disease.

Need to reconsider day-off for officers

Firstly, I would like to highlight the disadvantages based on discharging the burden of duties

signments due to a lack of day-off.

Moreover, as computers and printers commonly used in the hall could not be settled in the separate pool, these were placed in the hall together with staff and their computers. In fact, it was a terrible mistake. Although five air-conditioners including one from the head of the branch were installed there, the room windows of the hall were not opened. It was the nature of the computer room.

into the room.

Other staff serving their assignments at the workplace where there was a TB patient missed the chance to take proper medical checkups. Even those staff did not have adequate knowledge that, if necessary, they should take medical checks due to the spreading out of the TB virus. Hence, another staff apart from the head of the branch was infected by the TB virus. It was an acceptable event. As a worse event, a daughter of the head of the branch also became a victim of the Multidrug Resistant TB disease.

Take lessons from the past events

The event was left in the past. But we all need to take a lesson from past events not to cause similar occurrences and to remedy the impacts of mistakes. All staff and officials need to know the dos and don'ts of the disease with comprehensive knowledge of the nature of diseases. As we all work in the offices and departments, we must have proper levels of knowledge. Hence, we all must be strong and sharpen in all incidents.

Administrative officials on their part should arrange the healthcare services for staff at all times without emphasizing just regular operation of the workplace. In this regard, the medical checkup should be given to staff once six months or once a year. The event of being infected should not be identified as the fortune of staff. If healthcare services cannot be provided for staff despite wishing to utilize the strengths of staff at full capacity, it cannot be

assumed that it is fair. If necessary, the settlement of man and materials should be reformed in order to be a better location for workplaces. It is necessary to review the consequences of settling the machinery and staff together. If such a process of settling the man and machinery together cannot be avoided, it is necessary to consider how to provide healthcare services to the staff for their long-term health conditions since the project was drawn. If so, all participants from the workplace can avoid unexpected losses.

Indeed, such an event of realities showed the head of the branch's weakness in health knowledge. An overload of his duties was the root cause to happen the unacceptable incidents one after another. Not allowing the days off for a higher rank officer is against the nature of employees and workplaces. The overload of duties can be reduced by handing over some sections of duties to an assistant on his days off or permanently assigning some sections to other same post officers. At that time, the overload of duties on a daily route became physical and mental exhaustion and tiredness. Moreover, the duty for long hours was one of the uncomfortable facts. It is an example for workplaces. Some workplaces may face worse events but some may encounter fewer events.

Emphasize the health of employees

Whatever it may be, we all need to take correctly lessons from the past events. All officials and staff should take part in the plan of

emphasizing the health of employees. Not only the government but the private sector should create relaxation centres at all workplaces for staff to be able to contribute to the health of employees. Although employees discharge their duties in the enclosed room facilitated with air-conditioners as a nature of unit using computers, it is necessary to create a site for employees to take fresh air under a time limit. If so, it will contribute to the long-term healthcare services for the employees.

Not only providing healthcare services but also educative talks on health knowledge should be performed by officials from the health organizations to the employees in order to raise their health awareness. Moreover, books and publications related to health knowledge should be provided so the employees have continuous access to internal and international health information.

All employees on their part need to take health exercises to have health and fitness in the workplace and to create an environment for healthy workplaces. Only when they do anything on a self-reliant basis will they benefit. In the workplace, they all need to know the health conditions of their workmates. They all should give a helping hand to each other for solving their health problems with good consultations with a sibling manner. As a result, healthy employees will have the capacity to serve the assignments successfully in healthy workplaces.

Brazil to treat severe monkeypox cases with antiviral drug Tecovirimat

BRAZIL plans to use the antiviral drug Tecovirimat to treat severe cases of monkeypox, which has already claimed one life in the country, Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga said Monday.

"The most serious cases will be taken into account first," Queiroga said via Twitter, adding Brazil will receive the drug thanks to mediation by the Pan American Health Organization, but did not

specify how many doses will be supplied.

Tecovirimat is being used as a "compassionate care" option in the United States. Its efficacy in combatting monkeypox has yet to be proven.

On Friday, health officials confirmed the first monkeypox-related death in Brazil, involving a 41-year-old man whose case is still being investigated.

The first monkeypox death

in the Americas came less than a week after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the rapidly spreading outbreak a global health emergency, its highest level of alert.

Health officials in Central and South America continue to identify monkeypox cases, with 1,005 confirmed cases as of 27 July. Most cases are reported from Brazil (696 confirmed, 23 suspected). Cases have also been reported

in Peru (224 confirmed, two suspected), Chile (45 confirmed, one probable), Argentina (20 confirmed cases), Colombia (12 confirmed cases), Ecuador (three confirmed cases), Costa Rica (three confirmed, two suspected), Panama (one confirmed case), and Venezuela (one confirmed case). As disease surveillance and contact tracing continue, officials will likely identify additional cases in the coming weeks. This report

represents the most updated information as of 28 July.

In contrast to past sporadic cases linked to travel to endemic countries, health officials have not confirmed the source of infection for the current outbreak, which is primarily centered in Europe. Human-to-human transmission occurs among people in close physical contact, with the increase in recent cases linked to sexual contact, suggesting that the virus

linked to the disease can be sexually transmitted. The current outbreak highlights the importance of vigilant safe sexual practices and suggests monkeypox can be transmitted while the infected person displays few or no symptoms; however, the risk is currently assessed as low for individuals not routinely engaging with multiple or anonymous sexual partners.

SOURCE: Xinhua



A drugstore in Sao Paulo, Brazil. PHOTO: AFP /MIGUEL SCHINCARIOL

ENVIRON WORLD

Portugal, France battle big forest fires as mercury soars

PORTUGAL and France on Sunday battled major forest fires as temperatures rose sharply this weekend.

In Portugal, a blaze broke out in the Mafra area, north of Lisbon, while in France at least four firefighters were seriously injured and motorways were closed.

Around 400 firefighters were drafted in to fight the blaze around 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of Lisbon.

Residents tried to slow the advance of the flames by hosing their gardens, as the flames also swept through neighbouring

forests, according to television images.

A retirement home housing 30 people was evacuated as a precautionary measure, Commander Paulo Santos of the Civil Protection Authority told Renascenca radio.

Elsewhere, other major outbreaks raged in northern and central Portugal, requiring over 1,000 firefighters. In central Ourem, a river beach was also evacuated as a precaution, while two people suffered smoke inhalation, according to an emergency official quoted by the Lusa agency.

Parts of northern and central Portugal were placed on alert this weekend in the face of “steep temperature rises” to more than 40 degrees Celsius, (104 degrees Fahrenheit) expected to last until at least Tuesday, according to the meteorological institute. Experts blame climate change for the soaring temperatures — and warn that worse is yet to come.

Portugal, which remains traumatised by the deadly fires of 2017 which killed more than 100 people, was also hit in early July by a series of fires fanned by scorching temperatures.—AFP



Motorways in southern France were affected by the fires with some having to be closed. **PHOTO: AFP**

Indonesian tourism workers strike over Komodo park price hike

TOURISM businesses in Indonesia's Komodo National Park began a month-long strike on Monday after the government imposed a huge price hike.

Jakarta's 18-fold rise for entry to the park's most popular islands seeks to limit the number

of visitors to protect endangered Komodo dragons — the world's largest lizards — from overexposure to humans and environmental damage.

The move, which came into force Monday, raised admission fees to Komodo and Padar islands

at the World Heritage-listed site in East Nusa Tenggara province from 200,000 rupiah (\$13) to 3.75 million rupiah (\$252).

But it sparked uproar among locals who rely on tourism, and industry-related businesses in the national park — still reeling from the Covid-19 pandemic — were closed on Monday in protest.

“We have no other option, we have conveyed all our rational opinions and arguments but the government didn't listen,” said Servianus Setiawan, a tour operator in Labuan Bajo, the town that serves as the entrance to the park.

“We support Komodo conservation but please come up with a sensible number so we can protect Komodo dragons and so people whose livelihood depends on tourism can live.”—AFP



A statue of a Komodo dragon welcoming visitors to the Komodo National Park in the Island of Komodo, 22 November 2019. **PHOTO: AFP/GOH CHAI HIN/FILE**

Baby boom: the endangered wildlife revival at Cambodia's Angkor Wat

THE melodic songs from families of endangered monkeys ring out over the jungle near Cambodia's Angkor Wat temple complex — a sign of ecological rejuvenation decades after hunting decimated wildlife at the site.

The first pair of rare pileated gibbons were released in 2013 as part of a joint programme between conservation group

Wildlife Alliance, the forestry administration and the Apsara Authority — a government agency that manages the 12th-century ruins.

The gibbon duo, named Baray and Saranick, were born from parents rescued from the wildlife trade and produced offspring a year later.

“We have now released four

different pairs of gibbons within the Angkor forest and they have gone on to breed and now seven babies have been born,” Wildlife Alliance rescue and care programme director Nick Marx told AFP.

“We are restoring Cambodia's natural heritage back into their most beautiful cultural heritage.”—AFP

Giant tortoise on track halts trains in England

A large tortoise on the track caused trains to come to a halt in southeastern England, a rail company informed frazzled travellers Monday.

Greater Anglia rail company tweeted that trains between the city of Norwich and Stansted Airport were stopped for more than an hour due to a “giant tortoise”.

The operator first announced the line was blocked by “animals on the railway” early on Monday afternoon.

One passenger on a train to Norwich, Diane Akers, posted a photo of the tortoise standing on the track just after noon, reporting to the train company: “it's still alive but injured”.

The tortoise's shell appeared to have a large gash on top.

“I couldn't believe my eyes to be honest!” Akers wrote.

A Greater Anglia customer adviser called Georgie later wrote that the tortoise was injured and had been taken to a specialist team for treatment.

“We have been informed that he will make a full recovery,” the adviser updated.

One passenger, Lydia Jane White, tweeted: “Train delayed because of a giant tortoise, too heavy to lift, stuck on the train tracks after having escaped from a local wildlife centre' is not something I thought I'd ever hear from a train driver!”.

The railway line reopened around 1.5 hours later, while knock-on delays were predicted.

The bizarre delay came as UK passengers have experienced several days of train strikes this summer as railway employees' trade unions demand pay rises reflective of inflation.— AFP



One passenger on a train to Norwich, Diane Akers, posted a photo of the tortoise standing on the track just after noon, reporting to the train company: “it's still alive but injured”. **PHOTO: DIANE AKERS/RTE. IE/AFP**

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Overlapping crises accelerating health inequality: WHO



Red Cross volunteers in Beijing on 1 December 2009, calling on the Chinese authorities to offer better support to HIV patients. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

WORLD Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Monday that overlapping crises of COVID-19, inflation and cuts to foreign aid by wealthy countries are accelerating health inequality and disrupting health services.

Giving a keynote speech by video to the “health equity for all” of the 24th International AIDS Conference, known as AIDS 2022, Tedros said the growing inequality could reverse a decade of progress

made in the fight against HIV.

In almost every country, the gap between rich and poor is getting wider and the global cost of living crisis is driving more people into poverty, Tedros said.

“Access to life-saving prevention tools, testing and treatment, whether for HIV, COVID-19 and now monkeypox, too often relies on chance: where you were born, the colour of your skin and how much you earn,” Tedros said.

He called on donor nations

to maintain funding for global health.

Global HIV community leaders warned that the world is losing ground against HIV. According to a report of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), about 1.5 million new HIV infections occurred in 2021, over one million more than the global targets.

The UNAIDS report also showed that the number of people on HIV treatment increased more slowly in 2021 than it has in over a decade.—Xinhua

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE WORLDWIDE

Singapore Airlines to restore pre-Covid flight frequency to Indian cities

THE Singapore Airlines Group (SIA), co-owner of Indian carrier Vistara, has planned to restore all flights in India to pre-pandemic levels by the end of October.

The airlines group will gradually increase its frequency to Indian cities. It will operate 17 weekly services to Chennai, up from the current 10 flights per week. Kochi services will go up to 14 times weekly, up from the current seven flights per week. Bengaluru services will go up to 16 times weekly, up from the current seven flights per week.

According to the SIA statement, the strong recovery in air travel that continued in May 2022 and even this month is because of Singapore’s relaxed border

restrictions which started in April, which removed “the need for quarantine and on-arrival COVID-19 tests for fully vaccinated travellers and removing pre-departure COVID-19 tests.”

The SIA Group recorded its highest-ever first-quarter operating profit of Singapore Dollar (SGD) 556 million last week (USD 403 million) on “surging passenger demand”. —ANI



The SIA Group recorded its highest-ever first-quarter operating profit of Singapore Dollar (SGD) 556 million last week (USD 403 million) on “surging passenger demand”. **PHOTO: AFP**

China forbids COVID-19-related employment discrimination

CHINESE authorities on Monday issued a circular targeting workplace discrimination against employees or jobseekers due to their previous history of COVID-19 infection.

Employers and human resources service agencies are strictly forbidden from refusing to recruit people who have recovered from COVID-19 on the grounds that they once tested positive for the virus, according to the circular jointly released by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and the National Health Commission.

Discrimination against

people who have recovered from COVID-19 when they are in the process of work orientation or in the workplace should be prohibited.

Employers are also strictly forbidden from illegally laying off those who have recovered from COVID-19, according to the circular. To protect the equal employment rights of people who have recovered from COVID-19, the circular said that no organization or individual shall unlawfully inquire about nucleic acid test results, except to meet the needs of COVID-19 prevention and control work.—Xinhua

2022 MONKEYPOX OUTBREAK

In Paris, monkeypox vaccination gains steam with volunteer help

DOCTOR Kevin Huy was vaccinating people in Paris against Covid-19 when he answered a call for volunteers to inoculate against a more recent global outbreak — monkeypox. Now he is putting jab in arms at Checkpoint Paris, a sexual health centre in the heart of the French capital dedicated to LGBT people.

Despite a shortage of peo-

ple to administer shots, the vaccination campaign is gaining momentum in the Paris region, which has been the epicentre of France’s outbreak. France has the fifth-highest number of monkeypox cases worldwide — nearly 2,000, the national health authorities said on Friday.

More than 95 per cent of French monkeypox cases have

been in men who have sex with men, a group that has been overwhelmingly affected the virus. Before May, the virus was largely only seen in West and Central Africa. But more than 18,000 monkeypox cases have been detected throughout the world outside Africa since, most of them in Europe, according to the World Health Organization.—AFP



A picture taken by a nurse at the Hotel-Dieu de France Hospital shows colleagues posing for a selfie picture. **PHOTO: HOTEL-DIEU DE FRANCE HOSPITAL/AFP/FILE**

ECONOMY WORLD

Asia's richest go head-to-head in India 5G auction

ASIA'S richest men made multi-billion-dollar bets on the future of Indian telecommunications in the country's 5G auction Monday, but nearly 30 per cent of the available spectrum went unsold.

Narendra Modi's government plans to roll out 5G networks offering up to 10 times the speed of 4G to its 1.4 billion population before the end of the year.

But despite being home to several fast-growing tech giants India is late to the 5G game, with analysts saying authorities held off auctioning the spectrum in the hope of raising more revenue.



File photo of a technician on a 5G telecom tower. **PHOTO: AFP**

Four companies bid a total of 1.5 trillion rupees (\$19 billion) for 20-year 5G licences. But only 71 per cent of the 72

GHz of available airwaves were bid for during the seven-day auction, telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters in New Delhi. Much of it was sold for the minimum price, the daily auction reports from the telecommunications department have shown.

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Jio swept up the lion's share, as the market leader bid 881 billion rupees for more than a third of the available spectrum, the company said.

"Jio is set to lead India's march into the 5G era," chairman Akash Ambani said in a statement, promising "services, platforms and solutions that

will accelerate India's digital revolution."

Rival Bharti Airtel, led by Sunil Mittal, bid 431 billion rupees for just over a quarter of the spectrum.

Airtel and British telecoms giant Vodafone's local unit Vi have been locked in fierce competition with Ambani's Jio since the latter kicked off a price war in 2016 by offering dirt-cheap internet and free calls.

Debt-laden Vi — formerly Vodafone Idea — which is also backed by Indian billionaire KM Birla's Aditya Birla Group, picked up nearly nine percent of the bands.—AFP

S. Korea logs trade deficit for 4th month in July

SOUTH Korea logged trade deficit for the fourth consecutive month in July owing to faster increase in import than export, government data showed on Monday.

Trade deficit stood at 4.67 billion US dollars in July, after recording 2.48 billion dollars in

April, 1.61 billion dollars in May and 2.57 billion dollars in June respectively, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

It marked the first time in 14 years since 2008 that the country's trade balance stayed in red

for four straight months.

Export, which accounts for around half of the export-driven economy, gained 9.4 per cent from a year earlier to 60.7 billion dollars in July, marking the highest July shipment.

Import surged 21.8 per cent to 65.37 billion dollars last month, posting the highest-ever in the country's history on the back of higher energy costs.

Import grew faster than export for 14 months in a row since June last year, topping 60 billion dollars for five straight months since March.

Higher import costs came from higher raw materials prices, driven by geopolitical risks in Europe and global supply chain disruptions. To curb surging inflation, central banks in major economies hiked interest rates, fueling worries about global economic downturn.—Xinhua



Export, which accounts for around half of the export-driven economy, gained 9.4 per cent from a year earlier to 60.7 billion dollars in July, marking the highest July shipment. **PHOTO: AFP**

Indonesia records highest inflation in 7 years in July

INDONESIA'S inflation in July reached 4.94 per cent, the highest in seven years and exceeding the central bank's target range, the Statistics Indonesia (BPS) said on Monday.

"This is the highest inflation since October 2015 which reached 6.25 per cent year-on-year," BPS head Margo Yuwono told a press conference.

The figure is still relatively well managed, as the core inflation is 2.86 per cent, said Yuwono, indicating that Indonesia's economic fundamentals are still stable but the state must remain vigilant against the inflation.

The government is reluctant to increase fuel prices despite rising global prices, and restricts the sale of subsidized

energy to only the poor to control domestic commodity prices and suppress inflation. The Bank Indonesia, the central bank, estimated that the country's inflation this year would exceed the target range of 2-4 per cent, as global commodity prices rise, particularly food and energy, but figure is expected to return to normalcy next year. —Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hong Kong economy tips into technical recession

HONG KONG has tipped back into a technical recession, new government figures showed Monday, weighed down by mounting interest rates, weakened global trade and the city's continued adherence to strict coronavirus controls.

Following a year-on-year decrease of 3.9 per cent in the first quarter of 2022, the city's GDP again reported decline in the second quarter on Monday — but with a narrower margin of 1.4 per cent — according to advance estimates released by the Census and Statistics Department. —AFP

Australia bumps interest rates, vows to tame inflation

AUSTRALIA'S central bank raised interest rates by another 50 basis points Tuesday while pledging to "do what is necessary" to bring soaring inflation under control.

The Reserve Bank of Australia's fourth successive increase saw its central rate rise to 1.85 per cent, and officials put borrowers on notice of more. Governor Philip Lowe said inflation — already at the highest level in decades — was expected to reach 7.75 per cent this year, and may take two-three years to bring back to stable levels.

The bank, like others around the world, faces a difficult balancing act in trying to curb consumer prices without stalling the already slowing economy.—AFP



A woman visits a mall as shopping centres reopen amid the COVID-19 pandemic in Jakarta on 15 June 2020. **PHOTO: ADEK BERRY / AFP/FILE**

TEPCO widens loss in April-June as war in Ukraine raises fuel prices



TEPCO did not reveal its earnings forecast for the current business year through March, citing uncertain energy market conditions due to the war in Ukraine. PHOTO: KYODO

TOKYO Electric Power Company Holdings Inc. said Tuesday its net loss expanded to 67.10 billion yen (\$513 million) for the three months ended June from 3.03 billion yen a year ago, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine caused fuel prices to soar. The widened loss came as the company was forced to pay more for coal and liquefied natural gas for its thermal power operations, the company said.

Meanwhile, sales rose 50.7 per cent to 1.48 trillion yen for the period as the higher cost of energy was partly passed onto customers. The utility, also known as TEPCO, did not reveal its earnings forecast for the current business year through March, citing uncertain energy market conditions due to the war in Ukraine.

TEPCO, operator of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, announced the same day it will consider raising prices for rate plans for large-scale business operators such as shopping centers and factories to absorb soaring energy prices.—Kyodo

US manufacturing growth slows further in July: survey

THE US manufacturing sector continued to grow in July, but the pace was impacted by dimming demand while price increases have slowed dramatically, according to an industry survey released Monday.

And amid a tight American job market, hiring slowed for the third straight month, but firms are reporting less trouble filling open positions and no signs of layoffs, the Institute for Supply Management's latest report showed.

But firms continue to have trouble filling orders due to ongoing problems getting materials.

ISM's manufacturing index dipped to 52.8 per cent, just two-tenths below the prior month, but the lowest level since June 2020 during the pandemic downturn.

However, that level was still above the 50-per cent threshold indicating expansion for the 26th consecutive month. "The US manufacturing sector continues expanding — though slightly less so in July — as new order rates continue to contract, supplier deliveries improve and prices soften to acceptable levels," ISM manufacturing survey chair Timothy Fiore said.—AFP

Hong Kong bans eating at annual food expo

VISITORS to Hong Kong's annual exhibition of global gourmet food will once again not be allowed to sample the delicacies due to coronavirus curbs, the organizer said Tuesday.

Tens of thousands of visitors and hundreds of exhibitors are expected at the five-day Food Expo starting next Thursday in the city's Convention and Exhibition Centre.

But for the second year in a row, there will not be any tasting areas and all attendees must keep their masks on due to public health restrictions, according to Sophia Chong, acting CEO of the expo organizer, the Trade Development Council.

"We understand that visitors would like to taste

the samples," Chong said.

"We hope we can resume this arrangement after the pandemic, when it's safe and hygienic to

do it."

The decision was announced a day after the government said fans at November's Hong Kong

Sevens will be allowed to drink but not eat in the stands, with masks having to be worn between sips.—AFP



Tens of thousands of visitors and hundreds of exhibitors are expected at the five-day Food Expo. PHOTO: HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL/AFP

Boeing shares surge as it nears 787 delivery resumption

SHARES of Boeing jumped early Monday as the aviation giant moved closer to final regulatory approval to resume deliveries of the 787 jet.

The Federal Aviation

Administration signed off on Boeing's certification plan for the top-selling widebody plane, a person familiar with the situation told AFP.

"Deliveries aren't

imminent and there are additional steps in the process that we will follow," this person said.

Shares surged 5.8 per cent to \$168.60 early Monday, reflecting

enthusiasm at the restoration of revenues from a cash cow plane whose struggles have crimped company finances for more than a year.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (062N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (062N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** 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.

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China population to begin shrinking by 2025: officials

CHINA'S population will begin to shrink by 2025, officials have said, as family sizes grow smaller and citizens age.

The world's most-populous country has been grappling with a looming demographic crisis as it faces a rapidly ageing workforce, slowing economy and its weakest population growth in decades.

And although officials relaxed the nation's strict "one-child policy" in 2016 and last year allowed couples to have three children, the birth rate has plunged to a record low.

"The growth rate of the total population has slowed down significantly, and it will enter a stage of negative growth in the '14th



A teacher imparts the knowledge of a robot model to students at a primary school in Xingye County, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 29 May 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA/CAO YIMING

Five-Year Plan' period," the National Health Commission said Monday, referring to the period between 2021 and 2025.

In January, authorities said that forecasts expected the population to enter zero growth "or even negative growth" in that five-year span.

"Presently, our country's policy system for childbirth support is not perfect, and there is a big gap with population development and the people's expectations," the NHC said in its latest report.

The total fertility rate has dropped below 1.3 in recent years, it added, while the country is expected to enter a stage of severe ageing around 2035, with more than 30 per cent of the population older than 60.

Families are also becoming smaller, "weakening" the functions of pension and childcare, the health commission said, calling for improving child-raising support and for policies on housing, education and taxation to help reduce burdens on families.

Authorities in some parts of China are already introducing family-friendly policies in a bid to combat the slowing birth rate.

The eastern city of Hangzhou announced Monday that families with three children would be able to borrow 20 per cent more than the maximum limit when applying for housing provident fund loans for the first time. Other cities like Nanchang and Changsha have also rolled out supportive policies, according to state media.—AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia outlines plans to rebuild Ukraine's devastated Mariupol: official

A senior Russian official on Monday outlined plans to rebuild Ukraine's southern port city of Mariupol that suffered a devastating siege and heavy shelling before being captured by Russian troops.

The move comes as part of

Moscow's wider efforts to gain support in Ukrainian regions that have come under Russian control since the start of the February military campaign.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin said in an interview with Russia's RBC TV



Mariupol, the city on the shores of the Sea of Azov had a population of around 400,000 people before Russia sent troops into pro-Western Ukraine, forcing many residents to flee the violence. PHOTO: SERGEI SUPINSKY /AFP

channel that the first buildings currently under construction will be ready by the autumn.

"The first residential buildings will be standing by September. We will already have the first hospitals, will build a centre of the emergencies ministry," he said.

Khusnullin also said there were plans to rebuild the historic centre of Mariupol, renovating all buildings that were not completely destroyed by Russian shelling. The city on the shores of the Sea of Azov had a population of around 400,000 people before Russia sent troops into pro-Western Ukraine, forcing many residents to flee the violence.

Khusnullin said the population of Mariupol should rise to 350,000 people by 2025, without specifying how this goal will be achieved.—AFP

South Ukraine city pounded as Russia says Crimea navy HQ hit by drone

UKRAINE said the "brutal" shelling by Moscow so far of the southern city Mykolaiv killed a grain tycoon Sunday, as Russia claimed an attack from a drone wounded six personnel at the headquarters of its Black Sea

fleet.

AFP journalists witnessed intense Russian bombardment of the eastern town of Bakhmut after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called for civilians to leave the front line Donetsk

region bearing the brunt of the Kremlin's offensive.

Authorities in Ukraine's southern city of Mykolaiv said Sunday that widespread Russian bombardments overnight killed at least two civilians.—AFP

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Here are the latest developments in the war in Ukraine:

Ukraine gains ground in Kherson

UKRAINIAN forces have recaptured 46 settlements in the key southern region of Kherson, as Kyiv looks to retake the Russian-held area, the local governor Dmytro Butriy tells national TV.

Moscow seized almost all the territory of the economically and strategically important region bordering the annexed Crimea peninsula during the first days of its invasion.

But in recent weeks, the Ukrainian army, bolstered by deliveries of Western-supplied long-range artillery, have sought to stage a counter-offensive in the area.

In late July, a Ukrainian official vowed that the Kherson region would be recaptured by Kyiv's forces by September.

The governor of nearby Mykolaiv meanwhile says that three people were injured in the city in "massive" Russian shelling overnight that damaged homes and humanitarian supplies.

Russia blacklists more Britons

RUSSIA says it is blacklisting 39 British citizens, including leader of the main opposition Labour Party, Keir Starmer, and former prime minister David Cameron.

The foreign ministry in Moscow says the listed UK citizens, who also include journalists, "contribute to the hostile course of London aimed at the demonisation of our country and its international isolation". Russia had already blacklisted Prime Minister Boris Johnson and several members of his cabinet, as well as scores of British MPs, defence officials and journalists.

Grain shipment 'first step': EU, NATO

THE European Union and NATO welcome the grain shipment's departure as a "first step" towards easing the food crisis.

EU spokesman Peter Stano, however, cautions the bloc still expects the "implementation of the whole deal and resumption of Ukrainian exports to the customers around the world."

He points out that Russia fired missiles at the port of Odessa on the day after the landmark deal was signed in Istanbul in late July.

SOURCE: AFP

UN chief warns of ‘nuclear annihilation’



The first Soviet nuclear bomb, tested in 1949, in a museum in Sarov, Russia. **REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/**
PHOTO: ALEXANDER NEMENOV/AFP/FILE

UN head Antonio Guterres warned Monday that a misunderstanding could spark nuclear destruction as the United States, Britain and France urged Russia to stop “its dangerous nuclear rhetoric and behaviour”.

At the opening of a key nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) conference in New York, Guterres warned that the world faced “a nuclear danger not seen since the height of the Cold War”.

Citing Russia’s war with Ukraine and tensions on the Korean peninsula and in the Middle East, Guterres said he feared that crises “with nuclear undertones” could escalate.

“Today, humanity is just one misunderstanding, one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation,” Guterres told the tenth

review conference of the NPT, an international treaty that came into force in 1970 to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

“We have been extraordinarily lucky so far. But luck is not a strategy. Nor is it a shield from geopolitical tensions boiling over into nuclear conflict,” he added, calling on nations to “put humanity on a new path towards a world free of nuclear weapons.”

The meeting, held at the UN’s headquarters in New York, has been postponed several times since 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It will run until August 26.

Guterres said the conference was “a chance to strengthen” the treaty and “make it fit for the worrying world around us.— AFP

Kansas votes on abortion rights in US test case

VOTERS in the Midwestern state of Kansas head to the polls Tuesday in the first major ballot on abortion since the US Supreme Court ended the national right to the procedure in June.

The vote is heavy with consequences for Kansans themselves, who will decide whether to remove the right to an abortion from the traditionally conservative state’s constitution.

But it is also being seen as a test case for abortion rights nationwide, as Republican-dominated legislatures

rush to impose strict bans on the procedure following the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe v. Wade.

Other states including California and Kentucky are set to vote on the issue in November, at the same time as midterm elections to Congress in which both Republicans and Democrats hope to mobilize their supporters nationwide around the question of abortion.

The Kansas ballot centers on a 2019 ruling by the state’s supreme court that guarantees access to abortion — currently up to 22 weeks.—AFP



Abortion rights advocates in Kansas are looking nervously to neighbouring Oklahoma and Missouri which are among at least eight states to have passed near-total bans. **PHOTO: AFP**

US kills Al-Qaeda chief in Kabul drone strike

PRESIDENT Joe Biden announced Monday that the United States had killed Al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri, one of the world’s most wanted terrorists and a mastermind of the 11 September 2001 attacks, in a drone strike in Kabul.

In a somber televised address, Biden said he gave the final go-ahead for the high-precision strike that successfully targeted Zawahiri in the Afghan capital over the weekend.

“Justice has been delivered and this terrorist leader is no more,” Biden said, adding that he hoped Zawahiri’s death would bring “closure” to families of the 3,000 people killed in the United States on 9/11.

A senior administration of-



Al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden (L) and his successor Ayman al-Zawahiri (R). **PHOTO: AFP /FILE**

official said Zawahiri was on the balcony of a house in Kabul when he was targeted with two Hellfire missiles, an hour after sunrise on 31 July, and that there had been no US boots on the ground in Afghanistan.

“We are not aware of him ever leaving the safe house. We identified Zawahiri on multiple occasions for sustained periods of time on the balcony of where he was ultimately struck,” the official said. —AFP

Argentine judge allows some crew of grounded Venezuela plane to depart

AN Argentine judge investigating the Iranian and Venezuelan crew of a cargo plane that has been grounded in Buenos Aires since June authorized the departure of 12 of them on Monday, local media reported.

Federal judge Federico Vil-

lena did however order seven of the 19 to be retained in Argentina, the reports said, including four Iranians and three Venezuelans.

According to the ruling disclosed by the press, the judge considered that there were still

elements to be investigated pertaining to Iranian Gholamrez Ghasemi, designated by the Argentine intelligence service as a member of Iran’s Revolutionary Guards, as well as three other Iranians and three Venezuelans.—AFP



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 misses final with big loss to Viet Nam in AFF U-18 Women's Championship

THE semi-finals of the 2022 ASEAN U-18 Women's Championship continued in Indonesia yesterday, and the Myanmar team lost to Viet Nam 1-4 and missed the final.

The Myanmar team tried to qualify for the final, but missed out and will only have to play the third-place match.

Some core players were not able to participate in the Myanmar team's starting lineup.

The Myanmar team tried to control Viet Nam's attack and

played attacking to score a goal. However, mistakes were made in the formation of the attack, so it was not as effective as expected.

The Myanmar team conceded only one goal in the first half, but conceded three goals in the second half.

Do Thi An Mai scored the goals for the Vietnamese team in the 27th minute. Ngu Minchuyin In the 58th minute, Tran Natlan in the 64th minute, and Lu Hoen Vem scored in the 90th + 1st minute.



A Myanmar player (white) tries to clear the ball from the opponent during the match against Viet Nam in the AFF U-18 Women's Championship semifinal in Indonesia on 2 August. PHOTO: AFP

Wai Phoo Maung scored an equalizer for the Myanmar team in the 81st minute.

The third-place match and the final will continue on 4 August. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Myanmar defeats Australia in ASEAN U-16 Championship

THE first day of the 2022 ASEAN U-16 Championship, Group C, was held yesterday in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and team Myanmar beat Powerhouse Australia 3-2. The Myanmar team, which is in tough Group C, showed good performance and won three points.

Myanmar defeated Australia by scoring several leading goals and winning against the strongest team in the group. Myanmar Head Coach U Aung Zaw Myo used his favourite line-up including goalie Salai Arnt Bwe Maung, Thura Zaw, Han Tun Zaw, Shine Wunna Aung, Myat Phone Khant, Khoon Cho Htoo, Htoo Wai Yan, Saw Myo Zaw, Lin Htet Oo, Kauing Htet, and Bran Dun Li.

From the start of the match, the Myanmar team played an open attack and Saw Myo Zaw scored an opener in the 3rd minute, and Shine Wunna Aung scored the leading goal in the 23rd minute. The Australian team scored equalizing goals in the 39th and 44th minutes to tie the game at two goals apiece in the first half. The Myanmar team was able to respond best in the second half as well, and the winning goal was scored by Pyi Sone Aung in the 73rd minute.

Team Myanmar is falling in Group C with Australia, Malaysia, and Cambodia. Myanmar will play the second match of the group against the Malaysian team on 5 August. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Jota extends Liverpool stay with 'long-term deal'

DIOGO Jota has signed a "new long-term deal" with Liverpool, the Premier League giants announced Tuesday. Neither the exact length of the contract, nor its worth, were not disclosed. British media reported the Portuguese forward, who joined Liverpool from English rivals Wolves in 2020 would be staying at Anfield until at least 2027. The 25-year-old has become an important figure at Liverpool, scoring 34 goals in 85 appearances.

He was a central figure as Liverpool were narrowly denied a historic quadruple last season as they were pipped to the Premier League title by a point by Manchester City and lost the Champions League final 1-0 to Real Madrid after winning the League and FA Cup. — AFP



Diogo Jota has enjoyed good form at Liverpool. PHOTO: AFP