THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Five-Point Road Map of the State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted and its mandated tasks, including the scrutiny of voter lists, shall be implemented in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken with added momentum to prevent and manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Actions will be taken to ensure the speedy recovery of businesses from the impact of COVID-19.
4. Emphasis will be placed on achieving enduring peace for the entire nation in line with the agreements set out in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.
5. Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair multiparty democratic elections will be held in line with the 2008 Constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over State duties to the winning party in accordance with democratic standards.

The Hluttaw is the highest platform in political trend in democracy and more ethnic representatives must join the political platform in the Hluttaw: Senior General

State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for the documentary group photo with the Shan State Progress Party-SSPP peace delegation in Nay Pyi Taw on 4 August 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a peace delegation led by Vice-Chairman (1) of Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) Sao Khur Tai at the parlour of Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning to talk about peace issues.

The peace talk was also attended by Vice-Chairman

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No 43/2022

8th Waxing of Wagaung 1384 ME
4 August 2022

Resignation from duties allowed

THE State Administration Council has allowed U Htin Kyaw, Secretary of the Anti-Corruption Commission, to resign from his duties due to his health concerns under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary

Objectives of 23rd Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions 2022

(a) To uplift national prestige and integrity and to preserve the cultural heritage and national characteristics

(b) To discover, preserve and uplift the traditional cultural heritage of performing arts of ethnic nationals and national cultural characteristics

(c) To preserve traditional cultural performing arts in order to further revitalize adoration of the State and hand it down to new generation youths

(d) To contribute much to the restoration of perpetual peace

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

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

In order to prevent the unnecessary loss of human resources, the State Administration Council has publicly invited the basic education staff who are absent from duty to resume their duties and those who take part in armed resistance under various names of groups, including PDFs, to return to the legal fold if they wish to, and is systematically receiving the returnees.

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

It is known that some of those who have completed the training no longer want to be involved in terrorist attacks and so they fled to the regions within and without the country and are working there for their living. When they see terrorist attacks with their own eyes, they cannot accept such terrible acts at all. On the other hand, they have come to believe in the government's five-point roadmap and its endeavour for durable peace. Moreover, they want to live peacefully in their hometowns again with their parents and relatives. Nevertheless, they cannot do so because of the coercion and intimidation by CRPH and NUG terrorist groups and their subordinates, it is learnt.

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

Information Team
State Administration Council

Wastewater treatment to be divided into 14 zones

A total of 14 wastewater treatment zones will be separated in line with the population growth in the future, according to Yangon's urban development strategy plan.

The Yangon City Development Committee will establish a plan to expand wastewater treatment systems when new satellite towns are expanded outside of Yangon's municipal boundaries.

The construction of a wastewater treatment plant at Thanhlyetsoon of Botahtaung Township, began on 12 April 2003 and was completed on 17 January 2005 on a land area of 5.56 acres.

Yangon's sewage system area was built to treat the 3.25 million gallons of sewages discharged daily by 300,000 people living six downtown townships in the city.

Yangon's current wastewater treatment system can only cover five per cent of the city's population, and according to the Strategic Urban Development Plan of Greater Yangon jointly designed by the Yangon City Development Committee and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), it is planned to separate 14 wastewater treatment zones in line with the population that will increase in the future.

Small-scale research and construction of wastewater treatment systems, such as the construction of machines will be carried out in places where it is difficult to connect to the sewage line, with a machine that can treat 2,200 gallons of wastewater per day according to the original factory's treatment method. The engineering staff will carry out the research in order to carry and clean the sewage with septic tanker.

Since 2005, in addition to 24-inch and 36-inch diametre sewage pipes from six townships in the city, sewage is being cleaned daily by more than 100 septic tankers.
— TWA/GNLM

The wastewater treatment plant in Thanhlyetsoon of Botahtaung Township. **PHOTO: YCDC**

12 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 4 August, total figure rises to 614,158

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **614,158** after **12** new cases were reported on 4 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **592,943** 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.)

The Hluttaw is the highest platform in political trend in democracy and more ethnic representatives must join ...

FROM PAGE-1

of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council members General Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae. The Vice-Chairman (1) of Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) was accompanied by Vice-Chairman (2) Sao Khun Seng and Central Committee member Sao Naw Leik.

At the talks, the Senior General explained the efforts of the Tatmadaw in successive eras for ending the internal armed conflicts and paving the path to multiparty democracy, and the **need to enjoy the freedom of expression and entitlements and demand the requirements in democracy peacefully under the law. The Senior General said the Hluttaw is the highest platform in political trend in democracy, and more ethnic representatives must join the political platform in the Hluttaw so as to demand rights of their regions under the law**. He explained plans to openly discuss demands of the ethnic armed organizations and actually necessary and appropriate points for the regions and the State in the peace talks, **needs to hold discussions with a wider scope of knowledge for the sake of the Union, measures for exercising the multiparty democratic system in line with the people's wish, and building the Union based on democracy and federalism**.

The Vice-Chairman (1) and party of the Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) expressed **their pleasure in inviting them to join the peace talks and discussed the plan of the Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) to actively participate in the peace talks**, the potential for building the modernized future Union if all ethnic people make utmost efforts in unison, exercising the multiparty democratic system, and expressed their same attitudes for construction of a Union based on democracy and federalism and reported on regional development measures.

Then, the Senior General also discussed that **the Tatmadaw decided to continue serving as the guardian of the country** and is carrying out the tasks under the law, adding that **ethnic organizations are to do their tasks for enjoying the democracy and federal rights under the law, disciplines and democratic practice**. They frankly exchanged their views on peace and regional development measures.

After the meeting, the Senior General presented gifts to the Vice-Chairman (1) and party of the Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) who returned domestic gifts. They all posed for documentary photos.

The Vice-Chairman (1) and party of the Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) will continue peace talks with the Peace Talks Committee and the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee formed with Council members by the State Administration Council. —MNA

The Senior General and the SSPP Vice-Chair 1 exchange gifts at the event.

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions

A student in Kyaukpyu Township, Rakhine State gets COVID-19 vaccine shot on 3 August.

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 104 people from Tamway Township in Yangon Region, 2,413 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 763 people from five townships in Rakhine State, 7,500 local people from seven districts in Mandalay Region, and 159 local people in Toungoo Township in Bago Region respectively.

Similarly on that day, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 7,974 students from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 537 students from six townships in Rakhine and Chin States and 1,575 students from seven districts in Mandalay Region.

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

Textile, garment factory workers enter workplaces peacefully in Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha townships

FACTORY workers have been entering their worksites in peace at 29 industrial zones in the Yangon Region to date and the same event happened at the Hlinethaya and Shwepyitha townships where most garment factories are located.

These days, a rumour about firing and giving a one-month suspension to workers from Sagaing were spread among them and also on social media. That is why the workers in industrial zones are concerned about their job, as a consequence of the stimulation caused by some scrupulous persons to interfere with the facilitation of job opportunities due to the regular operation of local industries.

"I've seen it (the rumour) on social media. Actually, it's not as they said and never came across to me too. No reports were made to our Industrial Zone Committee. There are at most over 20 medium and small-scale factories under suspension due to the supply of electricity for only eight hours a day. Heavy industries and garment factories operate perfectly fine and the workers came to work regularly," said Chairman U Myo Thein of the Shwepyitha and the Wahtaya Industrial Zone.

Business is operating in the Shwepyitha Industrial Zone (1) with about 50,000 workers at about 200 factories and, the Wahtaya Industrial Zone with about 20,000 workers at about 70 factories.

"Factories and workers from our Hlinethaya Shwelinpan Industrial Zone is running normally and there is no word about closing factories and firing workers for the ID issue. Garment factories are operating with the employer-employee mutual understanding on account of the excessive number of employees. I think the rumour is out to get in the way of a normal working environment," stated Head of Office U Aung Ngwe of the Shwelinpan Industrial Zone Committee.

The Shwelinpan Industrial Zone is operating with about 420 plants and 59 of them are textile and garment factories. About 80,000 workers are joining the workplace and 15 new textile and garment factories were opened until August 2022. There are a total of 29 industrial zones in the Yangon Region. The Shwe Linpan Industrial Zone, the Shwethanlwin Industrial Zone, the Anawrahta Industrial Zone, the Myaseinyaung Industrial Zone and the livestock zone are in the Hlinethaya Township, in addition to the Industrial Zones 1 to 7. It is learnt that the workers are working at the factories in those industrial zones normally. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/GNLM

PHOTOS: KANU

New international port terminal and airport to be constructed in Mon State

THE Mon State government has designated the locations to construct one new international airport near Kawparan village of Mudon Township and one new international port terminal between Balauk Nyaungwaing and Wekali villages in Mawlamyine District, according to the state government.

"During the visit of the SAC Chairman on 1 June, he instructed officials to construct a new international airport in Mon State and create a port city as it is located near the sea. The main point is to develop the region's economy. Therefore, we find the proper location for an airport and conduct a feasibility study. We also conduct the feasibility study to turn Mawlamyine into a seaport," said an official.

The international airport and port terminal projects will be implemented on 4,626.29 acres of land, the state government said.

"We know that the government will implement an airport and a port in Mon State. I want them to carry out as quickly as possible because our finished products are exported via the sea route. Therefore, we have to rent warehouses in Yangon and transport products to jetties so that we export them to other countries. So, transport charges are high. If they build the port terminal here, we can do the export process directly," said U Htet Aung, a rubber farmer.

When the two projects are completed, it will develop the local tourism industry and economy and create job opportunities for Mon State. — Min Min/GNLM

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

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

Rubber farmers mull quality species as rubber price keeps climbing

PRICES of rubber keep rising year on year in local and foreign markets and so the quality rubber plantation is expanded across the nation during this year.

As the rubber prices become higher, the low-quality rubber and a certain variety of rubber that are not suitable for the region are replaced with quality rubber. The people now mull over growing quality rubber and high-yielding rubber species as substitutes for them.

For this substitute, the governmental officials will support the rubber farm owners to earn foreign income.

Most of the country's rubber trees are grown in Mon State as well as in Kayin State, Taninthayi, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. The plantations have also been expanded in Shan and Kachin states and Sagaing Region.

Currently, there are over 1.6 million acres of rubber plantation land in the country, with 850,000 acres for harvesting. The country produces over 300,000 tonnes of rubber annually. The local consumption rate is only eight per cent and the large export volume earns foreign income for the country.

Between 18 and 24 June, the country exported about 4,000 tonnes of rubber worth $6.155 million via the sea route. It has exported over 3,490 tonnes to China while 210 tonnes to India, 140 tonnes to Malaysia, 100 tonnes to Japan and 60 tonnes to Bangladesh.

During the same period, the country earned over $0.162 million from export of 160 tonnes of rubber – 125 tonnes via Myanmar-Thai border trade and 35 tonnes through Myanmar-China border trade.

A rubber plantation in Mawlamyine in Mon State.

It received over $6.317 million from exporting more than 4,170 tonnes of rubber via sea and border trade routes. It earned $0.385 million more from export of 150 tonnes, compared to last week's export volume. — TWA/GNLM

Cargo services of highway bus lines around Aung San stadium suspended

Product receiving counters of express lines are pictured around the Aung San Stadium.

THE authorities no longer permit cargo services of highway bus lines at Aung San Stadium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, according to the bus line and cargo transport counters.

"The municipal informed that we cannot load, unload and conduct cargo transport services starting 4 August. I think the operation is suspended due to the instructions of the SAC Chairman to launch heavy maintenance on the stadium. We don't know the reason exactly. We can sell bus tickets. Not only the counters but also the stalls may be removed," said an official of the highway bus line.

Counters at the Aung San Stadium are branches of the Aung Mingala Highway Bus Terminal and various bus lines are concentrated there. The ban on loading and unloading processes causes difficulties to the business people, he added.

"We have to go to the Aung Mingala terminal if we want to send the packages to other regions. There are not many bus lines at U Chit Maung station and we have to pay K1,000 per package a short trip. Counters at Aung San stadium accepts packages of products for those who don't want to go far and it is convenient for the people. Now, the delivery services and business people face hardships," said Ko Wunna Tun, an online seller.

The express buses are not allowed to carry 19 types of materials including drones, binoculars, iron materials, wire, solar and power bank. The officials conduct thorough checks at the inspection camps along the road, according to express bus lines.

The transport services of express bus counters around the Aung San Stadium play a key role for entrepreneurs from other sides of Yangon, Thakayta, Dawbon, Ahlon, Pazundaung, Lanmadaw, Latha, Pabedan, Kyimyindine township and online entrepreneurs.

The counters around the Aung San Stadium have been opening for many years and such closures can lead to many difficulties. — TWA/GNLM

Mawtaung-Singkhorn border between Myanmar and Thailand reopened

THE Mawtaung-Singkhorn land border between Myanmar and Thailand in Taninthayi Region was reopened on 2 August.

Officials of the two countries discussed and reopened the Mawtaung-Singkhorn land border only for trade purpose. They still stop the entry and exit for people through the border crossing.

It takes only three hours to get to Mawtaung from Myeik. There is not as much loss in exporting the marine products via that border post as via the Kawthoung route, truck driver U Hla Aung Myint said.

Due to clashes near Taninthayi township, the border checkpoint has been closed since April and the authorities of two countries discussed to reopen it now.

The closure of the Mawtaung- Singkhorn border that mainly exports marine products to the fish auction market in Maha Chaing of Thailand led some businesses to suspend temporarily and local fishermen faced hardships and losses, said Ko Tin Lun, a marine products exporter.

According to the COVID-19 health rules and statements of the Singkhorn post, the trade can be done from Monday to Saturday daily between 8 am and 4 pm. Every Sunday will be day-off for cleansing processes of the border crossing.—TWA/GNLM

The Singkhorn checkpoint on the Thai-Myanmar border was seen last five years ago.

Jaggery price surpassing all-time hikes amid sugar price slide

BY TWA

A toddy palm plant can produce up to four pots and a viss of jaggery can be produced if you boil eight pots. Two bundles of pigeon pea straw are used as fuel and it costs K5,000 per cart loaded with 25-30 bundles.

JAGGERY is mainly utilized in making Myanmar's traditional snacks. It is also used as a sugar substitute in some drinks. Most importantly, rural people who do the farming usually eat rice with jaggery for breakfast.

The price of jaggery stood at only K600 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in 2008. While sugar prices hit a high of K1,700 per viss in the 2010s, jaggery prices plunged. Consequently, toddy palm plants climbers were forced to turn to migrant workers in foreign countries as the business was physically demanding but less secure financially.

Some plants were even cut down to use as firewood in the previous years amid the shortage of plant climbers and price drop. It takes about a decade to collect toddy sap from a mature palm plant. Conservationists object to felling for wood.

After that, the jaggery market raised its head again. The price was higher than the sugar price in 2020. When sugar fetched K900 per viss in 2020, jaggery price reached K1,800 per viss.

In early 2021, sugar price had jumped to K1,900 per viss and jaggery price stood at K2,100 per viss. The price gap is around K200-300 per viss.

When the sugar price touched a high of K2,100 per viss in early 2022, jaggery from the Mahlaing area was priced at K2,800 per viss. On 30 July 2022, sugar price was K2,200 per viss, jaggery price moved in the range of K2,300 and K2,800 per depending on different varieties produced from different regions. Despite the jaggery season, the price increased to K2,170-K3,500 per viss on 25 April 2022. The toddy sap collection season takes place three times a year. (April, May, September-October).

A toddy palm plant can produce up to four pots and a viss of jaggery can be produced if you boil eight pots. Two bundles of pigeon pea straw are used as fuel and it costs K5,000 per cart loaded with 25-30 bundles, said Ko Aung Tun, a plant climber from Lukan village, Yenangyoung Township. When the sugar price was lower than jaggery, some businesspersons sold jaggery which is mixed with sugar. The price of a jaggery combo is K300-K400 per viss lower than organic jaggery.

However, there is a small gap between sugar and jaggery this month. Therefore, organic jaggery is mostly seen in the domestic markets. Thus, jaggery prices rose four times this year, compared to the prices registered in the previous decade. The market is considered to be as cool as cucumber in difficult situations.

Translated

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, industrial materials and electronics confiscated

The seizure of illegal goods in Kayin State.

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

Under the management of the Customs Department, an on-duty- team made inspections at the Myanmar Industrial Terminal Container Checkpoint, according to information on 2 August.

Officials captured K67,007,000 worth of industrial materials that were different from the Import Declaration (ID). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Afterwards, a combined team made inspections under the management of the Magway Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force.

They confiscated K3,240,000 worth of pet laundry detergent without official documents at the Magway freight handling terminal. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, K60.5 million worth of ten unregistered motorboats which were used in illegal drilling stonework were captured east of the Ayeyawady River about 12 miles south of Minhla township. The action was taken under the Conservation of Water Resources and Rivers Law.

In addition, a team led by the Myanmar Police Force confiscated 1,200 gallons of illegal fuel oil worth K10.8 million in Monywa township and 14,150 gallons of illegal fuel oil worth K133,010,000 on the Kawlin-Wuntho Road under the management of the Sagaing Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force. The action was taken under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law.

On 3 August, K14 million worth of raw chemicals that exceeded the Import Declaration (ID) were seized at the Thanlwin Bridge Combined Checkpoint and the action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 4 August, a total of 10.8034 tonnes of illegal timbers were seized in Bago and Toungoo districts and the action was taken under the Forest Law. In addition, a total of 25 tonnes of illegal timber worth K3,750,000 were confiscated in Maungtaw township under the supervision of the Rakhine State Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force. Therefore, 14 arrests estimated at K294,929,978 were made on three consecutive days from 2 to 4 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Public Notice

1. The Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to effectively curb corruption.
2. The ACC used SMS on the mobile phone to ask the public who seek services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via Short Code No "1111" for feedbacks, including the Public Feedback Programme-PFP.
3. According to the PFP, the right replies of the citizens via Short Code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.
4. Therefore, the public should make a reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at Short Code No "1111" and such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission
Answer "1111" to fight against corruption
Answer "1111" to improve services
Let's work together to eliminate corruption towards prosperity

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LOCAL BUSINESS

Ayeya Pawsan rice price rises to K1.3 million per 100-basket

THE prices of Ayeya Pawsan rice increased to K1.3 million per 100-basket (46 pounds), according to the Ayeya Trade Centre.

In early July, Ayeya Pawsan's rice price was only K1,227,000 per 100-basket. The price climbed up to K1.3 million per 100-basket in August.

Therefore, the figure shows an increase of K73,000 per 46 pounds within one month.

Low inventory, strong demand from millers and traders in Yangon and other domestic markets and robust demand for rice and rice products hiked up the rice price.

In early July, Ayeya Pawsan's rice price was only K1,227,000 per 100-basket. The price climbed up to K1.3 million per 100-basket in August.

Tracking high paddy prices, rice prices have also gained. On 4 August, Pawsan rice prices reached a minimum of K57,000 per bag and a maximum of K66,000 per bag. Short-matured rice price (90 days) fetched K40,000 per bag.

Starting on 3 August, the Myanmar Rice Federation, the Myanmar Rice Producers and Planters Association, the Myanmar Rice Millers Association and traders and brokers engaged in the Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre and Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Centre have been working together to offer fair prices for Shwebo Pawsan and other rice varieties to the consumers in the working days between 9 am and 3:30 pm.

The offer prices are K75,000-K77,000 per bag of Shwebo Pawsan, K52,000-K55,000 per bag of Ayeyawady Pawsan, K55,000-K60,000 per bag of Kyapyan, and K35,000-K37,000 per bag of short-matured rice varieties (90 days) at the Wadan Rice Wholesale Centre.

Sales volume is limited to one bag per household. Those traders and retailers are not entitled to buy them.—NN/GNLM

Low inventory drives up peanut prices

Magway Region, which has gained a reputation as the oil pot of Myanmar, is the main producer of beans and pulses including oil crops.

GROWERS from Htigyaing, Katha, Singu and Madaya areas cannot supply peanuts to the Mandalay market at present due to the Ayeyawady river floods. Consequently, low inventory pushed up the prices in early August.

The prices of peanuts moved in the range of K4,000-K4,500 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes), whereas the prices jumped to K6,200-K6,400 per viss, according to the Soe Win Myint depot.

The foreign and domestic demand has elevated peanut prices in recent days. Low yield is a contributing factor to a price hike. This year, the imported palm oil price is not that different from the locally produced peanut oil. Therefore, consumer behaviour has changed and turned to peanut oil due to the health benefits amidst the increase in imported oil prices.

"Newly harvested monsoon peanuts from Magway, Yenangyoung and Kyaukpadaung areas are entering the Mandalay market. Unexpected price increases happened amid low inventory. The price is expected to remain on an upward trend as peanuts will be harvested two months later," the Soe Win Myint depot owner explained.

Peanut is primarily grown in Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady regions. Myanmar has edible oil self-sufficiency. Moreover, oil crops are exported to foreign markets as well. Magway Region, which has gained a reputation as the oil pot of Myanmar, is the main producer of beans and pulses including oil crops. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Corn exports to Thailand plummet

MYANMAR'S corn exports to Thailand show a steep drop, said U Aye Chan Aung, chair of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

Although Myanmar earlier exported 150,000 tonnes of corn per month, only 30 per cent of that volume was delivered in July.

"Last year, Myanmar shipped 100,000-150,000 tonnes of corn per month between June and August. At that time, Baht was used for border transactions. Last month, export volume significantly dropped by 30 per cent," U Aye Chan Aung elaborated.

The directive released on 30 June said that transactions for the exports of agricultural produce including corn, rice, bean and oil crops are to be made in dollars instead of Yuan-Kyat/Baht-Kyat.

Additionally, the foreign currency earnings are set to be converted into local currency at K1,850. The US dollar is valued at over K2,500 in unauthorized exchanges, indicating a large gap between the regulated rate and the unofficial rate. This action affects exports of agricultural produce and trade dropped.

"The regulated reference rate set by the Central Bank of Myanmar is K1,850 for the dollar. If we calculate it with the current market rate in the informal market, we can see a large gap. Exporters consider it thoroughly and trade volume has fallen," he added.

Red tape for export licensing and delay in corn trade resulted in stockpiles of corn in the domestic market. The market is sluggish for now.

The prices of corn are estimated at K800-820 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the Yangon market.

Thailand gives green light to corn imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposed a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on corn imports to protect the rights of their growers if the corn is imported during the corn season of Thailand.

Therefore, only one month (August) is remaining for corn exports under Form D exemption.

Myanmar conveyed 1.7 million tonnes of corn to Thailand in the 2020-2021 Financial Year. In the 2021-2022 corn season, the country targets to export 1.5 million tonnes of corn, according to the association.

Myanmar exported 2.3 million tonnes of corn to foreign trade partners in the 2020-2021 corn season. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and corn was also delivered to China, India and Viet Nam, the association's data indicated.

At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons – winter, summer and monsoon. The country produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn every year. — NN/GNLM

Although Myanmar earlier exported 150,000 tonnes of corn per month, only 30 per cent of that volume was delivered in July.

Wash your minds, to be honest in society

HONESTY is the best policy for the lifestyle of the people in a daily routine. Only when every task is based on honesty will everything be true. Otherwise, dishonesty triggers various ways of mistakes.

People need to keep honesty in their hearts. The volume of investment based on honesty is the best effort for solving the problems in an easy manner because those who keep honesty in their souls do not have a mean mind. For example, honesty can be applied in washing the ways of all processes to be smoother.

To be able to reach the right path, everybody needs to wash their minds to be whitish with optimism over everybody, everything and every event. If so, society is opening its door for them permanently to come back. Whenever they stay in society, they will get the warm compassion of society. It is a definition of life as well as the nature of society.

Those who hold up the policy of honesty will never face the negative reflection from all events. At the start of their practice, they may face different difficulties to overcome challenges but they themselves gradually conquer the mean-minded. It can be said that those who conquer themselves are real winners. As such, after encountering difficulties, they are sure to reach a successful path in their life routine. It can be dubbed that they would be prophets for their respective arenas, powerful to apply their physical and mental strengths at full capacity. Actually, society does not open its door to dishonest persons forever.

Those holding up the dishonesty are automatically staying away from honest persons. They do not have any physical or mental powers to encounter honest persons. Whenever the two meet with each other, the bowed head of the dishonest person never raises up in front of the honest person. The former never keep abreast of the latter because the former are unable to push out the discouraging feeling of impossible shouldering to shouldering the mental power of the honest persons.

To be able to reach the right path, everybody needs to wash their minds to be whitish with optimism over everybody, everything and every event. If so, society is opening its door for them permanently to come back. Whenever they stay in society, they will get the warm compassion of society. It is a definition of life as well as the nature of society.

So, everybody needs to amend their mistakes and improve their minds in time. Time is the best physician for everybody. Even if the worst law breaker amends mental disorders in time, the person will be a good person in society. If so, all the people will warmly welcome those who return to the genuine shade of society from their dark lives.

■

Being out and about in England

By Chit Ko Pe

A POLITICAL phenomenon hits England now so as to choose the next Prime Minister. Rishi Sunak or Liz Truss? Interested, but I'm not much inclined on who will be. As long as any striking issue with England is concerned, the images of my once-upon-a-time days in England pop up in my memories.

It was in the 2010s when I visited England on four separate occasions. London was my most frequent city aside from Birmingham, Cambridge, Oxford and Manchester. Being out and about in England was to receive the workplace safety and health outstanding awards conferred by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), a British public charity founded in 1916 with an aim of saving lives and preventing life-changing injuries inflicted in accidents. The RoSPA Awards is one of the most prestigious and recognized schemes in the world. It rewards companies and people around the world for their exemplary and outstanding safety performance.

I was there representing a local construction company from Singapore to receive awards for some construction projects with outstanding safety and health performance. There was a distinct award presented to some personnel across the world. It was the RoSPA Guardian Angel award recognized for those who went 'above and beyond' to protect the safety of others or sacrificed their leisure time to adopt possible means for the enhancement of public safety awareness. I was one of them to receive such a personal accolade in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

The year 2016 was the most remarkable one as it marked the RoSPA's centennial anniversary. Above and beyond an award certificate and a badge, all winners including me were handed out the printed message card each from its patron, Her Majesty The Queen, Elizabeth II. The message reads-

"I congratulate the members and friends of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents on the occasion of its centenary.

Since 1916 the Society has tirelessly campaigned to prevent the loss of life from preventable accidents. Its contribution to changing national perceptions on safety has been invaluable.

The use of mobile phones and other electronic devices while driving has emerged as one of the leading causes of distracted driving related crashes. **ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK**

From pedestrian safety in the First World War to significant changes making seatbelts compulsory and banning the use of electronic devices while driving has saved countless lives.

A significant anniversary as a centenary is cause for celebration: for the work done in communities all over the country raising awareness and encouraging national cooperation.

As you mark this milestone, I pass my thanks to all those who have served and who serve Society today with commitment and passion. I wish you every success in the future."

The message card from such an eminent person in the world stands tall among other certificates I was conferred. I, a layman even dared not dream to be somewhat dealt with by Her Majesty The Queen. All in all, it was the most fascinated gift I've ever received.

Unlike in conventional award ceremonies held in other countries, the RoSPA awards in England were specially presented in the daytime over two days in May with a gala dinner held on the second night at a designated venue. I was once at Hilton Metropole Birmingham with the rest at ExCel London, England's two most famous venues for international exhibitions, conferences and music and entertainment shows.

One of the other day's activities was an enormous safety and health exhibition show with more than 600 exhibitors from some 170 countries. Visitors were listed from 10 top sectors -construction, facilities services, installation/integration, education, transportation, security & investigation, information technology, hospital & health care, mechanical/industrial fields as well as local government. The exhibition served as an all-in-one source wherein the businesses sought suitable and perfect solutions. Safety seminars were also conducted during the daytime with high-profile speakers drawing in huge crowds. I was opportune enough to learn new things, reconnect and network with fellow occupational safety and health professionals in person coming from all parts of the world.

Despite no sight of organizations or individuals from Myanmar at the events, I breathed a sigh of relief over a description of my name in print on the screen and oral announcement through amplifiers when I received the award. The word "U" in front of my given name did not get any audience in the hall confused that I was a Myanmar national. I grasped the proud moments with my head held high on the stage amid cheerful award music emanating and echoing in the hall.

■

Step up surveillance and strengthen public health measures to prevent and respond to monkeypox transmission

By Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh

A COORDINATED response that actively combats stigma can stop transmission and protect vulnerable groups

The multi-country outbreak of monkeypox represents a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, the highest level of global public health alert. From January through July 2022, more than 19 000 probable and laboratory-confirmed cases of monkeypox have been reported to WHO from at least 78 countries across all six WHO regions, including the South-East Asia Region.

Cases have involved mainly, but not exclusively, men who have sex with men. However, anyone who has close contact with someone who is infectious is at risk. As we learn more, additional cases may be identified in the broader community.

Monkeypox can cause a range of signs and symptoms, including fever, rash, and swollen lymph nodes, which can be easily confused with symptoms of other illnesses, such as chickenpox, measles, and bacterial skin infections. In most cases, symptoms subside within a few weeks. However, in some cases – particularly among newborn babies, children and people with underlying immune deficiencies – infection can lead to medical complications and even death. Since January, five deaths from monkeypox have been reported to WHO.

If you think you might have monkeypox, you can protect others by seeking medical advice and isolating yourself from others until you have been evaluated and tested. Until more is understood about transmission through sexual fluids, people who have had probable or confirmed monkeypox should use condoms while having sexual contact for 12 weeks after recovery.

Though the risk of monkeypox globally and in the Region is moderate, the potential of further international spread is real. All countries of the Region must therefore strengthen preparedness and response capacities, building on a series of priority actions, while WHO continues to coordinate and support global research and equitable access to key health tools such as vaccines and treatments, based on public health risks and needs.

First, step up surveillance, with a focus on sensitizing and training health workers and ensuring access to reliable, affordable and accurate diagnostic tests. Health workers should immediately report suspected cases to local or national public health authorities, collect and ship specimens for laboratory testing, and initiate contact tracing while protecting the human rights, privacy and dignity of affected individuals and their contacts. National IHR focal points should report all probable and confirmed cases to WHO using the minimum data set contained in the WHO Case Report Form.

Second, strengthen risk communication and community engagement, build trust and awareness, and facilitate timely access to diagnosis and care. Health leaders should identify and leverage existing community-based groups, networks and services to share reliable and factual information with populations at high risk of infection. They should initiate systematic social listening for emerging perceptions, concerns and misinformation that might hamper response actions, while also consulting with and engaging affected communities and other stakeholders to promote care-seeking behaviour.

Third, scale up support for

Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia

clinical management and infection prevention and control. Health leaders and facility administrators should establish recommended clinical care pathways and protocols for the screening, triage, isolation, testing and clinical assessment of suspected cases. They should ensure all health and laboratory workers have adequate access to appropriate personal protective equipment, on which those workers must be adequately trained. The collection and reporting of clinical outcomes should be harmonized using the WHO Global Clinical Platform for Monkeypox.

Together, we must actively combat stigma and discrimination as a core part of the response. Stigma and discrimination violate human rights. They exacerbate social inequalities and deepen health inequities. At the same time, stigma and discrimination directly undermine disease control. People who experience stigma may be less likely to report symptoms and seek care due to fear of rejection, social isolation or the impact of discrimination on their families and friends. To see this challenge through, together we must act in solidarity and support affected individuals and groups and those who care for them.

With the right strategies, this multi-country outbreak can be stopped – globally, and in the Region. Towards that goal, WHO will continue to support all countries of the Region, ensuring a response that is coordinated, and which actively combats stigma and protects the vulnerable.

■

MYANMAR Daily Weather Report

(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Thursday 4 August 2022)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 5 August 2022: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in lower Sagaing and Magway regions, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, upper Sagaing, Mandalay regions and Kachin, northern Shan, Chin, Kayah states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi regions and Mon state. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Wave height will be about (9-13) feet in off and along Myanmar Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of increase of rain in Bago,Yangon, Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 August 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 August 2022: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 August 2022: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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ENVIRON WORLD

Heavy rain hits northeastern, central Japan, 100,000 told to evacuate

Photo taken from a Kyodo News airplane shows an area in Niigata Prefecture's Murakami affected by heavy rain on 4 Aug 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

TORRENTIAL rain continued in wide areas of Japan on Thursday, with more than 100,000 residents in northeastern and central parts urged to evacuate, several people unaccounted for, and reports of power and water supply cuts.

The weather agency issued the highest rain alert for the northeastern prefecture of Yamagata, where the Mogami River had overflowed at several locations, triggering landslides, inundating houses and disrupting water supplies. The town of Oguni in Yamagata was cut off due to landslides and flooding, local officials said.

TV footage and aerial photos showed several residential districts and a number of houses and cars submerged in muddy water in Yamagata and the central Japan prefecture of Niigata, for which the highest level of alert was also issued.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno, the central government's top spokesman, told a regular news briefing earlier in the day that two people remained missing and around 1,900 households including in Niigata were without electricity

The heavy rain has affected railway services since Wednesday night. Railway bridges on the Banetsu West Line in Fukushima and the Yonesaka Line in Yamagata had collapsed and shinkansen bullet train services were suspended between Fukushima and Shinjo in Yamagata, according to operator East Japan Railway Co.—Kyodo

Spectators flock to Iceland volcano

The eruption is tricky to access, requiring a strenuous 90-minute hilly hike from the closest car park. **PHOTO: AFP**

CURIOUS onlookers made their way Thursday to the site of a volcano erupting near Iceland's capital Reykjavik to marvel at the bubbling lava, a day after the fissure appeared in an uninhabited valley.

The eruption was around 40 kilometres (25 miles) from Reykjavik, near the site of the Mount Fagradalsfjall volcano in southwestern Iceland that spewed magma for six months between March and September 2021.

While last year's eruption was easily accessible on foot and drew more than 435,000 tourists, the new eruption is trickier to access, requiring a strenuous 90-minute hilly hike from the closest car park.

Despite that, more than 1,830 people visited the site on the first day of the eruption, according to the Icelandic Tourist Board, and more visitors were seen trekking to the scene early Thursday.

The fissure was estimated to be around 360 metres (1,181 feet) long, the Icelandic Meteorological Office said Thursday, with lava fountains about 10-15 metres high.—AFP

Wind and water: undersea drone readies to aid offshore boom

IN a wave tank at a robot laboratory in the Scottish capital Edinburgh, engineers observe in silence as an underwater drone rises stealthily to the surface.

The team, which led the development of the remotely operated vehicle (ROV) at Heriot-Watt university, believe the submersible machine is a game-changer for offshore wind farms, obviating the need for divers.

The engineers reckon it will soon be ready to perform inspections and maintenance at wind farms, transforming the nature of the high-risk and costly endeavours just as the industry is set for huge expansion. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has promised to make the UK the "Saudi Arabia" of wind power, with plans to generate enough electricity from offshore to power every UK home by 2030.

While Johnson is on his way out of office, the industry is banking on the expansion plans, especially after Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent the price of traditional carbon energy through the roof.

"We have to imagine that in 10, 15 years time there will be hundreds of wind farms, which means thousands of wind turbines all across the coast of the UK," Yvan Petillot, a robotics and autonomous systems professor at Heriot-Watt, told AFP. "You also have hydrogen technology being developed and all of this will need to be maintained, inspected and serviced.—AFP

Britain plans a massive expansion of offshore wind farms. **PHOTO: AFP**

Driest July in memory imperils Europe's crops

AS much of Europe bakes in a third heatwave since June, fears are growing that extreme drought driven by climate change in the continent's breadbasket nations will dent stable crop yields and deepen the cost-of-living crisis.

The European Commission on Wednesday urged EU member states to re-use treated urban wastewater as irrigation on the continent's parched farms, after France and parts of England saw their driest July on record. In France, where an intense drought has hammered farmers and prompted widespread limits on freshwater use, there was just 9.7 millimetres (0.38 inches) of rain last month, Meteo-France said. That was 84 per cent down on the average levels seen for July between 1991 and 2022, making it the driest month since March 1961, the agency added.

The southwestern region of Gironde, already devastated by last month's wildfires, saw a maximum temperature of 39.6 degrees Celsius (103 degrees Fahrenheit) on Wednesday, with Meteo-France predicting a peak on Thursday.—AFP

HEALTH/PANDEMIC WORLD

Biden signs executive order on abortion rights

US President Joe Biden signed a new executive order on Wednesday to help ensure access to abortion.

Biden, in virtual remarks from the White House, said that the measure responds to "the healthcare crisis that has unfolded" since the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in June, which eliminated the constitutional protection of abortion rights for women.

The executive order will also help women travel out of state for medical care while making sure healthcare providers comply with federal law so women don't face delays or denials of medically necessary care, according to Biden.

The US Justice Department filed a lawsuit on Tuesday to protect the rights of patients to access emergency medical care guaranteed by federal law.

The suit challenged an Idaho law set to go into effect on 25 Aug. and impose a near-total ban on abortion.

Abortion has been one of the most divisive issues in the United States.

Without Roe v. Wade, states are allowed to impose their own legislation on the medical procedure. At least ten states have banned abortion following the Supreme Court's decision to strike down Roe v. Wade.— Xinhua

In the wake of the overturning of Roe v. Wade, abortion-rights activists continue to fight against laws restricting access to abortion. **PHOTO: CHANDAN KHANNA / AFP**

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE WORLDWIDE

People wearing face masks are seen at a shopping mall in Seoul, South Korea, on 3 August 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/WANG YILIANG**

S.Korea's daily new COVID-19 cases hit 110-day high, over 20 mln in total

SOUTH Korea's daily new COVID-19 cases hit the highest in 110 days, bringing the total number of infections to over 20 million, official data showed Wednesday.

The country reported 119,922 new COVID-19 cases for the past 24 hours as of midnight Tuesday, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA).

It was the highest daily figure in 110 days since mid-April amid a rapid spread of the new COVID-19 sub-variant.

The daily caseload was compared to 100,245 tallied a week earlier and 76,372 two weeks earlier. For the past week, the daily average number of confirmed cases was 86,520.

The total number of COVID-19 cases came to 20,052,305. It topped 20 million less than five months after surpassing 10 million on 23 March.

It has raised worries that infections among the elderly people rose sharply during the recent resurgence. In the week ending 30 July, the number of infected people aged 60 or older was 94,752, compared to 14,215 recorded three weeks earlier.

The number of infected people who were in a serious condition increased to 284, from 177 a week earlier and 96 two weeks ago.

Of the total serious cases, 48.2 per cent were people in their 80s or older, 23.6 per cent in their 70s and 10.9 per cent in their 60s.—Xinhua

2022 MONKEYPOX OUTBREAK

Thailand reports 3rd monkeypox case

THAILAND reported its third case of monkeypox on Wednesday, according to the Health Ministry.

The infected person is a 25-year-old German man who entered Phuket island on 18 July and developed symptoms shortly after, said Opas Karnkawinpong, director-general of the Department of Disease Control.

According to Department of Disease Control (DDC) chief Opas Karnkawinpong, the international disease control and quarantine office at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi airport has begun screening foreign visitors for monkeypox using the Thailand Pass system. **PHOTO: TROVELOBIZ/XINHUA**

The authorities initially believe it is an imported case due to the incubation time, and a medical team is reviewing the timeline to monitor close contacts and vulnerable groups, Opas said.

So far, no infection has been found among the close contacts that have been located, he added.

Thailand on Monday said it is expecting the first batch of monkeypox vaccines to arrive later this month. Opas said that the vaccines are likely to be administered to medical personnel and people who have close contact with the patients.— Xinhua

Guatemala confirms first case of monkeypox

GUATEMALA'S Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance on Wednesday confirmed the country's first case of monkeypox, which was detected in a 31-year-old man in the capital Guatemala City.

The National Health Laboratory carried out the testing that confirmed the case. It has also ruled out one suspected case of monkeypox and is investigating three others, the ministry said in a release.

The 31-year-old man is isolated at home and has not required hospitalization. He remains under the supervision of doctors from the health ministry.

Monkeypox is transmitted through direct or indirect contact with blood, bodily fluids, skin lesions, mucous membranes or material contaminated by the virus.

On 23 July, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the current outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern". — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

Japan to seek record 5.5 tril. yen defence budget to beef up tech

JAPAN'S Defence Ministry will seek a record budget of over 5.5 trillion yen ($41 billion) for fiscal 2023 to strengthen its operational capabilities in space and cyberspace as well as the traditional domains of land, sea and air, government sources said Wednesday.

The request, which could further balloon to 6 trillion yen once some unspecified costs are finalized, also reflects the ministry's desire to enhance its standoff defense capabilities and unmanned systems such as drones within the next five years, the sources said.

Photo taken on 27 March 2022, shows the Ground Self-Defence Force's cutting-edge "network electronic warfare system", dubbed NEWS, in Okinawa Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Such capabilities enable forces to attack from outside the enemy's firing range.

With China increasing its defence spending and military activities, the ministry has formed a strategy of ensuring "asymmetric superiority" — preventing invasion by exploiting and exhausting the weaknesses of a formidable enemy.

According to its basic policy, the ministry will facilitate speedy decision-making by strengthening command control and information systems in addition to cross-domain operational capabilities. It will also deepen ties with close ally the United States and other countries that share the vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The budget request for fiscal 2023 is set to top the ministry's highest-ever 5.49 trillion yen budget drawn up in fiscal 2021.

To some extent due to its pacifist Constitution, Japan has long capped its annual defence budget at around one per cent of gross domestic product, or about five trillion yen.

Some materiel with yet-to-be specified price tags will have costs finalized after being discussed during a review of three security-related documents, including the National Security Strategy, scheduled to be updated by the end of 2022.—Kyodo

Shortage of skilled workers in Germany rises to all-time high: ifo

ALMOST one in two companies in Germany were affected by a shortage of skilled workers, the highest level ever recorded, according to a company survey published by the Munich-based ifo Institute on Tuesday.

"More and more companies are having to cut back on business because they simply can't find enough staff," said ifo labour market expert Stefan Sauer. "In the medium and long term, this problem is likely to become more severe."

Service providers were most affected by the labour shortage, particularly in the event and hotel industry, where two in three companies reported staff shortages, according to ifo.

Staff shortages in the entire hospitality sector including restaurants were not due to recent layoffs and people switching jobs, according to a recent study by Institute for Employment Research labour market researchers. "The main reason lies in a failure to hire," the authors found.

The industry association DEHOGA is suggesting to simplify immigration rules so that refugees could be better integrated into Germany's labour market. "We now need fast and pragmatic measures to recruit employees," said DEHOGA President Guido Zoellick.

Despite the labour shortage in Europe's biggest economy, the number of temporary workers from countries outside the European Union (EU) registered in Germany more than tripled over the past decade, according to the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis).

Minister of Labour Hubertus Heil and Minister of the Interior Nancy Faeser plan to lower the income threshold for recent graduates applying for a blue card that allows working in the country, "making it easier for well-educated young people to start their careers in Germany".— Xinhua

A BMW worker on a production line at Dingolfing, southern Germany. **PHOTO: AFP**

US loan delinquencies creep up amid high debt loads: report

US households have continued to take on more debt, in part to deal with soaring prices, a report showed Tuesday, while cases of borrowers unable to pay loans are creeping up in a troubling sign of things to come.

Facing the biggest surge in inflation in more than four decades, which is squeezing families trying to make ends meet, the New York Federal Reserve Bank's latest report shows credit card balances in the April-June quarter surged by the most in 20 years. Total household debt posted a two percent increase in the latest three months, and is now $2 trillion more than the pre-pandemic level, the report showed.—AFP

Solar electric tricycles give Zimbabwean women a lift

FOR years, selling eggs was a joyless business for Danai Bvochora, as most of the money she made went to cover minibus fares to the market in a rural area of Zimbabwe.

That was until an earth-brown solar-powered electric tricycle changed her life.

"We used to carry loads on our heads before. The tricycle has lessened the burden," said the 47-year-old from Domboshava, about 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of Zimbabwe's capital, Harare.

She carefully loads eggs onto the tricycle's trailer before embarking on a bumpy eight-kilometre journey to the market.

"We even use it to go to church and worship," Bvochora said, explaining a single trip to buy chicken feed from a local business centre used to cost her $12.

But charging her new solar-powered vehicle sets her back only $2.50 every two weeks, and the mother of two is now making a profit.

Bvochora is among groups of women in Domboshava, a district renowned for its picturesque hills and giant boulders, who received a tricycle last year as part of a European Union-funded project to assist small-scale farmers.

Transport has historically been inadequate in sparsely populated rural areas of Zimbabwe, where women often have to walk long distances carrying heavy loads on their heads to trade products — which sometimes spoil on the way in the heat.— AFP

Selling eggs was a joyless business for Danai Bvochora, as most of the money she made covered minibus fares. **PHOTO: AFP**

A Toyota production plant for hybrid electric vehicles in Toyota city in Aichi prefecture, Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Toyota lifts net profit outlook as yen expected to absorb higher costs

TOYOTA Motor Corp. on Thursday lifted its net profit forecast for the current business year to 2.36 trillion yen ($17.6 billion), as a greater windfall from a weaker yen is expected to more than offset the impact of higher material costs and production loss from chip shortages.

The new outlook for the year to March 2023 compares with the previously projected 2.26 trillion yen and represents a 17.2 per cent drop from the record net profit the previous year. Sales forecast was raised to 34.50 trillion yen from 33.0 trillion yen and operating profit projection was left unchanged at 2.40 trillion yen.

The upgrade comes as concerns are growing that the global economy could fall into a recession and auto demand in North America — the biggest market for the Japanese automaker — may falter just as sales are recovering from the shock of the pandemic.—Kyodo

Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing's firm to sell stake in fintech upstart

Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing's firm is selling its stake in the parent company of fintech upstart AMTD Digital, according to a statement released Thursday, after the company enjoyed a massive rally this week.

Hong Kong-based AMTD Digital was worth more than $203 billion when New York markets closed on Wednesday, making it the world's fifth-biggest financial company on paper, Bloomberg reported.

AMTD Digital was listed just three weeks ago, and reported $25 million in revenue for the financial year that ended in April 2021.

Li's CK Group said in a statement that it holds less than four per cent of AMTD Digital's parent company, AMTD Group, and has entered negotiations to sell those shares.–AFP

Airbnb reports soaring revenue as travel rebounds

AIRBNB said Tuesday revenue in the recently ended quarter topped $2 billion as people shook off pandemic worries and took part in a banner travel season.

The home rental platform logged a net income of $379 million in what it touted as the most profitable second quarter in its history.

As a sign of confidence in its future, the San Francisco-based company announced it will devote $2 billion to buying back shares.

"During the height of the pandemic, we made many difficult choices to reduce our spending, making us a leaner and more focused company," the company said in a letter to investors.—AFP

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(22/2022-2023)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(1)	DMP/L-069(22-23)CAP (Retender)	Pipe Fittings (2) Groups	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **4 August 2022** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications and Commercial Quotation with Original Bid Bond in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **12:00 pm** on **18, August 2022**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **18-8-2022, 12:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

Ministry of Immigration and Population
Department of Population
Invitation of proposals for International Consultant

1. Ministry of Immigration and Population (MOIP) intend to implement Mapping and Enumeration Area delineation operation using GIS technology which is one of the major activities of Population and Housing Census. On this regard, Ministry of Immigration and Population is seeking the serving of an international consultant to develop the detailed work plans, build the GIS system, provide technical advice and conduct the capacity enhancement training.

2. The experienced international consultant will be recruited through competitive selection and evaluation processes, and interested candidates are invited and suggested to refer below information to summit the proposal:

(a)	The date and time that the interested candidates can get TOR for international consultant	-	During 8-8-2022 to 19-8-2022 (during office hours.) TOR can be available from www.dop.gov.mm
(b)	The place which can be submitted the proposal	-	Department of Population, Ministry of Immigration and Population, Building No (48), Nay Pyi Taw
(c)	Method of submission of proposal	-	In person or by email: pop.dept.mm@gmail.com
(d)	Deadline for submission of proposal	-	19-9-2022 at 16:30 PM MMT. (During office hours.)
(e)	Interview Date and time	-	The shortlisted candidates will be contacted

3. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

4. If you want to know more about proposal form and the terms and conditions, you can contact the following phone number and email during office hours:
Department of Population, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone No. +95 67-431066, +95 67-431067
Email Address. pop.dept.mm@gmail.com

Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SINAR POMALAA VOY.NO. (888N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR POMALAA VOY.NO. (888N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-8-2022** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0270-725N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0270-725N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-8-2022** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V KOTA RAJIN VOY.NO. (KRJN0259N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V KOTA RAJIN VOY.NO. (KRJN0259N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-8-2022** 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Sri Lankan president urges political parties to work for an all-party gov't

SRI Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Wednesday urged political parties to join him in establishing an all-party government that can lead Sri Lanka out of the economic crisis.

In delivering the government's policy statement following the ceremonial opening of the third session of the 9th Parliament, Wickremesinghe said that he has already started discussions with political parties on the matter.

He said Sri Lanka needs to modernize its economy and that it should no longer depend on foreign loans to maintain the economy.

The current economic crisis is the result of not making necessary adjustments to the economy, he said, adding that Sri Lanka has to plan for the future and a national economic programme for the next 25 years will be formulated.

Wickremesinghe said that while fuel shortages will continue till the end of the year, steps are being taken to ensure that everyone has fair access to fuel supply.

"The problems are lessening. Steps have been taken to assure a steady supply of gas, food, and medicines," he said.

Sri Lanka can come to a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by the end of August, he said.—Xinhua

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe receives the guard of honour for the ceremonial opening of the third session of the 9th Parliament in Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, Sri Lanka, 3 August 2022. **PHOTO: AJITH PERERA/XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mexico races to rescue nine trapped miners

RESCUERS battled Wednesday to free around nine workers believed to be trapped in a coal mine in northern Mexico, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said. Military personnel and rescue dogs were deployed to the site of the accident in the state of Coahuila, Lopez Obrador said.

"A coal mine collapsed in the municipality of Sabinas, Coahuila, which caused a tunnel to flood and apparently trapped nine miners," he tweeted. "We hope to find them safe," he added. Anxious relatives gathered at the mine waiting for news, some crying, television images showed.—AFP

New tensions explode over Karabakh, 3 soldiers killed

NEW tensions erupted over Nagorno-Karabakh on Wednesday as three soldiers were killed and Azerbaijan said it had taken control of several strategic heights in the disputed region. The escalation drew immediate international rebuke, with Russia accusing Baku of violating the brittle ceasefire and the European Union urging an "immediate cessation of hostilities".—AFP

China begins major military drills after Pelosi visit

CHINA'S largest-ever military exercises encircling Chinese Taipei kicked off Tuesday night, in a show of force straddling vital international shipping lanes after a visit to the island by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

The PLA Eastern Theatre Command will stage joint training exercises in the maritime areas off the northern, southwestern and southeastern coasts of the island and their air space, conduct long-range live-fire drills in the Taiwan Strait and conventional missile tests in the waters off the eastern coast of the island.

The military operations are a stern deterrent against the recent major escalation of the negative acts by the United States on the Chinese Taipei question, and a serious warning against separatist activities seeking "Chinese Taipei independence".— Xinhua

The PLA Eastern Theatre Command will stage joint training exercises in the maritime areas off the northern, southwestern and southeastern coasts of the island and their air space, conduct long-range live-fire drills in the Taiwan Strait and conventional missile tests in the waters off the eastern coast of the island. **PHOTO: GENG HAIPENG/XINHUA**

Fourth Peruvian PM resigns in one year

Peruvian Prime Minister Anibal Torres (R) is the fourth under President Pedro Castillo to resign. **PHOTO: ERNESTO BENAVIDES/ AFP/FILE**

PERU'S Prime Minister Anibal Torres resigned on Wednesday, becoming the fourth to step down in a year under embattled President Pedro Castillo.

In a letter sent to Castillo, who has survived two impeachment votes in 12 months and is the target of five criminal investigations, Torres said he was stepping down "for personal reasons".

Torres posted a copy of the letter, in which he wished Castillo success, on Twitter.

His resignation will trigger an automatic cabinet reshuffle.

Torres, 79, first served as Castillo's justice minister, and then took over the prime ministerial portfolio in February after three previous prime ministers had come and gone.

The country has had seven interior ministers since Castillo took over in July 2021 — a high turnover even for a country that is no stranger to political upheaval.

In five days of 2020, Peru had three different presidents.

Leftist Castillo — a rural school teacher who unexpectedly took power from Peru's traditional political elite in elections last year — has been under nonstop fire from his right-wing rivals. —AFP

SPORT

Haaland's debut headlines opening weekend of Premier League season

Erik ten Hag's reign at Manchester United begins at home to Brighton on Sunday. **PHOTO: NTB/AFP**

ARSENAL'S trip to Crystal Palace lifts the curtain on the new Premier League season on Friday, with Erling Haaland's debut in the English top flight the highlight of the weekend as champions Manchester City travel to West Ham.

Haaland has been the marquee arrival to the Premier League from over £1 billion ($1.2 billion) spent on transfer fees ahead of the new campaign.

The Norwegian is expected to further strengthen Pep Guardiola's side, who have won the title in four of the last five seasons. However, Haaland and City's season did not get off to a good start as perennial title rivals Liverpool won the Community Shield 3-1 last weekend.

A trip to the London Stadium is a good early season test of City's revamped squad with Julian Alvarez and Kalvin Phillips also coming in to replace the departed Oleksandr Zinchenko, Fernandinho, Raheem Sterling and Gabriel Jesus. West Ham nearly denied City the title last season as they led 2-0 at half-time in the penultimate game of the campaign before the visitors rallied to salvage the point which won them the league. —AFP

Myanmar to play Malaysia today in AFF U-16 Championship

THE 2022 ASEAN U-16 Championship Group (C) matches being held in Indonesia will continue today, and Myanmar will play against Malaysia.

This match is an important one for both teams, and the winning team will be in a good position to advance to the semi-finals.

In the first match of the group, the Myanmar team beat Australia by 3-2. Likewise, the Malaysian team defeated Cambodia by three goals.

According to the format of the tournament, only one of the best second-placed teams will qualify for the semi-finals, so every game is important because only the first-place team in the group will be guaranteed to qualify for the semi-finals.

The Myanmar team needs to beat Malaysia to qualify for the semi-finals, and it is likely to be difficult to reach the semifinal if they lose or draw.

Myanmar vs Malaysia match will begin at 6:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time and Australia vs Cambodia match will start at 2:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Myanmar face loss in 3rd place match of AFF U-18 Women's Championship

THE third-place match of the 2022 ASEAN U-18 Women's Championship was held in Indonesia yesterday and the Thai team beat the Myanmar team 2-0.

The Myanmar team tried to get third place, but lost to the Thai team and missed out on a medal. Team Myanmar conceded one goal each in the first and second half and lost by two goals.

The Myanmar team made some changes to the starting lineup as some core players could not participate, and started with some reserve players.

The Myanmar team tried their best from the start, but the Thai team was able to play without any mistakes.

In the 21st minute, the Thai team scored the opening goal, and Manowan touched the ball into the net.

The second goal that ensured the victory for the Thai team was scored by Gina Saipan in the 90th + 1st minute.

Myanmar team tried to score an equalizing goal, but they could not use the opportunities and suffered the loss.

Team Myanmar beat Malaysia 2-0, and the Philippines 3-1 but lost to Australia 2-1 in the group stage.

Myanmar entered the semi-finals as a second-placed team in the group.

In the semi-finals, Viet Nam beat Myanmar 4-1 and in the third match, Myanmar lost to Thailand 0-2 and was satisfied with fourth place. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Myanmar team player (red) eyes on the ball during the match against the Thai team in the third place match of the AFF U-18 Women's Championship on 4 August 2022. **PHOTO: AFF**

SPORT

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Sri Lankan president urges political parties to work for an all-party gov't

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UEFA to use 'semi-automated' offside system in Champions League

Offside decisions, the bane of many football supporters, are to get a dash of technology. **PHOTO: AFP**

A form of "semi-automated offside technology" will be used from the group stage of this season's Champions League as well as in next week's Super Cup, UEFA announced on Wednesday.

The optical tracking system was trialled at the FIFA Club World Cup in Abu Dhabi in February and last year's Arab Cup. FIFA has confirmed it will be in place for the World Cup in Qatar.

The data-driven, limb-tracking technology utilizes both dedicated and broadcast cameras around the stadium to give the exact position of players on the pitch, offering match officials precise information within seconds.

It will replace the manually linked lines VAR uses to assess the position of players on the pitch and is being touted as able to provide a definitive decision within an average of 25 seconds.

Currently, VAR offside decisions take an average of 70 seconds to be determined.

"This innovative system will allow VAR teams to determine offside situations quickly and more accurately, enhancing the flow of the game and the consistency of the decisions", said UEFA chief refereeing officer Roberto Rosetti.

Specialized cameras enable the system to generate 29 body points per player. UEFA said that 188 tests have been conducted since 2020. "The system is ready to be used in official matches and implemented at each Champions League venue," added Rosetti.

It will be introduced in Europe for the first time in the UEFA Super Cup between Real Madrid and Eintracht Frankfurt in Helsinki on August 10.— 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 wins gold in Wushu, bronze in soccer in 20th ASEAN University Games 2022

Myat Noe Eain, a gold medallist in Wushu.

WITH the 20th ASEAN University Games being held in Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand since 26 July, Myat Noe Eain from Myanmar won the gold medal in the Wushu competition at the Sunee Tower yesterday morning.

There were four events in the Wushu tourney and Myat Noe Eain from Myanmar won the gold medal at the Women's Taijiquan event with a 9.65 score. Malaysia got silver and Indonesia bronze, respectively.

Myat Noe Eain, who secured the gold medal for the first time for Myanmar, is a fourth-year (History) majoring student at Mandalar University and the Myanmar Wushu team is continuously participating in four events of the Wushu competition.

In the third-place match of the ASEAN University Football Tournament played at 3:00 pm yesterday (local time) at the Ubon Ratchathani Rajabhat University UBRU Happiness Stadium, the Myanmar University Football Team took on the Lao University Football Team.

The result was a scoreless draw at the end of the 90 minutes and the match went to a penalty shootout. Maung Khaing Ye Win, Maung Nyi Nyi, Maung Than Myat Soe and Maung Soe Thura scored penalty goals and won the bronze medal with a 4-3 win. — MNA