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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.

Priority must be given to paddy cultivation so as to increase per-acre yield: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the second-day coordination meeting of the Union government in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 August 2022.

A coordination meeting on undertakings of the Union government continued for the second day at the office of the State Administration Council Chairman yesterday morning with an address by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Chief ministers of regions and states and chairpersons of the Self-Administered Zones

reported on the progress of administration, security, the rule of law, social, economic, education, health, agriculture and livestock and development affairs in respective regions and states including the Self-Administered Zones, and Union ministers on the implementation of missions and visions, work progress, future plans, international cooperation, and undertakings for the economic development of the

State and restoration of peace and stability.

In his response to the presentations, the Senior General said that local food sufficiency is crucial in regions and states, stressing that priority must be given to paddy cultivation so as to increase per-acre yield. It is necessary to encourage the manufacturing of products based on agriculture and livestock farms. As the Ministry of

Planning and Finance set up a separate fund of K400 billion allotted from the National Natural Disaster Management Fund for the economic development of the nation, the government will arrange to spend the fund on the supply of fertilizers, quality seeds of crops and fuel for the farmers for the cultivation of summer paddy and green gram this year on the first priority.

The Senior General

stressed the need to export rice and green gram from these farmlands under the leadership of the government. Depending on the yield of paddy and beans, farmers will have a chance to gain proper benefits. As such, as farmers do not need to spend any monetary investment, their socio-economic life will improve. Later, the Senior General gave necessary guidance before ending the meeting. — MNA

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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 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

MoNREC designates Pawle-Watchipa protected public forest in Gangaw Township

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has designated the area of 8,400 acres in Gangaw Township, Gangaw District in Magway Region, as "Pawle-Watchipa protected public forest" as of 8 August 2022, under Notification No 120/2022 by exercising the authority conferred under Sub-section (e) of Section (6) of the Forest Law promulgated in September 2018.

The Pawle-Watchipa protected public forest is intended to conserve the watershed area of the local farms, fulfil the needs of the residents and protect wildlife.

The Pawle-Watchipa protected public forest is not only a place where many kinds of wood and valuable trees such as teak, ironwood, sal tree, tall timber trees, myrobalan trees and red silk cotton trees grow but also a habitat for wild animals such as Muntiacus muntjac, Dhole, jungle cats, Red Junglefowl, wild boars, rabbits, monkeys, including birds like firebirds, quails, Burmese francolins, doves and kites. It is necessary to manage forest resources systematically, and it is also a watershed area of Pawle creek, which is flowing into the Myittha River. Thus, the area is declared a protected public forest area. —MoNREC/ GNLM



Photos show general views of the Pawle-Watchipa protected public forest in Gangaw Township.

Public Notification

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

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

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

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

Public Notification

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

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

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

Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee

27 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 9 August, total figure rises to 614,240

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **614,240** after **27** new cases were reported on 9 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, **593,036** 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.)

In-house Skill Development Training No 37 for Senior Auditors closed

THE closing ceremony of the In-house Skill Development Training No 37 for Senior Auditors was held at 7:30 am on 9 August at the Assembly Hall of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the ceremony, Union Auditor-General Dr Kan Zaw, delivered an address that the purpose of conducting the training is to be able to perform the audit works skilfully by the senior auditors as the leaders of the audit teams; the trainees not only need to perform the audit works competently in line with the existing financial rules, procedures, notifications, instructions and International Accounting Standards but also to understand the policies prescribed by the government, the nature of government depart-

ments and organizations, and technical progressive changes; and also need to be able to communicate with the audited organizations by mutual respect for achieving the audit objectives and to lead the audit team properly; and therefore the practical activities related to the auditing process in the form of Role Play were initiated at the training.

Also, he emphasized that the trainees should endeavour to become good civil servants who can perform their duties faithfully for the interests of the office and nation and to fulfil their professional knowledge by continuous learning.

During the three-week face-to-face training, 107 trainees from the Head Office, the Union Territory and the Auditor-General's Offices of State/Region



The closing event of the In-house Skill Development Training No 37 for Senior Auditors is in progress.

attended. The permanent secretary, the director-general of Audit Department, the deputy permanent secretary, the deputy directors-general, responsible persons, trainers and accomplished trainees attended the ceremony. — MNA

YRTC to honour well-disciplined YBS drivers

“DRIVERS who are excellent in following the rules and giving services, from a total of 20 YBS bus lines, will be honoured and rewarded,” the Yangon Region Transport Committee-YRTC stated at their media briefing.

At the briefing, YRTC declared that authorities have been shutting down CNG to bus lines that violated the rules and inspecting those that collect extra bus fares from passengers under the prescribed rules, for the purpose of public safety.

They will select and reward K300,000 to a total of 60 drivers: three drivers per company from the well-disciplined bus lines, and 20 drivers who have good moral behaviour by returning lost expensive items and cash to passengers, on 26



The Yangon Region Transport Committee-YRTC meets the media on lines. PHOTO : KANU

August.

A combined team consisting of the Transport Department (Urban), the “C” Charter Department, the “D” Pledge Department, the Discipline Enforcement and Inspection Department, the Department of Highway Passenger Trans-

port and the Department of Commodity Supervision, will choose and reward the drivers with the scoring system. Moreover, YRTC has been arranging the schedule of buses with two employees per bus stop, for the convenience of passengers. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/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

Black bean, pigeon pea prices soar on Indian demand

INDIAN demand for Myanmar black bean and pigeon pea has caused prices to jump more drastically than in the past year, according to the Yangon bean market.

On 9 August, the black bean FAQ/RC was priced at K1,787,000 per tonne and K1,870,000 per tonne of pigeon pea Red/RC. The FOB price on 9 August was US\$830-850 per tonne of FAQ black bean, \$980-\$1,000 per tonne of SQ, and \$865-\$880 per tonne of FAQ pigeon pea.

On 9 August, the prices of the bean rose by K119,500 for black bean RC, K174,500 for SQ/RC and K257,500 for pigeon pea RC.

Due to the low black bean production rate in India this year, it has to rely on Myanmar's SQ black bean, according to the Indian bean market.

Myanmar has 5,589,000 hectares of crop plantations while the rice plantation covered 1,970,200 hectares of farmlands (36 per cent of nationwide plantation) and 8,499,000 hectares of beans and pulses plantation (15 per cent) in 2007-2008, and in 2011-2012, the rice cultivation was 1,876,200 hectares (33 per cent) and beans and pulses cultivation was 9,186,000 hectares (16 per cent). The bean cultivation rate increased year on year.

The bean plantation rate in Myanmar is six million acres in the middle part, four million acres in the delta region and about one million acres in coastal and hilly regions.

In 2021, the country exported \$1,324.27 million worth of 1.75 million tonnes of beans and pulses. It also exported over 550,000 tonnes of beans and pulses worth \$426 million in the first four-month of the 2022-2023FY.

Therefore, the Indian demand and amount of foreign income from beans and pulses export of this year might surge than previous years despite the increasing bean prices. — TWA/GNLM



Beans and pulses are seen in the market.

COVID-19 vaccine drive continues in various states, regions



A local in Toungoo Township, Bago Region gets COVID-19 vaccine shot on 9 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 126 people from Yankin Township in Yangon Region, 7,378 people from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, 1,527 people from eight townships in Rakhine State, 4,761 from seven districts in Mandalay Region, and 103 local people in Toungoo Township, Bago Region respectively.

Similarly on that day, healthcare officials gave the vaccines to 3,969 students from twenty-six townships in Ayeyawady Region, and 1,214 students from five townships in Rakhine and Chin States and 8,213 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

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

Trade Mark

Ads

Call 09251022355,09974424848

Bayintnaung market: weekly commodity prices

THE onion, chilli, and bean prices were high while the market received a large amount of chilli at the highest prices from 3 to 9 August.

The Shan garlic was priced at K2,100-2,750-3,150-3,700 per viss and K3,300-3,350 per viss of Kyukok garlic.

Moreover, the black gram price rose by about K27,000 per tonne during this week and the pigeon pea prices dropped by K20,000 per tonne.

Onion

The onion prices remained unchanged from 3 to 6 August and it rose by K100 per viss on 8 August and the big onion rose to K2,300 per viss on 9 August. Seikbyu onion K1,500-1,850-3,050-2,100, Myingyan onion K1,650-2,050-2,200-2,300 and Monywa onion K1,650-2,050-2,200-2,300 per viss in wholesale price.

The highest prices per viss of the regional commodity are Seikbyu onion at K1,850, Pakokku onion at K2,000 and Myingyan onion at K2,000 on

9 August.

Potato

The Chinese potato prices were K2,000-2,050 per viss on 9 August while K1,200-1,400-1,850-1,900 per viss of Shan potato.

Chilli

The chilli price rose like bean price every day and in early August. The price remained unchanged on 9 August. On the same day, the wholesale price of refrigerated rainy chilli pepper is K18,500-19,000, bell pepper price is K16,500-17,000, refrigerated Sinphyukyun bell pepper K16,500, Myitwa bell pepper K17,000 and the Dutch chile K15,500, respectively.

Rice

The price of rice rose this week. On 9 August, Shwebo Pawsan was priced at K80,000-K88,000 per bag while K61,000-K65,000 per bag of Pathein-Myaungmya rice, K59,000-K63,000 per bag of Pyapon Pawsan,



A vendor is pictured selling kitchen goods at one grocery outlet.

K43,000-K46,000 per bag of Pawkywe, K39,000-K41,000 per bag of 90-day rice and K34,000-K35,000 per bag of double-cropping rice, according to the Bayintnaung market.

Palm oil

The Yangon-based palm oil reference price remained at K3,525 per viss from 8 to 14 August and the barrel oil price outside the Yangon market is still about K8,500 per viss. One 18-litre container of oil is priced at K88,000.

Beans

On 9 August, the black gram (FAQ/RC) was priced at K1,787,000 per tonne and the pigeon pea (Red/RC) was priced at K1,870,000. On 9 August, the price for a tonne of black gram rose by K27,000. — TWA/GNLM

Passengers holding tourist visas to return by same flight upon entry refusal



The arrival lounge of the Yangon International Airport.

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs released the terms and conditions of tourist visas for entering Myanmar via Yangon International Airport. IT said if the decision is made to disallow entry, the passengers have to return by the same flight.

The applicants must have the certificate of full vaccination, the colour photo taken last three months and relevant documents.

Moreover, all applicants shall abide by the laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and shall not interfere

in the internal affairs of the country.

Tourist visas are not permitted for entry and if they are refused entry, passengers have to return by the same flight, it said.

All international flight passengers to Myanmar must have certificates of full vaccination, according to the Yangon International Airport.

The Ministry of Health also released a statement regarding public health rules for international tourists on 1 August.

Travellers shall have a COVID-19 vaccination certificate showing that they were fully vaccinated at least 14 days before arrival at Myanmar, a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR result and COVID-19 medical insurance purchased from Myanma Insurance and related documents. — TWA/GNLM

Kampaiti, Lweje border trade posts to be upgraded at international level

KAMPAITI and Lweje border trade stations in Kachin State will be upgraded to international border trade posts.

Trading activities with trading partner countries and trade associations negotiations with transportation operators are underway. Preparations need to be able to trade following COVID-19 rules which have been underway since April this year.

Currently, the staff from the Department of Immigration, Customs Department, and officials are doing the processes.

Kampaiti and Lweje border border trade camp in Kachin State send genetically modified bananas, corn, watermelon and rubber to other countries. Cement, construction equipment, electrical equipment, and home ap-

pliances from neighbouring countries are being imported through the border trade zones.

The Kampaiti border trade camp was opened in December 2003, but due to the inability to carry out trade activities and other circumstances, it was closed in the third week of June 2006. On 1 August 2009, it was officially reopened as a state-level camp for all OSS members.

Lweje border trade station was established by the Ministry of Trade on 1 June 1992 as per Notification No 4/92 dated on 7 May 1992. Operations were temporarily suspended in January 1997. The Department of Border Trade in Lweje, which is located adjacent to the villages of the People's Republic of China, was established on 23 August 1998. — TWA/GNLM

Singapore tops FDI in Myanmar in past four months

EIGHT Singapore-listed enterprises brought in large investments of US\$1.086 billion into Myanmar in the past four months (April-July) of the current financial year 2022-2023, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration's statistics showed.

Singapore companies mainly put investments into urban development, real estate, power and manufacturing sectors.

Hong Kong SAR stood as the second-largest investor this FY with an estimated capital of over \$64 million pumped by five projects. China is ranked third in the investment line-up with more than \$55.7 million.

One enterprise each from Belize and Japan also made investments in the past four months respectively. The existing enterprises from China Taipei, China, Hong Kong SAR,



The office of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

the Republic of Korea, India and Thailand also increased investments.

Myanmar Investment Commission gave green light to 29 foreign projects, with an estimated capital of \$1.22 billion during the April-July period, DICA's statistics indicated.

Those enterprises are to ex-

ecute in manufacturing, power, real estate and service sectors respectively.

Myanmar has drawn foreign direct investment of more

than \$647.127 million from 49 enterprises in the past mini-budget period (October 2021-March 2022), according to the statistics released by the DICA.

Singapore stood as the largest foreign investor in Myanmar in the previous years, pulling in the FDI of \$1.85 billion in the FY2019-2020, \$2.4 billion in the FY2018-2019, \$724.4 million in the mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), \$2.16 billion in the 2017-2018FY, \$3.8 billion in the 2016-2017FY, \$4.25 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, \$4.29 billion in the 2014-2015FY, \$2.3 billion in the 2013-2014FY and \$418 million in the 2012-2013FY respectively.

Additionally, Singapore emerged as the second largest foreign investor in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, after a top investor Japan.— KK/ GNLM

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, industrial materials, restricted chemical, motorboat and vehicles confiscated



Confiscated illegal electronics at the Hteedan Port Terminal in Yangon Region.

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

Under the instructions of the Mandalay Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, an on-duty team made inspections at the 16th-mile Kyaukchaw Checkpoint on 7 August.

Officials confiscated a total of 1.5912 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K1,591,200 from a Hino Ranger car (approximately K11 million) heading from Mandalay to Muse township. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, an on-duty team made inspections at the Hteedan Container Checkpoint in Yangon Region under the management of the Customs Procedures.

They captured K298,130,000 worth of industrial machines that exceeded the Import Decla-

ration (ID). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

In addition, on 8 August, an on-duty combined inspection team at the Nantseeaung combined checkpoint confiscated a total of 1,950 kilogrammes of a restricted chemical – Ammonium Nitrate – worth K1.95 million from a Nissan Diesel 12-wheel truck (approximately K30 million) heading from Mandalay to Mohnyin township. The action was taken under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Similarly, a team led by the Forest Department and Myanmar Police Force seized a total of 2.7234 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K560,486 in the Chaungtha forest reserve, Pyapon township and Patheingyi township. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

In addition, a team led by the Myanmar Police Force

captured K4 million worth of an unregistered Honda CRV car in Pyapon township and action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Afterwards, a total of 4.0976 tonnes of illegal timbers worth K733,890 from a wooden motorboat (approximately K800,000) and related things were confiscated in the Chaungnapwa Creek in Kyunsu township of Myeik district. The action was taken under the Forest Law.

On 9 August, a total of 0.5216 tonne of illegal ironwood worth K260,800 was seized in the Kyaukmasin forest reserve of Yedashe township of Toungoo district and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Therefore, 10 arrests estimated at K349,026,376 were made on three consecutive days from 7 to 9 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Woman sentenced to prison for human trafficking

THE Myitkyina District Court sentenced a woman named Daw Shee Marsar (aka) Daw Pite who lived in Tanai Township, Kachin State, to 10 years imprisonment with labour under Sections 24 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law.

Daw Shee Marsar deceived the victim, Ma..., aged 31, who lived in the same township that

she would marry her off to a Lisu man by asking her hand in marriage in a traditional way. Later, the victim was sold to a Chinese man, Lin Kye Ye, from which the suspect gained a financial profit.

She was prosecuted at the Tanai Myoma police station under Section 24 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. — MNA

Stimulant drugs nabbed in Hsipaw Township

THE Anti-Drug Police Force seized 100,000 stimulant tablets in Hsipaw Township.

The combined team consisting of the Anti-Drug Police Force searched a motorcycle driven by Sai Aung Kyaw (aka) Sai Tun Kyaw near Kholon village, Nawngan vil-

lage-tract in Hsipaw Township at 1 pm on 7 August. The team found 100,000 stimulant tablets in a polyethylene bag and Sai Aung Kyaw (aka) Sai Tun Kyaw (19 years old) was prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA



An arrestee is seen along with seized stimulant pills.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Inflation pushes traders to raise bike prices

FUEL price hikes and inflation elevated the price of a two-wheeler up by K10,000, said U Moe Thee from Hamaya Japan Used Bike Trading.

“The monthly sales volume accumulates over 500 bikes which is a full container load. There are four wholesale suppliers in our city. About six to seven bikes are sold at a retail shop per day. The inflation and fuel price hike pushed the bike price up by K10,000,” he elaborated.

We can buy a container loaded with all kinds of bikes including mountain bikes, kid bikes and small and large bikes in Myawady. A container carries over 500 bikes. We have to pay tax at the Myawady trade zone.

“The fuel price jump posed

transport difficulties, forcing commuters to turn to bikes. That is why bikes are traded every day. Earlier, motorbikes were more popular. Now, bikes have become a trend. The daily sales volume is estimated at six to seven bikes,” said Ko Hein Nyi Nyi from Hamaya Japan Used Bike Trading.

The used bikes from Japan are imported into the country through maritime trade with container ships. The second-hand bikes from Japan with good performances fetch up to K250,000-K300,000 per bike in the Monywa market. Kid bikes are being sold well at present. The prices of a kid bike move in the range of K120,000 and K160,000.

— Lulay/GNLM



Various types of bikes are seen at one of the bike outlets in Yangon.

CBM’s recent foreign exchange policy drives pulses prices up

THE prices of pulses are soaring high in the domestic market after the Central Bank of Myanmar raised the reference exchange rate for the US dollar.

The CBM made the four-month fixed rate of K1,850 hike to K2,100 on 5 August.

Consequently, the price of black gram (urad called in India) rocked to K1,787,000 per tonne on 9 August from K1,667,500 per tonne recorded on 5 August. The figures indicated a sharp rise of K120,000 per tonne within four days.

Similarly, pigeon pea prices jumped from K1,612,500 to K1,870,000 per tonne on 9 August, showing a significant rise of K250,000 per tonne within four days.

Despite the price skyrocketing in the market, black gram transactions are rarely seen. Furthermore, there is a shortage of pigeon peas stock in the market.

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

The prices of black gram in Myanmar are correlated with In-



The Central Bank of Myanmar.

dia’s demand, fuel price hike, forex rate and export, and import policies.

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

Myanmar conveyed \$426.411 million worth of over 558,700 tonnes of various beans and pulses to foreign trade partners between 1 April and 29 July 2022 in the current financial year 2022-2023. The country shipped \$332.411 million valued at over 419,120 tonnes of pulses and beans to foreign markets through the sea route, and \$94 million valued at over 139,579 tonnes were sent to the neighbouring countries through land borders.

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

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

Rakhine's product oysters fetch record prices on strong domestic demand

ROBUST demand for oysters from Rakhine State made an uplift in prices even though it has yet to be shipped to foreign markets, said the oyster farmers.

The oysters from Rakhine State are delivered to Yangon, Mandalay, Lashio, Muse and Myawady markets. However, supply still cannot meet demand from the Yangon Region. Oyster prices touched a high of K900 to K1,500 per singular oyster.

Food that oyster eats are algae, water insect larvae and aquatic mites so they can be easily found in the rivers and creeks, saving feedstuff cost. However, it is hard to find oyster larvae, the oyster farmers stressed.

At present, the farmers have to explore oyster larvae in the mangrove forests. Only when artificial breeding of oysters can be achieved can the farming businesses thrive.

Oyster larva is worth K200. Oysters are large enough to reach market value after one year and eight months of farming. Profitability will go higher when the number of farmed oysters increases, farmers said.

Oyster culture can be carried out in rivers and creeks with bamboo rafts. Those farmers

working on a manageable scale add over 15,000 more oyster farming blocks in Rakhine State this year, according to the Rakhine State Fisheries Department.

Starting from 2021, oyster aquaculture has been conducted on about 15,000 farm blocks in Kyaukpadaung and Gwa townships in Rakhine State. It has expanded to over 30,000 blocks for now.

At present, the oysters from Rakhine State are delivered to the domestic market only.

Rakhine State is relying on fishery products enterprises. The local products are conveyed both to external and domestic markets. They are sent to other regions and states through the Yangon market. Hotels, motels and restaurants primarily purchase them.

Rakhine State is a fishery hub for the neighbouring country – Bangladesh. Myanmar exports rohu, red snapper, black pomfret, hilsa, tiger prawn, dried fish, dried snapper, dried Chapila fish, dried Bombay duck, dried squid, saltwater fish, mackerel fish, shrimp, crab, mud crab, soft-shell crab and clams to Bangladesh through Maungdaw and Sittway border posts. — NN/GNLM

Efficiently use water now as preparations for the coming summer

RIVERS that are called main arteries and tributaries as well as a lot of creeks are flowing across the nation from the north to the south and from the east to the west and vice versa.

The water area such as rivers, creeks and lakes improves climatic conditions of respective areas, reducing the heat of the atmosphere and contributing to greening environs in addition to improving the living standard of the people with thriving seasonal, perennial and shade crops and plants.

Myanmar is teeming with small and large rivers and creeks possessing some 1,168 cubic metres volume of freshwater on a yearly basis. Such a passion for water in the nation accounts for 1.7 per cent of the world and 8.8 per cent in all Asian countries.

Generally, water sources including rivers and creeks in the inland area are of fresh water. It is renewable water. Myanmar also possesses 492 cubic metres volume of underground water. Both underground and above-ground freshwater are invaluable for Myanmar as these water sources give food and drinking water to the people for so many long times.

Since the time of the monarchical era, Myanmar has been building dams and reservoirs in order to store drinking water and agricultural water as well as to prevent flooding. Even though Myanmar is standing in the 14th position in the world's renewable freshwater possessing countries, people from some parts of the country are still facing shortages of drinking water and some farmlands, insufficiency of agricultural water.

Hence, the task to supply water to the people is of importance in the country. It is necessary to seek the best way for storing the rainwater and freshwater from various water sources so as to supply them to the people whenever they need them.

All the people wherever they live need to take care of efficient consumption of freshwater. The citizens living not only in urban but in rural areas should not waste water sources. The freshwater whatever they consume must be efficient because the storage process of water costs a lot. If they waste the water in consumption, it means wasting the State fund.

The capability of utilizing freshwater will help the country increase agricultural produce and livestock products. The more production increases, the more national income rises. The State fund which comes from the national income will shape and modernize the country. As such, the efficient use of freshwater without any forms of waste is responsible for the entire people.

Knowledge Augmentation via Civil Service Academy (Upper Myanmar), Union Civil Service Board

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

CIVIL Service Academy, Upper Myanmar (CSA-UM) is situated in Zeepingyi village, PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Region. It is located on Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Road and is 24 miles five furlongs far from Mandalay. The area occupied by the CSA-UM is 905.10 acres.

There are the Yadanabon Cyber City in the East, Central Institute of Fire Bridge in the North and Northwest, Police Officer Training Institute of Myanmar Police Force and Zeepingyi Village in the West and Paypin Village in the South and Southwest.

The meeting for the 21st ACCSM and the Six Heads of Meeting for the 21st ACCSM Plus Three held in Hanoi of Viet Nam from 3 to 5 August were conducted with the theme of Modernizing Civil Service towards a Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN community and 4 August, Forum on Good Governance with the theme of Renovation of Civil Servants Training and Upgrading for Building Capacity and Meeting International Integration Requirements.

Therefore, the role of CSA (Upper and Lower Myanmar) is very important for Government Civil Service.

With the help and support of the President's instruction (The Republic of the Union of Myanmar), the supervision of the Union Civil Service Board, Management Course for Executive Level Officials No (1) was successfully opened on 30 June 2014. Meanwhile, our group (Executive-9) also attended Management Course for Executive Level Officials No (9) from 25 April to 17 June 2022 at CSA-UM. The visions of CSA-UM are to become an academy for Civil Service that sustainability trains the politics, economics, social and managerial studies of the State, to support good governance and nurture the good service personnel who serve the interest of the people. The objectives are to train and conduct the basic course supporting the good governance of civil servants and pre-civil servants, to train sustainability the high capability course for mid-level management officers, senior level management officials and executive level management officials and to hold up performing the capability improving courses for civil servants, special courses and workshop by planning and supervising of Union of Civil Service Board.

Regarding training activities, there are eight academic departments in the CSA-UM: Department of Management Studies, Department of Economic Studies, Department of Political Science, Department of Social Science, Department of Law, Department of Information and Communication Technology, Department of English and Department of Defense Studies.



The trainees of the Management Course No 9 for Executive-Level Officials (25 April to 17 June, 2022) are pictured at the Civil Service Academy (Upper Myanmar). PHOTO: CSA-UM

Subjects imparted by the Department of Management Studies include: General Management, Leadership, Project Management, Office Work, Office Management, Financial Regulation, Departmental Accounting, Natural Disaster Management, Environmental Management, Ethics and Cooperate Social Responsibility, Human Resource Management, Supervision, Service Management, Total Quality Management, Knowledge Management, Learning Organization, International Organization for Standardization – ISO and Training and Development.

Subjects imparted by the Department of Economics Studies include Economics, Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Economic Development, Basic Statistics, Economics and Social Statistics, Introduction of Economics and Economics policies of the nation, Microeconomics + Macroeconomics, Economic Planning, Development Economics, Statistics, Green Economy, Small and Middle Enterprises (SMEs), Basic Concepts of Economics, Distinguishing Alternative Pathways for Economics Development, Physical and Human Resources, United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, Public-Private

Relationship Pattern, Regional Economic Integration in ASEAN. Subjects imparted by the Department of Political Science include Nature of Politics, National Policy, Modern Political Constitution, International Relation, Current International Affairs, Geopolitics, Union Spirit and Culture and Tradition of National Races, World History, World Political Thought, Introduction to Political Science, Elements of Political Institutions, Geopolitics and Geo-Economics. Subjects imparted by the Department of Social Science include Applied Ethics, Social Problems, Mass Communication, Human

Rights, Human Relations, Ethics, Developing of Culture, Public Relations, Interpersonal Skills and Civics. Subjects imparted by the Department of Law include: International Law, Administrative Law, Selected Laws on the conduct of civil servants, Selected Section from the Panel Code, Selected Laws on the conducts of civil servants, Selected Section from the Special Law and Panel Code, Fundamental Law, Myanmar Judicial Law, The Code of Criminal Procedure, Evidence Act, Myanmar Customary Law, Special Law and Civil Service Personnel Law and Rules. Subjects imparted by the Information and Communication Technology Department include Introduction, Computer System, Technology Element, MIL (Mobile Information Literacy), Basic Theory, Computer Basic, Strategy, Management, Technology and Introduction to the application (MIL & e-Government).

Subjects imparted by the English Department include Workplace English, Professional Presentation and Note Taking. Subjects imparted by the Department of Defense Studies include Security and Defense of the State, Drill (Without and With Arms), Small Arms, Field Craft and Physical Fitness.

Teaching Methods

In training for trainees, the academy performances for using training methodologies are

lecture method (learner-central approach), discussion, group discussion, practical exercise and exam system by writing and online teaching.

Regarding information for training courses, the training courses are diploma courses, regular courses and special refresher courses.

The CSA-UM training courses have also developed, through successive generations, in line with the Government Servants' Conduct Rules of Myanmar. The CSA-UM provides courses promoting the trainees to become good service personnel with patriotic spirits, who dutifully perform their tasks in administrative, economic and social matters of the country.

Regarding the Management Course for Executive Level Officials No-9, the CSA-UM has provided interesting and valuable topics such as people-centered approaches for open Government, Constitutions, Union Election Commission, Fundamental Federalism and Public Policy, International Relations, Culture and Globalization, Law, Human Relation in Organizational Behaviour and Ethics, Duties of Office of Auditor General, Public Financial Management System, Anti -Corruption Commission, Environmental Conservation and Management, Capital Market in Myanmar, National Statistical System, 21st Century Leadership Skill for Executives, Geopolitics and World Affairs, Media Management, Small and Medium Enterprise, Human Resource Management, Negotiation Skills, Service Innovation using ICT, Crafting Competitive Advantage through Collaboration, Statistical Analysis for effective Decision, Overview on Human Rights, State Obligation and Public Responsibility, Natural Disaster Management, Health Care Services in Hospitals, Disease Control Activities, Sustainable Development Goals, International Relations- United Nations and Sanctions, Stress Management and Mental Health, Impact Analysis, Macro-economic Policy and management, Crisis Management, Myanmar and World Politics, Public Private Partnership, Management Skills for Executive Level Officials and etc.

The CSA-UM is promoting critical thinking skills and how to consider holistic perspectives of Administration and Management.

Knowledge is the power and in our modernized world, we increasingly rely on technology for memorizing. So, Knowledge Augmentation is the key important issue for us and supports organizational effectiveness.

In addition, we learned a lot from CSA-UM and improved our knowledge. We, Executive-9 Group acknowledged and respected all the lecturers for their active participation and energetic sharing of knowledge.



New COVID-19 vaccines considered effective against the omicron variant will be available to all people who have completed at least two inoculations from as early as mid-October, the government said Monday. PHOTO: KYODO

Japan to offer omicron COVID shots to people vaccinated at least twice

NEW COVID-19 vaccines considered effective against the omicron variant will be available to all people who have completed at least two inoculations from as early as mid-October; the government said Monday.

The bivalent vaccines, so named for their combination of ingredients deriving from existing COVID-19 shots and from omicron's BA.1 subvariant, have been

reported to provide some increase in neutralizing antibodies against the BA.5 subtype currently prevalent across the country.

A seventh wave of infections

The plan, which has received approval from a health ministry panel, comes at a time when Japan is experiencing a seventh wave of infections fueled by the highly transmissible BA.5 subvariant, with its daily cases hitting an all-

time high of about 250,000 last Wednesday.

The resurgence led the government to expand the range of people eligible to receive a fourth COVID-19 vaccine shot from those who are at least age 60 or with a pre-existing condition to newly include medical and care home workers who are at least age 18.

At a meeting of a health ministry expert team Monday, some members expressed concern that

many people may choose to wait for the rollout of the improved vaccines instead of getting shots of the existing vaccines.

All generations who have received at least two coronavirus vaccine shots will be eligible for the new vaccines. The vaccination costs will be entirely financed with public money. While drugmakers are going ahead with development of vaccines based on the BA.5 subtype, it will require more time before supplies are available, leading the government to opt instead for the BA.1-derived shots.

Vaccines currently under development

If the health ministry formally authorizes the vaccines currently under development by US pharmaceutical giants Pfizer and Moderna, they could be imported in September.

Pfizer said Monday it had

submitted an application with the ministry for approval of its vaccine designed to respond to the omicron variant. Moderna is expected to do the same in the near future.

In Europe, applications for approval are already complete for the same bivalent vaccines Japan is considering using, and preparations for additional vaccinations from the fall onward are going ahead in each country.

SOURCE: Kyodo

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Researchers make breakthrough on “exquisite” mechanism to develop drought-resistant plants

RESEARCHERS have made a breakthrough by identifying an “exquisite” natural mechanism to develop water-efficient crops that can withstand extreme weather events.

In a study published on Tuesday, researchers from the Australian National University (ANU) and James Cook University (JCU) discovered the mechanism that helps plants limit their water loss.

The system, which is activated when the environment is dry, allows a plant to reduce water loss from their pores while maintaining carbon dioxide (CO₂) intake.

Researchers are optimistic that the mechanism can be manipulated to develop more resilient crops, giving them a better chance of surviving extreme weather events including droughts.

Chin Wong, the lead author of the study, described the findings as a “dream discovery”.

“The agriculture industry has long held high hopes for scientists to come up with a way to deliver highly productive crops that use water efficiently,” he said in a media release, adding that plant scientists have been dealing with this big question of how to increase CO₂ uptake

and reduce water loss without negatively affecting yields.

“Having this mechanism that can reduce water loss with little effect on CO₂ uptake presents an opportunity for agricultural scientists and plant breeders researching ways to improve water use efficiency and create drought-tolerant crops.”

While the researchers have discovered the mechanism, they do not yet understand what causes it.

Diego Marquez, co-author of the study, said the next step for the team is identifying structures inside plants that control the mechanism.—Xinhua



The system, which is activated when the environment is dry, allows a plant to reduce water loss from their pores while maintaining carbon dioxide (CO₂) intake. **PHOTO: GARDENERS WORLD / PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY**

Record rainfall, flooding in Seoul kill seven



A car damaged by flood water is seen on the street after heavy rainfall at Gangnam district in Seoul. **PHOTO: AFP**

SUBWAY stations and major roads were underwater in the South Korean capital Seoul after record-breaking rains caused severe flooding, with at least seven people dead and seven more missing, officials said Tuesday.

Authorities warned there

was more rain to come even as emergency workers struggled to clear the hulks of flooded cars, which AFP reporters saw strewn across major intersections throughout the city.

Dramatic images shared on social media late Monday showed

people wading through waist-deep water, metro stations overflowing, and cars half-submerged in Seoul’s posh Gangnam district, which was particularly hard-hit when torrential rain battered the city.

The downpour that began Monday is the heaviest rainfall in South Korea in 80 years, according to Seoul’s Yonhap News Agency.

“At least seven people died in the Seoul metropolitan area, while seven others are missing, due to heavy rain,” an official at Seoul’s interior ministry told AFP.

Local reports said three people living in a *banjiha*—cramped basement flats of the kind made famous in Bong Joon-ho’s Oscar-winning “Parasite”—including a teenager, died as their apartment was inundated by floodwaters.—AFP

Kurdish Iraqi farmer sprouts online advice, green awareness

KURDISH Iraqi farmer Azad Muhamad has become a social media star by sharing tips on growing fresh fruit and vegetables in the sun-parched country that is highly vulnerable to climate change.

The moustachioed 50-year-old with almost half a million Facebook followers posts weekly videos on topics such as protecting fruit trees, dealing with insects and helping people get more from their farms and gardens.

“They should make you agriculture minister,” one of his fans, Ahmed Hassan, commented on a recent video.

Muhamad also uses his popular online platform to raise awareness about protecting the

environment and the need to support local farmers, in his native Kurdistan region and beyond. “Developed-country farmers have government support and harvesting machines,” said Muhamad. “Our farmers do everything themselves with their own sweat — and when they lose money at the end of the year, they start over with the same passion and energy.”

He also has a message for authorities in Iraq, which the UN classifies as the world’s fifth most vulnerable country to climate change and where many are mired in poverty despite Iraq’s oil wealth. “Our land is fertile, and our earth is like gold,” Muhamad told AFP.—AFP

Study shows environmental impact of 57,000 products sold in supermarkets

EATING fruits and vegetables is better for the planet than eating meat and cheese, but a new study by scientists released Monday showed chips and sugary drinks also have a very low environmental impact.

Scientists analyzed some 57,000 products sold in supermarkets in Britain and Ireland,

in a large study published by the scientific journal PNAS.

The researchers, who hope that their study may allow consumers to shop more sustainably without sacrificing anything to their health, also compared the results with the nutritional qualities of these foods.

They found that juice con-

centrates, sodas or other fruit juices are among the products sold with the lowest environmental impact — because they are mostly composed of water — but their nutritional quality is poor.

Researchers believe that in general, the more sustainable a food is, the better it is from a nutritional point of view.—AFP



A shopper fills their basket in a Tesco supermarket: scientists have studied the environmental impact of 57,000 products sold in supermarkets in Britain and Ireland. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

HEALTH/PANDEMIC
WORLD

Norway’s King Harald
leaves hospital

NORWAY’S 85-year-old King Harald V was discharged from hospital on Monday after being admitted for an infection and is “in good health”, the royal palace said.

The king, who has been on the throne for 31 years, was admitted to hospital in Oslo on Thursday where he was treated with antibiotics.

“The king is in good health”, the palace said in a brief state-

ment announcing his discharge.

Harald, whose duties are mostly symbolic, has suffered from a number of health problems recently, including Covid, knee surgery in 2021 and respiratory problems the year before.

The king also underwent surgery in 2003 for bladder cancer, then another operation in 2005 for heart valve problems, a valve which was replaced in

another operation in 2020.

The former Olympic yachtsman has refused to abdicate and even took part in the World Sailing Championships in early August.

He is the grandson of Haakon VII — the first Norwegian regent after the country gained independence in 1905 — and has ruled the Scandinavian country since January 1991.— AFP



Norway’s 85-year-old King Harald V was discharged from hospital on Monday. King Harald V of Norway, pictured with Queen Sonja. **PHOTO: LISE AASERUD / NTB SCANPIX/AFP/FILE**



Outdoor workers are at risk during the heatwave gripping Europe. **PHOTO: JORGE GUERRERO/AFP**

Hot, dry conditions continue to batter
Europe, with health and economic impacts

THE most severe heatwave in recent memory has held its grip on most of Europe as of Monday, with record high temperatures registered in multiple countries causing severe economic and health damage.

The spell of unusually hot and dry weather has caused wildfires in Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Greece and elsewhere. In Spain, more than 4,000 hectares of land has been burnt in wildfires,

while across Europe tens of thousands have been forced to flee their homes, media reports said.

The heat and lack of water has reportedly caused many deaths across Europe, either through heat stroke or other means. Many countries have reported temperatures of over 40 degrees Celsius, including Portugal, which recorded a new high of 47 degrees Celsius earlier during this heatwave.

In Italy, 19 cities were on red alert as of Monday, meaning the temperature and weather conditions were so severe and long lasting they could impact the well-being of healthy individuals.

The Institute of Atmosphere and Climate Science of Italy’s National Research Council said last week that this year is on pace to be the hottest and driest year on record dating back to 1800. —Xinhua

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE WORLDWIDE

Coastal resort city
acts quickly to serve
stranded tourists

AUTHORITIES in Sanya, a coastal resort city in south China’s Hainan Province, is moving fast to cater to the needs of 80,000-plus stranded tourists after a sudden COVID-19 cluster outbreak.

“Hello, please have some fresh fruit, and we wish that you have a nice day!” At Howard Johnson Resort Sanya Bay, a five-star hotel, volunteers knock on doors to deliver fruit to stranded airport passengers.

“No one wants this to happen,” said Sun Jingjing from Henan Province. “But it’s best to stay put and follow the local quarantine policy. We hope we can return home soon.”

Sun is among more than 3,000 tourists stranded as their flights were cancelled under

the static management due to the recent COVID-19 flare-up. They were later arranged by local authorities to temporarily settle down in 11 hotels for a week in Sanya. Zhu Ruoyu, general manager of the hotel, said tourists came to enjoy a holiday, and no one wants to deal with the realities of the outbreak. “So we try to be more considerate in service and respond timely to their inquiries,” said Zhu. This is the first time for Anastasia Rochelle Naidoo, a native of South Africa, to visit Sanya. “I think generally, especially with this hotel, things have been handled quite well and they’ve been very helpful. So we’re just going with the flow,” said Naidoo, adding that the government is acting fast, too.—Xinhua

German vaccine developer BioNTech
could deliver Omicron vaccines in October

GERMAN vaccine developer BioNTech could deliver its COVID-19 vaccines adapted to the Omicron BA.1 and BA.4/5 sub variants in October if given regulatory approval. Together with its US partner Pfizer, BioNTech planned to “supply both vaccines in time for fall booster campaigns,” the company said when presenting its figures for the first half of the year (H1) on Monday. BioNTech’s net profit in H1 rose to 5.37 billion euros (5.48 billion US dollars), up from 3.92 billion euros in the same period last year, according to the company. Despite a sales slump in the second quarter, revenue in the first six months rose by 30 per cent year-on-year and reached 9.57 billion euros. BioNTech confirmed its guidance for the full fiscal year 2022, expecting sales of its COVID-19 vaccines to range



Staff volunteers queue to receive a fourth dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine at the Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan near Tel Aviv, on 27 December 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

from 13 to 17 billion euros.

“Our COVID-19 product pipeline includes variant-adapted and next-generation vaccine candidates, aimed at prolonged and broad protection,” said Ugur Sahin, CEO and Co-Founder of BioNTech. On hundred million vaccine doses of the Omicron

booster based on the earlier BA.1 variant have already been pre-produced by BioNTech. The vaccine is currently awaiting the approval by the European Medicines Agency. The approval process of the latest BA.4/5 vaccine has not been initiated yet.—Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

ASEAN needs to continue upholding centrality, unity: Brunei's Sultan



This photo shows the Brunei liquefied natural gas (LNG) processing plant located in Lumut, Brunei.

PHOTO: ROSLAN RAHMAN / AFP

BRUNEI'S Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah called upon ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) member states to uphold the 10-country bloc's centrality and unity on Monday.

In his remarks on ASEAN Day, which falls on Monday, the Sultan said that this year marks the 55th anniversary since the establishment of ASEAN.

"ASEAN Day marks the oc-

casion to celebrate our achievements and contemplate on the future of the association as we strive to realize a people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN."

Despite the challenges the region faced over the years, from the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to geopolitical competition, ASEAN will continue to work closely amongst its member states and external

partners to advance the region's recovery and continued development for peace and prosperity of all its people.

"With only a few years before ASEAN achieves its Community Vision 2025, it is important that we continue to uphold ASEAN centrality and unity so that all ASEAN moves forward harmoniously into the future together," the Sultan said.—Xinhua

Philippine GDP grows 7.4% on year in Q2



This file photo shows residents wearing government-imposed face masks and face shields to protect them from COVID-19 coronavirus disease in Manila. PHOTO: AFP

THE Philippine economy expanded by 7.4 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter of 2022 as the country eased the COVID-19 mobility restrictions allowing more social and economic activities to thrive, the

Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said on Tuesday.

In a press conference, PSA head Dennis Mapa said the main contributors to the gross domestic product (GDP) growth in this period were wholesale and retail

trade, construction, and transportation and storage.

He added that the significant economic sectors of agriculture, forestry, and fishing, as well as industry and services, all posted positive growths in the second quarter. On the demand side, Mapa said household final consumption expenditure grew by 8.6 per cent; the government's final consumption expenditure rose by 11.1 per cent; exports of goods and services, by 4.3 per cent; and imports of goods and services, by 13.6 per cent. The recovery "remains strong due to improved risk management," Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said at the same press conference.—Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brazil's analysts cut 2022 inflation forecast to 7.11%

BRAZILIAN financial analysts reduced the inflation forecast for 2022 for the sixth week in a row, this time from 7.15 per cent to 7.11 per cent, the Central Bank of Brazil said Monday.

According to the bank's weekly survey of the country's main financial institutions, analysts also modified the inflation forecast for 2023 from 5.33 per cent to 5.36 per cent.

The government's inflation target for 2022 is 3.5 per cent, and 3.25 per cent for 2023, with a margin of tolerance of 1.5 percentage points in both cases. As for Brazil's benchmark interest rate, analysts expect it to remain unchanged at the current rate of 13.75 per cent until the end of the year, followed by a gradual decrease in 2023 to close at 11 per cent.—Xinhua

US sanctions crypto 'laundering' service Tornado

THE United States placed sanctions Monday on Tornado Cash, a leading "crypto mixer" for transactions in virtual currency that US officials describe as a hub for laundering stolen funds, including by North Korean hackers. The Treasury said Tornado Cash had been used to transfer at least \$96 million of funds stolen in June from crypto exchange service Harmony Bridge, and another \$7.8 million of the nearly \$200 million in crypto currency hacked from Nomad, a similar service.—AFP

In New York, renters desperate as soaring rents exacerbate housing crisis

IN mid-May, Paula Sevilla and her roommates joined the many New Yorkers suffering under the city's crushing housing crisis, which has seen rents soar in the pandemic's wake.

The tenants argued their landlord had violated rules requiring sufficient notice but ultimately were told if they would have to pay an additional \$800 per month if they wanted to stay at their Brooklyn rental.

Sevilla and one roommate began a gruelling search for new housing in a market that

over the past year has spawned countless apartment search horror stories. After two months of searching, some 30 apartment visits and constant stress, they finally found a two-bedroom spot for \$3,000 dollars per month.

Renting in New York has long been a struggle, but recently costs have skyrocketed, jumping an average 20.4 per cent in the second quarter of this year alone, according to the housing search website StreetEasy.—AFP



Gil Hirak (right), head of US operations and community of Quarters, speaks with a colleague on the rooftop of Quarters Co-Living in the Lower East Side in New York City, on 24 July. PHOTO: JOHANNES EISELE/AFP

Mexico wants to reduce beer production in drought-hit areas

MEXICAN President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on Monday called on brewers to reduce beer production in drought-hit areas in the north of the country, a major exporter of the beverage.

“That’s not to say that we’ll no longer produce beer. I mean, beer won’t be produced in the north,” Lopez Obrador told reporters, although he stopped short of ordering a halt.

Lopez Obrador said his government would support companies if they make beer in southeastern states known for their mighty rivers, lush jungle and high levels of poverty.

“But permission can no longer be given where there’s no water,” he added.



Mexico was the world’s largest beer exporter in 2021 with sales of around \$5 billion, followed by the Netherlands with nearly \$2.2 billion, according to United Nations data. A man stores beer in a shop in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon state, Mexico. **PHOTO: JULIO CESAR AGUILAR/AFP**

Mexico was the world’s largest beer exporter in 2021 with sales of around \$5 billion, followed by the Netherlands with nearly \$2.2 billion, according to United Nations data.

Dutch giant Heineken and Belgian-Brazilian behemoth Anheuser-Busch InBev are among brewers with factories in northern Mexico.

Households in the northern industrial powerhouse of Monterrey have faced weeks of water rationing due to a lack of rain and, according to environmentalists, poor resource management.

The government has declared a drought emergency to enable authorities to take special measures to guarantee water supplies.—AFP

US regulators clear Boeing to resume 787 deliveries

AFTER more than a year, aviation giant Boeing will be allowed to resume deliveries of its 787 Dreamliner aircraft “in the coming days”, after the company made changes to its manufacturing process, US air safety regulators announced Monday.

Deliveries of the top-selling widebody plane have been halted since spring 2021, so the news will be welcomed by US airlines and travellers who have suffered from massive delays and cancelled flights in recent weeks, partly due to the shortage of aircraft.

“Boeing has made the necessary changes to ensure that the 787 Dreamliner meets all certification standards,” the Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement.

The plane’s travails



The FAA has approved changes Boeing made to production of its 787 Dreamliner which will allow deliveries to resume. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

date to late summer 2020, when the company uncovered manufacturing flaws with some jets. Boeing subsequently identified additional issues, including with the horizontal stabilizer.

The difficulties curtailed deliveries between November 2020 and March 2021. Boeing suspended deliveries later in spring 2021 after more problems surfaced.

Acting FAA Administrator Billy Nolen met with safety inspectors in South Carolina last week to confirm they were satisfied with the company’s improvements, which were made to ensure they comply with standards and to identify potential risks after defects were uncovered on the plane.—AFP

Munich Re profits hit by poor investment performance

GERMAN reinsurance giant Munich Re reported a drop in its second-quarter profit on Tuesday as market volatility took a toll on investments, but the firm maintained its 2022 performance target.

The group’s preliminary net profit reached 768 million euros (\$785 million) between April and June, down from 1.1 billion in the same period last year.

Munich Re, whose business consists mostly in

covering the risks taken on by insurers, said the value of its holdings had slumped by 908 million euros, mainly due to losses on equity investments.

Its profit target of 3.3 billion euros for 2022 remains unchanged, though it warned of “considerable uncertainty owing to fragile macroeconomic developments, volatile capital markets and the unclear future of the pandemic”.—AFP

The Global New Light of Myanmar

www.gnlm.com.mm

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V RESOLUTION VOY.NO. (2220S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RESOLUTION VOY.NO. (2220S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-8-2022** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (258N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (258N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-8-2022** 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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINES

Nagasaki urges nuke elimination as city marks 77th A-bomb anniv.



Doves are released at Peace Park in Nagasaki on 9 August 2022, during the memorial ceremony marking the 77th anniversary of the US atomic bombing of the city. **PHOTO: KYODO**

NAGASAKI marked the 77th anniversary Tuesday of the US atomic bombing of the south-western Japan city during World War II, with Mayor Tomihisa Taue calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons amid mounting concern over their potential use following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

The atomic bombing of Nagasaki, three days after a similar bomb was dropped on Hiroshima around 300 kilometres to the northeast, had taken the lives of an estimated 74,000 people by the end of 1945, with many others suffering from the effects

of burns and radiation-related illnesses long after the attack.

A moment of silence was observed at 11:02 am, the exact time on 9 Aug 1945, when a plutonium bomb codenamed “Fat Man” dropped by a US bomber exploded over the port city, only the second time a nuclear weapon has been used in war.

In a Peace Declaration delivered during a memorial ceremony at the city’s Peace Park, the mayor called on nuclear weapons states to present a “concrete” way forward to achieve nuclear disarmament at the ongoing review conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Taue also demanded that the Japanese government lead discussions on a possible nuclear weapons-free zone in Northeast Asia as well as sign and ratify a UN treaty banning nuclear weapons.

Japan has ruled out its participation in the treaty along with other countries that rely on the US nuclear umbrella to deter nuclear attacks, as have the nuclear powers. But some US allies participated in the first meeting of parties to the pact in June as observers.—Kyodo

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russia to launch Iranian satellite amid Ukraine war concerns

RUSSIA is scheduled to launch an Iranian satellite into orbit on Tuesday, but Tehran brushed off fears that Moscow might use it in the war against Ukraine.

Iran’s “Khayyam” satellite is scheduled to take off from the Moscow-operated Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 0552 GMT, three weeks after Russian President Vladimir Putin met Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran.

Iran has sought to deflect suspicions that Moscow could use Khayyam to improve its surveillance of military targets

in Ukraine.

Last week, US daily The Washington Post quoted anonymous Western intelligence officials as saying that Russia “plans to use the satellite for several months or longer” to assist its war efforts before allowing Iran to take control.

But the Iranian Space Agency said on Sunday that the Islamic republic would control the Khayyam satellite “from day one”.

“No third country is able to access the information” sent by the satellite due to its “encrypted algorithm”, it said.

The purpose of Khayyam is to “monitor the country’s borders”, enhance agricultural productivity and monitor water resources and natural disasters, the space agency said.

Khayyam is being taken into orbit by a Soyuz-2.1b rocket, Russia’s space agency Roscosmos said last week.

As Moscow’s international isolation grows under the weight of Western sanctions over Ukraine, Putin is seeking to pivot Russia towards the Middle East, Asia and Africa and find new clients for the country’s embattled space programme.—AFP



The Soyuz MS-20 rocket shortly before launch at Baikonur cosmodrome in December 2021. **PHOTO: KIRILL KUDRYAVTSEV/AFP**

Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhia edging closer to Russia referendum

MOSCOW-BACKED authorities in the southeastern Ukrainian region of Zaporizhzhia said Monday they were pressing ahead with plans to stage a referendum on joining Russia.

“I signed a decree... to start working on the issue of organiz-

ing a referendum on the reunification of the Zaporizhzhia region with the Russian Federation,” Yevgeny Balitsky, head of the Moscow-installed administration in the occupied part of the region of Zaporizhzhia, said on social media. Balitsky had earlier

indicated the vote could be held in the autumn. The eponymous Zaporizhzhia nuclear powerplant — Europe’s largest — has in recent days been the scene of strikes that have damaged several structures, forcing the shutdown of a reactor.—AFP

Ukraine bombs key bridge at Russian-held Kherson

UKRAINIAN forces bombed a strategic bridge over the Dnipro river overnight in the Russian-held city of Kherson, the army announced Monday.

“What a night for the oc-

cupiers in the Kherson region. Strikes in the area of the Antonovskiy bridge,” regional deputy Sergei Khlan wrote on Facebook.

Southern army command

spokeswoman Natalia Gume-niuk confirmed the attack.

“The firing system we have developed in recent days shows results,” she said.—AFP

Finland records record refugee numbers after Ukraine war

FINLAND has registered a record number of asylum seekers following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, beating a previous high set during the 2015 migrant crisis, Finnish authorities said Monday.

“By 4 August, those fleeing Ukraine due to the Russian military attack had submitted 35,074 applications for temporary protection,” the Finnish Immigration Service said in a statement.

More than 37,000 people are currently registered in the reception system, “which is more than ever before”.

The previous record in the Nordic country was 32,000, during the 2015 migrant crisis in Europe.

“One third of those fleeing Ukraine are children,” the Immigration Service said.

It has so far processed 33,480 applications for protection, meaning around 95 per cent of applicants have already received a decision.—AFP

US returns 30 stolen antique artworks to Cambodia



Some of the antiquities had been stolen from the temples of Angkor, such as the temple of Angkor Wat (pictured April 2022) in Cambodia. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE United States on Monday returned 30 stolen works of art and antiquities to Cambodia that had been looted from the south-east Asian nation, including from an ancient Khmer city, and illegally trafficked around the world for decades.

Manhattan federal prosecutor Damian Williams officially handed over the looted antiquities to Cambodia's ambassador to the United States, Keo Chhea, in front of press. "We celebrate the return of Cambodia's cultural heritage to the Cambodian people, and reaffirm our commitment to reducing the illicit trafficking of art and antiquities," Williams said.

Among the 30 works was a 10th-century sculpture of the Hindu deity Skanda, seated on a peacock, as well as a 10th-century sculpture of the Hindu god Ganesha. Both were stolen from Koh

Ker, the ancient Khmer capital located 80 kilometres (50 miles) from the renowned temples of Angkor, Williams's office said in a statement.

The antiquities, which range from the Bronze Age to the 12th century, had been stolen along with thousands of others during the wars in Cambodia in the 1970s and when the country reopened in the 1990s. The federal prosecutor's office said that thousands of Khmer statues and sculptures that were trafficked out of Cambodia over the course of decades to antique dealers in Bangkok, before being illegally exported to collectors, businessmen and even museums in Asia, Europe and the United States. One of the dealers, American Douglas Latchford, was charged in 2019 with art trafficking, but the case was tabled after his death.—AFP

Hero's burial for former Philippine leader Ramos

FORMER Philippine president Fidel Ramos, a soldier regarded as one of the country's most effective leaders ever, was interred at the National Heroes Cemetery on Tuesday in a sombre state burial.

A low-flying military helicopter dropped flowers as a wagon bearing the flag-draped coffin containing an urn with his ashes rolled through the leafy cemetery grounds, lined with white crosses marking the tombs of dead soldiers also buried at the site.

Incumbent President Ferdinand Marcos Jr joined the ex-leader's widow and relatives as the silver urn with the cre-

mated remains was lowered into the ground after a military parade and a 21-gun salute.

A career soldier who oversaw a rare period of steady growth and peace in the turbulent years that followed the dictatorship of Marcos Jr's father and namesake, Ramos died late last month aged 94. The cause of death was not specified.

Known as "Steady Eddie" for his unflappable demeanour during the country's regular moments of upheaval, he was frequently pictured chewing unlit cigars as he guided the Philippines with a sure hand from 1992-1998.—AFP



Former president Fidel Ramos oversaw a rare period of steady growth and peace in the turbulent years after the dictatorship of Ferdinand **MARCOS / © AFP**

Investigators probe Scholz's emails in widening tax probe: report



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. **PHOTO: AFP**

INVESTIGATORS have examined emails of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz over a widening probe related to a huge tax scandal that cost the government billions of euros, newspaper Hamburger Abendblatt report-

ed Monday.

The emails were probed in March and covered the period from 1 January 2015 when Scholz was mayor of Hamburg city.

Scholz was in the job until

2018, when he became finance minister in former chancellor Angela Merkel's cabinet.

First exposed in 2017, the "cum-ex" scam involved numerous participants swiftly exchanging company shares amongst themselves around dividend day to claim multiple tax rebates on a single payout.

Dozens of people have been indicted over the scandal in Germany, including bankers, stock traders, lawyers and financial consultants.

The probe has now widened over a 2016 decision by finance authorities in Hamburg city to drop a bid to claw back 47 million euros in taxes from private bank M. M. Warburg over such cum-ex trades.—AFP

Jittery Kenya votes in close-fought election race

KENYANS lined up to vote in a high-stakes election Tuesday, with the East African powerhouse on edge as two political heavyweights battle it out in a fiercely contested race for the presidency.

Kenyans are praying for a peaceful transition of power after almost a decade under President

Uhuru Kenyatta, but concerns about vote-rigging linger in a nation still haunted by previous election disputes that descended into deadly violence.

More than 22 million have registered to vote in an election taking place against a backdrop of soaring prices for food and fuel, a punishing drought that has left

millions hungry, and deep disenchantment with the political elite, particularly among the youth.

The deputy president and erstwhile heir apparent William Ruto, 55, is pitted against Raila Odinga, the 77-year-old veteran opposition leader now backed by Kenyatta after a stunning shift in political allegiances.—AFP



PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar U-16 team head coach U Aung Zaw Myo, the Indonesian head coach, the Thai head coach, and the Vietnamese head

“Indonesia is a good team in addition to being the host. I will try my best to prepare for the semi-final match. Even though my boys only have a day off after

In the semi-finals, if the game is tied at final whistle, the game will not go to extra time but will be decided by a penalty shoot-out. — GNLM

- (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.

A full-page photograph capturing a dynamic moment in a football match. On the left, a player in a white Myanmar jersey, with the name 'MAUNG' and the number '7' visible on the back, is leaning forward, attempting to pass the ball. On the right, a player in a yellow Malaysian jersey, with the number '33' on the front, is sliding in to challenge for the ball. A multi-colored football is on the grass between them. The background is a blurred green field and a pinkish-red fence. The text 'A Myanmar team player (white) attempts to pass the Malaysian player during the final group match of the Viet Nam U-19 Invitational Tournament held in Binh Duong, Viet Nam on 9 August 2022. PHOTO: VFF' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

As the Myanmar team lost all three group matches, they stood at the bottom of the group and will only have to play the third-place match. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

He added: "I don't support their story about my life. It's not 1822. It's 2022. They stole my life story and didn't pay me." "To Hulu executives I'm just a n****r they can sell on the auction block," he wrote, using asterisks in place of letters. —AFP