

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.

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives member of House of Representatives Mr Hiromichi Watanabe of Liberal Democratic Party of Japan



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives member of the House of Representatives Mr Hiromichi Watanabe of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 August 2022.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by member of the House of Representatives Mr Hiromichi Watanabe of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan at the parlour of the office of the SAC Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They exchanged views on plans of Japan to grow cherry plants in the Maravijaya Buddha Park where the Maravijaya Buddha Image which would be the largest in the world will be located for enhancing the Japan-Myanmar friendly relations, political progress of Myanmar, promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation, further cooperation in economic and investment sectors, spreading of false information regarding Myanmar's political situation among foreign countries, and need for people in Japan to know the true situations.

Also present at the meeting were Joint Secretary of the Council Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo, Union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Aung Naing Oo and U Ko Ko Hlaing, and officials. The Japanese delegation was accompanied by Japan-Myanmar Cultural Enhancement Association Chairman Mr Fumio Usui and officials.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the member of the House of Representatives of Japan exchanged gifts and posed for documentary photos. — 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

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

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

*Information Team
State Administration Council*

Mandalay University's Botany Department conducts research activities at Crown Prince's Toddy Land

THE Department of Botany from the University of Mandalay has been conducting research activities at the Crown Prince's Toddy Land which was planted by Prince Kanaung 160 years ago, to be included on the World Heritage List of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and 60 per cent of the research process have been completed.

"Prince Kanaung directed his daughters and sons to cultivate toddy palm plants at the designated places around this area. There was a total of 20,000 toddy palm plants before, but only 6,000 palm plants survive to date because many years have passed," said Professor/Head Dr Kalya Luu from the Mandalay University's Botany Department.

Then she continued, "Royal family planted these plants at assigned locations along with the stone tablets, so they were visible till nowadays. Locals have a superstition that "This is a auspicious Toddy Land (means "Blessed Toddy Land"), there will be no blessing if toddy plants were gone." So, we can see a mass of toddy plants they preserved without selling them to people who made an offer. One even has around 1,000 toddy plants in his plot. According to the Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritages, toddy-palm plants can be identified as the tangible ones, therefore we perform the studies to be included in the record of UNESCO."

After toddy plant from



The undated photo shows a general view of the Eain Shae Min (Crown Prince) Toddy Land.

the Crown Prince's Toddy Land were analyzed and conducted the socioeconomic research, it is found that these plants are the ones from over 160 years (Yadanabon era), based on the facts: having no scar on the trunk due to the long lifespan of the plant, having double outer bark of the plants and having year rings (shows the age of a plant)

resulted from the toddy-palm leaves.

Then she goes on, "Toddy-palm plants from Crown Prince's Toddy Land have a double outer bark on them. Toddy-palm leaves left a mark called "Scar" when they fall. On the report of the double outer-bark on them, it can be predicted that they were cultivated in the Ya-

danabon era. The Community Base Conservation is very special because no one asked them to do it themselves."

For access to the UNESCO conservation list, the Department of Botany, the Department of Anthropology, the Department of History and the Department of Archaeology from the Mandalay University are cooperating with

each other and, on the basis of research results, fruits from Crown Prince's Toddy Land ranked sugar level 13. Due to having the best taste in Myanmar and other good laboratory findings, authorities have been planning to produce food products that would give socioeconomic support to locals.

— Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

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.)

Growing Barringtonia acutangula plants at Mucalinda lake, erecting stone inscription plaques for Pitaka treatises in line with Sixth Buddhist Synod held at Buddha Park where Maravijaya Buddha Image would be built



The Senior General hears the report on the carving of the Maravijaya Buddha Image at the event yesterday.

A gala ceremony of growing Barringtonia acutangula plant at Mucalinda lake and erecting stone inscription plaques for Pitaka treatises in line with Sixth Buddhist Synod took place at the Buddha Park where the Maravijaya Buddha Image would be built in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Territory yesterday morning, attended by members of the Sangha led by Presiding Nayaka of Paukmyaing Monastery in Lewe Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Janinda and Abbot of Maha Thihanada Monastery of Tatkon Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Acinna.

First, leading donor Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, Lt-Gen Kan Myint Than, Vice-Chairman of SAC Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, General Mya Tun Oo and Admiral Tin Aung San, Council member Mahn Nyein Maung and Union ministers U Maung Maung Ohn and U Ko Ko in groups took the designated places.

The Senior General fed fertilizer to No 1 Barringtonia acutan-



The Senior General sheds water into the sapling (left) and sprinkles scented water on the stone plaque(right).

gula plant and poured water into the sapling. Then, the Vice-Senior General and council members also grew saplings at the designated places. The Senior General and party started erecting Pitaka stone inscription plaques. Under the leadership of Abbot of Pali Tekkatho Mingala Zeyon Monastery of Pyinmana Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vimala Buddhi, the Senior General and

party sprinkled scented water on the stone plaques. Senior military officers reported on the excavation of marble rocks to be carved as Maravijaya Buddha Image, conveyance of the marble rocks, carving of the image with the use of modern machinery, construction of buildings in the park, and plan to carve Pali and Romanized languages on the stone plaques under the advice of venerable monks. In his speech related to

building the image, the Senior General said that marble rocks are being carved into the Buddha image with the use of modern technology and CNC machine. Myanmar stone sculptors will finish the work. Taking a sample of Pitakat Stone Plaque Chambers from Maha Lawkamarazein Kuthodaw Pagoda in Mandalay, efforts were made to build the Pitaka plaque chambers. It aims for the people to observe the Pitaka treatises on the stone plaques

in the chambers while visiting the Buddha image. Moreover, the Senior General continued to say that a large Sasana Beikman to accommodate 1,2000 members of the Sangha and disciples is under construction to host the religious ceremonies. Mucalinda Lake is being built under the guidance of venerable monks to finish all works in the time of the SAC. It is expected to finish the project at the end of this year. Upon completion, buildings will be constructed for Ovadacariya Sayadaws, and the publication of Tri Pitaka treatises is under management. Pitaka treatises will be inserted into mobile tablets of visitors to the pagoda. And, these treatises inserted into the mobile tablets will be sold to interested persons. The Senior General and party viewed round completion of the rough form of the throne for Maravijaya Buddha Image, construction of the retaining walls along the creek, completion of Thudhamma Public Rest-houses, progress of Mucalinda Lake and stone inscription plaque chambers. —MNA

SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends monsoon plant-growing ceremony



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the monsoon plant-growing ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 August 2022.

STATE Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing planted a Gangaw (Mesua ferrea) sapling at a monsoon plant-growing function held in the Union Territory, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

Also present on the occasion were SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and SAC members, Union-level officials, the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council and chief ministers of regions and states, departmental personnel and students from the university of forestry and natural environment and basic education schools.

In his speech at the ceremony, the Senior General said that plant-growing functions are to be held three times in the rainy season this year with a view to preserving forest resources and biodiversity and greening the natural environment.

Like Pakistan, Viet Nam and the Philippines, he said, Myanmar is launching green campaigns to help protect and conserve the natural environment, contribute to economic development and alleviate climate change and global



The Senior General plants the Gangaw sapling at the event.

warming.

He added that forests play an important role in responding to climate change and studies find that one hectare of forest can store 53.2 metric tons of

carbon and the world's forests can absorb 16.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide in a year. Therefore, it is necessary to place a special emphasis on forest conservation.

As Myanmar is one of the countries most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change and the duration of the monsoon has become shorter and it can affect the agricultural work of the country.

Myanmar possesses the seventh largest area of mangroves in the world and, in Myanmar, most of them are found in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions. They are an important ecosystem that can prevent natural disasters and contribute to the livelihood of the people living in the coastal areas.

Therefore, the Senior General urged those responsible to work actively together with people and social organizations to grow mangroves and shade trees in 60 townships in coastal areas. Myanmar has potential for businesses based on marine resources and so it is important to conserve forests in the watershed areas in order to protect the networks of creeks and rivers for long-term use.

Myanmar's geographical position has a variety of ecosystems and natural resources. Special focus should be given to the conservation of tropical forests in the arid zone as depletion of tropical forests can lead to drought, loss of underground water and desertification, which can affect the livelihood of the local people, the Senior General pointed out.

Myanmar is enhancing cooperation with international organizations to respond to climate change, prevent natural disasters, ensure food sufficiency and conserve various ecosystems for the socio-economic development of the country.

The Senior General concluded, saying that it is the custom of Myanmar people to grow plants with a view to ensuring the long-term interests of posterity, that it is important to bear in mind the consequences of deforestation and that it is the national duty to preserve the country's rich forest resources, biodiversity and ecosystem for national development.

Finally, the Senior General looked around and encouraged the participants who are planting the saplings.—MNA

Fuel prices exceed K2,000 on 11 August

IN the first week of August, the price of 92 fuel was around K1,600 per litre, and on 11 August, it rose to K2,140, which increased by more than K540 in four days, according to the reference prices of the Fuel Import, Storage and Distribution Supervisory Committee.

After the shortage of some types of fuel in the market on 7 August, the prices of (premium) diesel and Octane 92 Ron skyrocketed when the market opened yesterday.

In the Yangon fuel market, 92 Ron per litre was only K1,615 on 7 August, and it reached K2,140 on 11 August.

According to the reference price of the Fuel Import Storage Distribution Supervisory Committee, 92 Ron is reaching K2,180 to K2,720 per litre in Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Magway, Dawei, Monywa, Patheingyi, Hpa-An, Mawlaikine, Myittha, Sittoung, Lashio, Taunggyi, Loileik, and Kengtung.

According to the reference price of fuel published yesterday by the Fuel Import, Storage and Distribution Supervisory Com-

mittee, the retail price of 92 Ron per litre in the Yangon Region is K2,140, and 95 Ron is K2,210 per litre, while one litre of HSD (500 ppm) was set at K2,440.

Similarly, HSD (50 ppm) and HSD (10 ppm) were set as K2,515 per litre as reference retail prices for motor oil.

In addition, the Fuel Import Storage Distribution Supervisory Committee's reference wholesale price of motor fuel in the Yangon region is K2,038 per litre of 92 Ron, K2,108 for 95 Ron,

K2,331 for HSD (500 ppm) and K2,440 for HSD (10 ppm).

Fuel shortages are occurring in cities of Shan, Mon, and Kachin states. There have been delays in extracting oil even in Yangon where fuel oil storage tanks are located.

Currently, fuel prices are calculated based on the MOPS price by the Fuel Import, Storage and Distribution Supervisory Committee, and if consumers are not satisfied, they can report to the committee. — TWA/GNLM



A sign is seen showing no display of prices at one petrol outlet in Yangon on the evening of 11 August. PHOTO:MK



The file photo shows vehicles carrying watermelons to be exported to China last year. PHOTO:GNLM

Fruit exports bag US\$45 mln within four months

ACCORDING to the Trade Department under the Ministry of Economy and Commerce, \$45 million was earned from exporting fruits to foreign countries in four months.

It is reported that more than 100,000 tonnes of domestically grown fruits have been exported and sold to neighbouring countries through land borders.

From 1 April to 22 July in the 2022-2023 financial year, 95,000 tonnes of GMO bananas, 15,000 tonnes of mangoes, 10,400 tonnes of watermelons, over 3,300 tonnes of sweet melons, 192 tonnes of coconuts, more than 120,000 tonnes of fruits such as avocados and peaches were exported. Around \$45 million was earned from the export of the fruit from April to July in the 2022-2023 financial year.

GMO bananas, mangoes, watermelons, sweet melons, coconuts, peaches, avocados, apples, mangosteen, and pineapples were exported to the Chinese market through Muse, Myawady, Maung-taw, Kampaiti, and Lweje border trade camps. — TWA/GNLM

PHOTO NEWS

Selling oil to consumers at a low price

ON 11 August, Six Winner Brothers Co., Ltd., under the supervision of the Myanmar Oil Merchants and Oil Industry Association, sold cooking oil at a low price of K3,700 per viss to consumers at Tharettaw bus-stop, Insein Township.



PHOTO : Myanmar Oil Consumers and Oil Industry Association.

Yangon rice market price remains stable

THE price of Pawsan rice, which has risen sharply in the Yangon market, has remained unchanged without further price increases, said a rice businessman on 11 August.

The price of Shwebo Pawsan rice has been rising sharply this month, reaching about K90,000 per bag.

It is reported that the Shwebo Pawsan market price is K85,000 per bag. The price is different depending on various types of Shwebo Pawsan rice. Everyone can also see Shwebo Pawsan, which retails at K3,600-K3,700 per pyi, local farmers said.

Pawsan rice from the Ayeyawady region has also increased in price by around K7,000 per bag.

In the retail home delivery market, a bag of Myaungmya rice is K72,000 and a bag of Pyapon rice is K70,000.

Upon increasing prices,

most of the consumers in Yangon have already bought it, so the demand for Pawsan rice in the market may be lower than usual.

From 3 August, associations will be selling three kinds of Pawsan rice at a low price per bag per household at the Wadan Commodity Depot.

Even in Ayeyawady Region where Pawsan rice is produced, the price has also increased due to the price of Shwebo Pawsan rice.

The price of Shwebo Pawsan rice is usually higher than Patheingyi and Myaungmya rice by K5,000 per bag, but when the new Pawsan rice entered the market this year, it was sold at the same price at K43,000 per bag in January, which is unique this year, according to a shopkeeper of the Bayintnaung Rice Market. — TWA/GNLM



Rice for sale in a shopping mall. PHOTO:HTUN HTUN

MoHT Union Minister attends ASEAN MRA-TP Knowledge Session

THE ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangements on Tourism Professional ASEAN MRA-TP is being implemented with member countries. Aiming to develop ASEAN MRA-TP widely in the Myanmar Tourism Industry, the knowledge session of the ASEAN MRA-TP was held with a hybrid system at the Jade Hall of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism on the evening of 11 August.

MoHT Union Minister Dr Htay Aung, the directors-general, officials, departmental staff, the National Tourism Professional Body-NTPB, members of the Tourism Professional Certification Board-TPCB, officials and staff from regional and state offices and responsible persons from the Myanmar Tourism Federation and associates joined the session.

The Union minister dis-



MoHT Union Minister Dr Htay Aung speaks on the occasion of the knowledge session of the ASEAN MRA-TP which is held with a hybrid system.

cussed that ASEAN Tourism Ministers have signed a circular on the contract of Protocol to Amend the ASEAN MRA-TP for additional verification of adding new 21 MICE jobs and 11 event jobs, in addition to 32 types of hotel and tourism jobs in the ASEAN MRA-TP agreement; there would be a total of 64 types of jobs under the ASEAN MRA-TP mechanism as per the contract and that the ASEAN MRA-TP was implemented in Myanmar with the leading of the National Master Trainer and Master Assessor who were key players. There will be strengths and weaknesses in the execution of the ASEAN MRA-TP; thus everyone needs to cooperate in

the examination and verification of them. Only then, would we all be able to work together in a balanced way in implementation processes, according to the trade in services, other agreements and frameworks. Therefore, the Union minister urged scholars from various fields to actively participate in the discussion and make recommendations.

Afterwards, departmental officials discussed and presented the implementation of the ASEAN MRA-TP and its prior processes, the facilitation of the travel of tourism professionals, the teaching of vocational education courses and the conducting of trade in services, respectively. Then, the Union minister gave the concluding remarks after attendees discussed the matters and asked what they wanted to know. — MNA

CRIME NEWS

Illegal timbers, raw chemicals, consumer goods, motor craft and vehicles confiscated

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

Under the management of the Magway Region Anti-Illegal Trade Task Force, a combined team made inspections on 8 August. Officials nabbed a total of 52.9900 tonnes of illegal charcoal worth K95,382 in Thetkeyyin village of Taungdwingyi township, a total of 26.9254 tonnes of illegal sawn teak worth K17,770,764 at the 159/1 Milepost on the Pathein-Monywa Road in Kanma township. The action was taken

under the Forest Law.

Similarly, officials confiscated an unregistered Daihatsu Hijet car (approximately K3.5 million) at the Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) combined checkpoint in Pakokku township and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law. In addition, 10 wooden motorboats and pebble production equipment worth K60,500,000 were caught in the Ayeyawady River in Minhla township and the action was taken under the Water Resources and River Law.

An on-duty team made in-

spections under the management of the Customs Department at the Mayanchaung Permanent Checkpoint.

They seized an unregistered Toyota Mark II car (approximately K11 million) and an unregistered Mazda Demio car (approximately K9 million) at the 98/4 milepost on Yangon-Myawady Road. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 9 August, an on-duty team at the Airport warehouse of Yangon International Airport confiscated a total of 4,000 kilogrammes of Sodium Carboxymethyl Cellulose worth K59,422,000 that arrived over 60 days before getting an approved licence. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

Similarly, the container terminal of Thilawa International Port impounded a total of 15,503.5 kilogrammes of packing materials worth K31,549,622 which exceeded the Import Declaration (ID). The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

A total of 1.2960 tonnes of illegal teak doors and teak door

parts worth K855,360 from an Alphard car (approximately K10 million) were captured in Htantabin township of Yangon Region and the action was taken under the Forest Law.

Afterwards, a combined inspection team made unexpectedly inspections on Thingunyninaung Road and captured K23,716,800 worth of consumer goods without official documents from an unregistered Toyota Voxy car (approximately K2 million) and a Canter car (approximately K12 million) heading from Myawady to Hpa-an township. The action was taken under the Customs Procedures.

On 10 August, a team led by Myanmar Police Force seized an unregistered Noah car (approximately K1.5 million) at the entry gate of Khin-U Township and the action was taken under the Export and Import Law.

Therefore, 17 arrests estimated at K360,830,360 were made on three consecutive days from 8 to 10 August, according to the Anti-Illegal Trade Steering Committee. — MNA

Drugs seized in Myeik, Mogok townships

A combined team consisting of members of the Anti-Drug Police Force stopped and searched a motorbike driven by Zaw Myo Thein (aka) Musar near Chaungtoonge village in Myeik township and seized three kilogrammes of Ice at 8 pm on 10 August.

Similarly, at 6:15 pm, members of the Anti-Drug Police Force examined a Senova car driven by Bo Thein at the combined checkpoint in Legyi village of Mogok township and captured 204,000 stimulant tablets.

The suspects have been prosecuted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, it is learnt. —MNA



Seized motor craft.

21 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 11 August, total figure rises to 614,297

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 614,297 after 21 new cases were reported on 11 August 2022 according to the Ministry of Health. Among these confirmed cases, 593,055 have been discharged from hospitals. Death toll reaches 19,435 after one died.—MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS

Fuel prices skyrocket in domestic oil market

THE domestic oil market sees the biggest jump in fuel prices at present.

On 10 August, oil prices stood at K1,860 per litre for Octane 92, K1,920 for Octane 95, K2,185 for premium diesel and K2,120 for diesel. The prices soared to K2,140 for Octane 92, K2,210 for Octane 95, K2,512 for premium diesel and K2,440 for diesel on 11 August, showing an increase of K280-330 per litre within one day.

The fuel price hike is tracking the price set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in Southeast Asia. Singapore MOPS price surged, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

Furthermore, the Central Bank of Myanmar's recent foreign exchange policy is another reason for the price hike. The CBM raised the reference exchange rate for a US dollar from K1,850 to K2,100 on 5 August.



A fuel oil bowser is pictured filling fuel at one petrol outlet in Yangon.

The committee is governing the fuel oil storage and distribution sector effectively not to have a shortage of oil in the domestic market and ensuring price stability for energy consumers.

The Petroleum Products Supervision and Inspection De-

partment, under the guidance of the committee, is issuing the daily reference rate for oil to offer a reasonable price to energy consumers. The reference rate in Yangon Region is set on the MOPS' price assessment, shipping cost, premium insur-

ance, tax, other general cost and health profit per cent.

The rates for regions and states other than Yangon are evaluated after adding the transportation cost and the retail reference rates daily cover on the state-run newspapers and are

posted on the media and official website and Facebook page of the department on a daily basis starting from 4 May.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. The domestic fuel price is highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss between the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies and the prices are about 60 per cent cheaper than that of Myanmar. Every country lays down different patterns of policy to fix the oil prices. Myanmar also poses only a lower tax rate on fuel oil and strives for energy consumers to buy the oil at a cheaper rate. — NN/GNLM

Pure gold price reaches fresh new peak at over K2.5 mln per tical



Gold jewellery is seen at one gold outlet in Yangon.

THE pure gold price jumped to a new record high at over K2.5 million per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilogramme), said gold traders.

Kyat devaluation against the US dollar in the local forex market made the gold price high. The exchange rate against the dollar is estimated at K2,700 in the unofficial market.

The gold prices have risen accordingly. The precious yellow metal hit K2,500,000-2,520,000 per tical in the grey market.

Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association set the pure gold price at K2,086,000 per tical on 11 August, despite the price

hike in the black market.

The association determined the price depending on the Central Bank of Myanmar's reference exchange rate of K2,100, YGEA Chair U Myo Myint said.

Therefore, there is a gap of over K400,000 between the set price of YGEA and the informal market price. Consequently, the cross-border illegal market has arisen again.

The soaring safe-haven dollar value against the weakening Kyat in the domestic forex market halted pure gold bar transactions, he stressed.

Next, the authorities also in-

terrogated some gold traders and currency exchange operators in end-July. During the end of September 2021, a dollar value hit an all-time high of over K3,000 in the gold exchanges and consequently, the pure gold reached a high of K2.22 million per tical.

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

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

Coriander seeds reach record prices in Bangladesh's demand

THE price of Myanmar's spice coriander seeds hit a six-month record high in recent days on the back of strong demand by Bangladesh.

The coriander seed fetched only K16,000 per eight-viss basket (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) during the early harvest season in February. At present, the price doubled to over K33,000 per basket on 11 August. The market sees brisk sales as well, said Soe Win Myint, an owner of Soe Win Myint commodity depot.

"The price surge is attributed to the robust demand by Bangladesh and Pakistan. The coriander seed is one of the main spices. It is yearly exported to external markets beyond domestic consumption. Coriander seeds can be planted across

the country. It is grown as the winter crop in the central Myanmar region. The coriander seed is traded at a high price in the Mandalay market," he elaborated.

The coriander seeds from Sagaing, Shwebo, Wetlet, Myinmu, Myittha, Kyaukse and Taungtha townships flow into the Mandalay market. Some growers do not wait for time to harvest coriander seeds and sell the plant instead in Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions.

As the seeds are fetching a good price, the growers should wait for time to harvest the seeds. Myanmar produces spices such as fennel seeds, black fennel and coriander seeds. The fennel is utilized as a herb in Myanmar's traditional medicine. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Nurture youths to enhance their capacity for shaping a better future

THE Myanmar Youth Affairs Central Committee was set to implement the youth affairs policy adopted by the government with the aim of turning out youths to become good and able sons for serving the interests of the State.

The central committee will implement the youth affairs mentioned in the youth affairs policy and the national level strategic plan and analyze discussions and decisions from the region and state committees including the Nay Pyi Taw Council committee.

Moreover, the government has already formed the Myanmar Youth Affairs Work Committee with the aim of contributing to tasks of the Myanmar Youth Affairs Central Committee with momentum and submitting the undertakings of Nay Pyi Taw Council/region/state youth affairs committees to the central committee.

As such, the government set the duties and functions of the working committee to coordinate youth affairs between the Union ministries, between the Union government and Nay Pyi Taw Council/region and state governments and between social organizations and youths under the work procedures. The government emphasizes the enhancement of physical and mental qualifications of youths to have greater steps for improving themselves in their youthhood. The Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs

arranges for Myanmar youths to grasp chances of joining the friendly relations and cooperation among youths of the ASEAN region so as to secure international experiences.

Likewise, arrangements should be made for youths to have knowledge and skills in all arenas such as language, techniques, sports, debate, culture and international affairs in order to keep abreast of the youths from other global countries. These skills and knowledge will contribute much to Myanmar youths if they unexpectedly meet with the youths from other countries for various reasons or official assignments.

The United Nations designates the International Youth Day (IYD) on 12 August 2022 as an opportunity for governments and peoples to draw attention to youth issues worldwide to a given set of cultural and legal issues surrounding youth from all over the world.

Now is the time to nurture the Myanmar youths including all young people from various areas of the country with firm visions and pledges to turn out well-versed or qualified youths so as to lead the nation as well as the whole world in the future. So, all youths of Myanmar need to try their best in all sectors so as to thumb up in all competitiveness with great victories.



Two of Us - Literary Worms

By Chitt Naing [Seik Pyin Nya]

A Profile of Saya Maung Myint Kywe

SAYA Maung Myint Kywe [1934-2014] is widely known among readers as a prolific writer. He is widely read, and his writings are diversified. Additionally, he is a great translator, having won the national literary award in the translation genre. Before joining the Ministry of Information, he served with the General Administration Department in his capacities as the Township Officer and the Sub-Divisional Officer. Although his main duties were concerned with the administration and management during serving with the Ministry of Information, he spent his leisure hours, writing short stories, cartoons and articles in addition to the translation of English novels into Myanmar. He is a journalist, writer and translator. He has also been the secretary and executive committee member at the Myanmar Writers' Association.

Maung Myint Kywe is my teacher and mentor from whom I have learnt a lot. Although I have been contributing articles to the periodicals since 1984, I am not integrated into the Yangon literature community, thus having no close friends or contacts. Only when I was assigned in 1995 to

the Myawaddy Press to publish magazines, journals, books and novels in my various capacities as the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Editor and Publisher, I was in daily contact with the editors, writers, cartoonists, artists and poets, who were introduced to me by my predecessor U Myint Kywe in the latter's capacity as the Chief Editor. Then only did they become familiar to me, who could match their names with their pen names.

A soldier who did not know who is who in the field of literature and the culture and/or behaviour of the writers but who had been trying his pen, contributing articles to the magazines for a decade, thus having followers who had a taste for his articles numbering more than 500. Despite being a writer, the editing, proofreading, page layout, printing and publishing etc., were quite strange to him. This being so, he had to learn these things from Saya Maung Myint Kywe and Saya Maung Hla Kywe, the senior editors who were patient enough to be his mentors, closely overseeing his activities in addition to imparting their knowledge daily.

This soldier turned journalist is nobody but me, who is obedient and humble in pursuit of journalism. In July of 1995, I was introduced to the staff of Myawaddy

Press with a welcoming ceremony at which I demonstrated my humbleness, saying, "Despite being a prolific writer and widely read man, I have no experience in this field of printing and publishing. Teach me, and correct me should there be any fallacy and discrepancy. I am ready, willing and prepared to learn from you all regardless of your position". Within six months, I was able to learn things in all sectors thanks to the exertion of strenuous effort day and night.

To express the gratitude I owed to my first teacher, I decided to write an article about Saya Maung Myint Kywe. To honour one's teacher is the duty of a disciple. In fact, the business of publishing is different from routine office activities with the former requiring close cooperation with fellow workers and staying under the same roof as family members. Two and a half years have seen Saya and me eating together and sipping the tea together while discussing or arguing tirelessly, sometimes bursting into laughter. We are both teetotalers but chain smokers. But we were both able to drop the habit of smoking.

He set a high value on his work, and he practised punctuality. Additionally, he always exerted his utmost effort in the performance of the duties assigned to him. These are the things I have learnt from him. Saya is an able and good-hearted person.



We have been to many towns big and small to deliver literary talks. Although Saya Maung Hsu Shin and Ludu U Hla were more than a match for Saya Maung Myint Kywe in delivering the literary talks, Saya Maung Myint Kywe has a good sense of humour. His Cetana (goodwill) is reflected in the message he gives to the au-

dience. During our trips across the country, he was found to be goodhearted, broadminded and possessed with a sacrificing spirit. He was never seen to be fussy with the food and accommodation. He was contented with the potluck and not choosy with the place of staying. He was never seen to have bothered the people around

him. Regarding his family life, he has formed a great attachment to his better half and the kids with his family leading a peaceful and quiet life.

In addition to the domestic trips, we have been abroad together. During our 15-day goodwill visit to the People's Republic of China, we were accompanied by

Daw Kyu Kyu Thin, the great writer. Myanmar writers' delegations were mostly sent to Kunming, Beijing and Shanghai. This was my third trip to these areas. Then, I was the youngest member of the delegation, and being the most active and experienced, I was appointed the delegation leader. [but there may be another reason for my appointment as the leader. As I was the only person in civil service because the elderly writers were the retired service personnel, I had become the leader.] Anyway, I was able to have led the delegation successfully as I had been twice there. We were also provided with a chance to also visit far north China, where we were sent to an ancient city. Although the host arranged air travel, I requested the responsible persons to make arrangements for land trips so that we can stop over at the towns en route to exchange views with the local Chinese writers. Another reason for my request was to have a sightseeing chance. They acceded to our request and arranged a train ride.

We had a good time, exchanging views with the Chinese writers from Kunming and Shanghai. During the discussions, Saya Maung Myint Kywe and Sayama Kyu Kyu Thin won the admiration and respect of the Chinese writers. Indeed, they can be said to have promoted the image of our country. Saya Maung Myint Kywe, my mentor cum fellow worker, has translated the following seven great novels into the Myanmar language: Money Changers by Arthur Hailey in August 1978; Oil by Jonathan Black in June 1980; Ride the Golden Tiger by Jona-

than Black in May 1981; Strong Medicine by Arthur Hailey in July 1987; The Carnage Merchants by Jonathan Black in March 1989; Fatal Cure by Robin Cook in April 2004; and The Diamond Hunters by Wilbur Smith in January 2013. It is a great wonder how Saya has, in his sixties, translated novels of 600-700 pages. Such a herculean task could not have been accomplished if Saya does not have Cetana to give the message given by the world-famous writers. His success is evident in his translated books being published more than three or four times.

Although I have intended to write a synopsis for all seven novels, which are best sellers, for the readers to be able to taste and enjoy the novels as well as to imitate the way the world-famous writers compose their novels, the newspaper has space scarcity. Therefore, I would like to make my humblest apology to the readers of this article for my inability to write a synopsis for the novels.

In addition to the translation of great novels, he has also translated books on leadership and management. His translations are perfect because he has wide experience in the field of leadership and management in which he has been involved in various capacities as the Chief Editor, Publisher, Manager, Head of Office and Permanent Secretary.

In a nutshell, he can write or translate well. So, I would like to urge the readers to taste and enjoy his writings.

Translated.



Universal vaccination is required to stop future COVID-19 waves: Research

RESearchERS at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health who analyzed the transmission dynamics of SARS-CoV-2 variants have discovered shared traits linked to transmissibility and immune evasion. Their findings highlight the need for more proactive planning and preparedness for future variants of concern (VOCs), including the development of a universal vaccine that can block SARS-CoV-2 infection as well as prevent severe disease.

Pandemic waves

As with many places, by Feb-

ruary 2022, South Africa had experienced four distinct pandemic waves caused by the original (or ancestral) SARS-CoV-2 virus and three VOCs—Beta, Delta and Omicron.

"These repeated pandemic waves have been driven by new VOCs that erode prior immunity from either infection or vaccination, increase transmissibility or a combination of both," explains study author Wan Yang, PhD, assistant professor of epidemiology at Columbia Mailman School.

"Although laboratory and field studies provide insights into variant epidemiological charac-

teristics, quantifying the extent of immune erosion and changes to transmissibility for each VOC is challenging."

To better understand the characteristics of the different COVID-19 VOCs, the team developed a mathematical model using weekly case and death data from nine South African provinces, from March 2020 to end of February 2022, to reconstruct SARS-CoV-2 transmission dynamics.

They validated their model using three independent datasets and found that estimated cumulative infection rates roughly matched serology data over time,

and the estimated number of infections matched with the number of hospitalizations for all four pandemic waves caused by the ancestral, Beta, Delta, and Omicron variants.

Modelled infection numbers

Modelled infection numbers also matched with death rates from the ancestral, Beta and Delta waves, but less so for Omicron, because by this stage prior infection and vaccinations reduced the number of infected people suffering from deadly outcomes.

Using data that emerged at the time of the new variants, Delta

and Omicron, the model was also able to retrospectively predict the Delta and Omicron waves before the real-life observed peak of cases and deaths caused by these VOCs.

The team found that the model accurately predicted the remaining trajectories of cases and deaths in most of the nine provinces.

Having validated their model, they then used it to estimate epidemiological characteristics for each VOC, including infection-detection rates, infection-fatality rates, population susceptibility and transmissibility, and compared these dynamics across provinces.

These 'model inference estimates' were then used to quantify the immune erosion and increase in transmissibility for each VOC.

They found that the Beta variant eroded immunity among roughly 65 per cent of people previously infected with ancestral SARS-CoV-2 and was 35 per cent more transmissible than the original virus. This finding was supported by the experience of previously infected participants in one of the vaccine trials, who had a similar susceptibility to the Beta variant as those who had no prior infection.

SOURCE: ANI



People queue for a rapid test at a test centre set up at Budolfi Church in the centre of Aalborg, Denmark on 23 December 2021, during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. **PHOTO: HENNING BAGGER/RITZAU SCANPIX/ AFP/FILE**

SCI/ENVIRON WORLD

Study on serotonin and depression sparks fierce debate



Anti-depressants are mostly developed to alter serotonin levels. **PHOTO: AFP**

A controversy in the scientific community over recent claims anti-depressants can be ineffective at treating depression has highlighted the difficulties in understanding mental health conditions.

One of the prevailing theories currently focuses on serotonin. Depression has been linked to a lack of the molecule, which is involved in transmitting emotions to the brain.

Claims that depression has no link to a chemical imbalance in the brain related to serotonin,

casting doubt on the need for anti-depressants, have sparked fierce reaction.

A study by psychiatrists Joanna Moncrieff and Mark Horowitz in the journal *Molecular Psychiatry* in July concluded that there was no proven link between a lack of serotonin and depression.

The authors said it queried the underlying assumption behind the use of anti-depressants, which are mostly developed to alter serotonin levels, undoing a theory that for decades acted as

a framework for research.

The study is based on several previous publications, but it quickly attracted criticism – particularly its presentation by Moncrieff, known for her scepticism towards biological explanations of depression and her radical stance against the pharmaceutical industry. “I’m broadly in agreement with the authors’ conclusions about our current efforts, though I lack their adamant certainty,” psychiatrist Phil Cowen said on the Science Media Centre website.—AFP

Brazil farmers bet on environmentally friendly cotton

THE road through Cristalina, Brazil is in the middle of the tropics, but the fields on either side look like they are covered in snow – little white puffs of cotton stretching to the horizon.

The alabaster plants interspersed with the corn and soybean fields outside the central-western town are part of a silent revolution in Brazil: facing negative attention over the agribusiness industry’s environmental impact, farmers are increasingly turning to cotton and adopting sustainable techniques to produce it.

After increasing exports 15-fold in the past two decades, Brazil is now the world’s second-biggest cotton supplier, after the United States – and the biggest producer of sustainable cotton.

No less than 84 per cent

of the cotton grown in the South American agricultural giant is certified by the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI), an international non-profit group to promote sustainable cotton farming.

“Consumers have changed. People don’t want to buy products any more that don’t respect nature and its cycles,” says entomologist Cristina Schetino of the University of Brasilia, who specializes in cotton farming.

The industry is trying to improve the international image of Brazilian farming, tarnished by a history of slave labor, heavy pesticide use and the destruction of the Amazon rainforest for agriculture, a trend that has accelerated under far-right President Jair Bolsonaro – an agribusiness ally.—AFP



A combine harvests cotton in a field at Pamplona farm in Cristalina, Brazil on 14 July 2022. **PHOTO: AFP**

Low Rhine deepens Germany’s energy crisis

A hot, dry July made worse by climate change has raised the risk that the German economy could run aground as sinking Rhine waters make shipping along the river harder.

The prospect of severe, longer-term limits to traffic spells a new headache for the industries lined up on the river’s banks and threatens to further strain Germany’s efforts to wean itself off Russian energy imports as coal counts among key cargo moved on the waterway.

Roberto Spranzi, boss of DTG, a shipping cooperative, says the volumes that his fleet can carry are already limited by the unusually low water levels.

“At the moment we have a capacity where, we have to use three or four vessels where we would normally need one,” Spranzi tells AFP. Pointing at the worrying ebb at the entrance to the inland port of Duisburg in western Germany, Spranzi notes

that “currently it’s at 1.70 metres (5.6 feet) In theory, the normal water level is over two metres”.

Further up the river in Kaub, a noted bottleneck for shipping where the Rhine runs narrow and shallow, the reference level is forecast to go below 40 centi-

metres by the end of the week and squeeze traffic further.

“We supply factories on the Rhine with their raw materials. When that’s not possible any more – or less often – that’s a threat to German industry, too,” Spranzi says.—AFP



A 2018 drought, which saw the Rhine’s reference depth at Kaub fall as low as 25 centimetres in October, shaved 0.2 per cent off German GDP that year, according to Deutsche Bank Research. People enjoy a hot evening on the bank of river Rhine as the sun sets in Duisburg in western Germany. **PHOTO: PATRIK STOLLARZ / AFP/FILE**

World’s biggest ice sheet could cause massive sea rise without action: study

THE world’s biggest ice sheet could cause “several metres” of sea-level rise over centuries if the global temperature rises more than 2°C, according to a British study published Wednesday. Researchers at Durham University concluded that if global greenhouse emissions remain high, the melting East Antarctica

Ice Sheet (EAIS) could cause nearly half a metre of sea-level rise by 2100. Their analysis was published in the scientific journal *Nature*.

If emissions remain high beyond that, the EAIS could contribute around one to three metres to global sea levels by 2300, and two to five metres by

2500, they said.

However, if emissions were dramatically reduced, EAIS could contribute around two centimetres of sea level rise by 2100, according to the assessment.

This would represent far less than the ice loss expected from Greenland and West Antarctica.—AFP

PANDEMIC
WORLD

Japan’s summer holidays in full swing with lack of COVID restrictions



A platform at JR Tokyo Station is crowded on 11 Aug 2022, as many travellers head to their hometowns or resorts for Japan’s “Bon” holidays in the first restriction-free summer since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN’S summer holiday season started in full swing on Thursday, with reservations for domestic trains and flights leaving Tokyo reaching a peak as travellers took advantage of a lack of coronavirus restrictions for the first time in three years.

While more people headed abroad for their break, numbers are nevertheless far below the pre-COVID-19 era as new cases across the country remain elevated, hitting record highs in recent weeks.

Families flooded JR Tokyo Station, where Natsuki Kato, who was heading to the western

prefecture of Hiroshima, said, “I want to avoid crowds for my three kids, and let them experience the country life as much as I can.”

“My youngest is five years old, so I think my parents will be surprised at how much my child has grown,” said the 44-year-old who was heading to her parent’s home for the first time in three years. Reserved seats for the outbound lines of the Tokaido Shinkansen bullet train, linking Tokyo and Osaka, were almost fully booked in the morning.

At Haneda airport in Tokyo, a long line of masked passengers waited at one of the security

checkpoints for domestic flights. According to All Nippon Airways Co., most outbound flights were also fully booked in the morning.

“It makes us happy that the bustle of the Bon summer holiday period has come back for the first time in three years,” said Akiko Oyamada, the airline’s Tokyo airport general manager.

A 38-year-old woman from Yokohama who was on her way to see her relatives in the north-eastern prefecture of Akita with her family said, “My grandmother died during the coronavirus pandemic. We’ll finally be able to visit her grave.”—Kyodo

EU eyes autumn approval of Pfizer jab for Covid variants

THE EU’s medicines watchdog said Wednesday it aims to approve this autumn a Pfizer/BioNTech Covid vaccine adapted for two fast-spreading subvariants of the Omicron strain.

Milder but more infectious than earlier types of the Covid virus, the BA.4 and BA.5 types have helped to drive a wave of new cases of the disease in Europe and the United States.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) said it had launched a review on Monday of an adapted version of the Pfizer jab targeting those two types, which are more transmissible and immune evasive than earlier variants.

“EMA is expecting to receive an application for the BA.4/5 adapted vaccine de-

veloped by Pfizer/BioNTech, which will be evaluated for a potential rapid approval in the fall,” an EMA spokesman told AFP in an emailed statement.

That would come “shortly after” the expected approval of two other adapted vaccines by Pfizer and its rival Moderna, which target both the original Covid virus and the earlier BA.1 subvariant of Omicron, the spokesman said.

Both Pfizer and Moderna had lodged separate applications for approval of those vaccines on 22 July, the spokesman added.

The EMA, which oversees medicines for the 27-nation European Union, has previously said the first Omicron-adapted jabs could be approved as early as September.—AFP



Medical staff place vaccines in an ultra-low temperature freezer after taking delivery of the first shipments of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at the UZ Leuven hospital in Leuven, Belgium. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

N. Korea declares anti-COVID fight victory, Kim may have caught virus

LEADER Kim Jong Un has declared victory in North Korea’s fight against the coronavirus and ordered an easing of “maximum emergency” measures imposed in May, official media reported Thursday, with his sister suggesting he may have caught the virus himself.

Kim made the announcement at a meeting with health officials and scientists on Wednesday, praising their contributions to “successfully defusing the serious epidemic spread crisis” and defending the country’s “social system which is the best in the world,” according to the Korean Central News Agency.

The leader’s sister, Kim Yo Jong, delivered a speech at the meeting and said her brother was “seriously ill with a high fever” but he “could not lie down for even a moment” as he led the country’s anti-epidemic efforts, KCNA said.

The sister, who is vice department director of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party



Members of the North Korean army supply medicines to residents at a pharmacy, amid growing fears over the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Pyongyang, North Korea, in this photo released by Kyodo on 18 May 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

of Korea, blamed leaflets and other “dirty objects” sent by balloons from North Korean defectors in South Korea for causing the virus outbreak, according to the news agency.

“We can no longer overlook the uninterrupted influx of rubbish from South Korea. This is just an unethical crime,” she said. “We must counter it toughly.”

North Korea disclosed its first case of the virus on 12 May

after claiming to have had no COVID-19 infections for more than two years. Its daily number of what it called “fever” cases peaked at over 390,000.

The country, which is believed to lack sufficient COVID-19 testing capacity, has reported no additional suspected cases since 29 July. Its authorities have reported about 4.77 million fever cases since late April, with 74 patients dying.—Kyodo

S.Korea reports 137,241 new COVID-19 cases

SOUTH Korea reported 137,241 new COVID-19 cases as of midnight Wednesday compared to 24 hours ago, raising the total number of infections to 20,983,169, the health authorities said Thursday.

The daily caseload was down from 151,792 the previous day, but it was higher than

107,859 tallied a week earlier, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA).

For the past week, the daily average number of confirmed cases was 117,591.

Among the new cases, 522 were imported from overseas,

lifting the total to 50,113.

The number of infected people who were in serious condition stood at 418, up 16 from the previous day.

Fifty-nine more deaths were confirmed, leaving the death toll at 25,441. The total fatality rate was 0.12 per cent. —Xinhua

GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

China, ROK agree to jointly maintain stability of production, supply chain

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Tuesday met with Park Jin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea (ROK), in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, and the two sides agreed to jointly maintain the stability of production and supply chain.

At present, globalization is facing headwinds and some countries are politicizing the economy, instrumentalizing trade and weaponizing standards, undermining the stability

of global production and supply chains, Wang stressed.

He noted that as beneficiaries and builders of the global free trade regime, China and the ROK should resist this kind of behaviour that violates market rules and jointly safeguard the security and stability of production and supply chains of the two countries and the world at large.

During the talks, the two sides agreed to accelerate the second-phase negotiation of the China-ROK free trade



Customs officers research in the helicopter production enterprise in Qingdao, East China's Shandong Province, in October, 2020. **PHOTO: FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY/PEOPLE'S DAILY**

agreement to strive to reach consensus as soon as possible.

China and the ROK agreed to hold dialogue on maintaining the stability of production and supply chain, and to make the chain complete, safe, unblocked, open and inclusive. Meanwhile, the two sides also agreed to stick to trade and investment liberalization, abide by WTO rules, and adhere to the principles of non-discrimination, non-exclusion, openness and transparency. — Xinhua

Developed countries keen to sign trade deals with India: Piyush Goyal



A European containership prepares to dock at Mundra Port in Gujarat, India. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

BEFORE 2014, the Indian economy was considered to be fragile and investors had their doubts about doing business but now the developed countries are keen to sign trade deals with India as they see it as an engine of economic growth, Union Minis-

ter for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday.

Addressing the Vyapari Udyami Sammelan in the national capital, Goyal said developed countries are very keen to sign trade deals with India now.

"Before 2014, the Indian

economy was considered to be fragile and investors had their doubts about doing business with India," he said.

Stressing the need for transparency and ease of doing business, the minister assured traders and entrepreneurs that the government will fully support traders who raise their voices against harassment by any authority.

He called upon traders to work with the government to reduce the compliance burden of people and businesses, but asked that they strictly follow ethical trade practices. Unnecessary, cumbersome and counter-productive laws and regulations must be uprooted to improve the ease of doing business, he added.—ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

World's largest Fintech Conference is back

THE largest fintech conference in the world - Global Fintech Fest (GFF) - is back with its third edition. Organized by the Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India, Fintech Convergence Council (FCC), the Payments Council of India (PCI) and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), GFF 2022 will be held 20 - 22 September 2022 at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai. Pre-event festivities will begin virtually on 19 September 2022.

The theme of the hybrid event this year is 'Creating a Sustainable Financial World - Global | Inclusive | Green'.—ANI

Google Cloud decides to establish New Zealand cloud region

GOOGLE Cloud has decided to establish a New Zealand cloud region, a move welcomed by the New Zealand government.

The decision was made through Google Cloud's independent due diligence, and it is not a government procurement, according to New Zealand Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications David Clark on Wednesday.

"Becoming a cloud region will mean New Zealand businesses will have a choice to keep their data onshore, and work with Google Cloud's domestic team to really drive digital transformation here," Clark said in a statement.—Xinhua

Germany plans inflation relief tax package worth 10 bn euros

GERMANY will offer tax relief worth 10 billion euros to help workers cope with soaring inflation, Finance Minister Christian Lindner said Wednesday.

The package will raise base tax-free allowance as well as bring up the level from which the top income tax rate of 42 per cent will apply.

Families will also benefit

from higher tax exemptions for dependent children.

Inflation in Germany reached 7.5 per cent in July, fractionally lower than the 7.6 per cent recorded in June, fuelled mainly by soaring energy prices.

Lindner said his plan is aimed primarily at fighting the problem of employees who find

themselves with a higher tax burden because they have received a pay increase to combat inflation. As a result, the gain the workers have received is wiped out essentially by the higher taxes due.

The phenomenon, called "cold progression", also typically hits lower incomes harder.—AFP



People stand distanced in line as they wait to enter a fashion store at a shopping mall in Berlin on 25 March 2021, amid the novel coronavirus / COVID-19 pandemic. **PHOTO: STEFANIE LOOS / AFP**

Chinese telecom operators spend 400 bln yuan in 5G

CHINESE telecom operators have accumulatively invested 401.6 billion yuan (about 59.4 billion US dollars) in 5G, according to



People visit the exhibition booth of China Telecom at the 2022 World 5G Convention in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, 10 Aug 2022. PHOTO: XINHUA/ZHANG TAO

the 2022 World 5G Convention that kicked off Wednesday in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Prov-

ince. China has some 1.85 million 5G base stations and more than 450 million 5G end users, both accounting for over 60 per cent of the global total, the conference said. According to Liu Liehong, chairman of China United Network Communications Group Co., Ltd., the accelerating application of 5G technology has led to the emergence of new industries and new modes of business. "A number of Chinese enterprises are currently leading the world in 5G R&D and applications," said Liu.—Xinhua

Prices set to rise in Japan for over 10,000 food items on weak yen

FOOD prices will continue to surge in Japan for the latter half of 2022, with more than 10,000 items set to rise in price from August onward as import costs of materials become more expensive due to a weaker yen, according to a survey by a credit research company.

The Teikoku Data-bank survey found prices of 2,431 items are scheduled to rise in August, with hikes for 8,043 more items planned for later this year.

These items would bring the total number of products that have risen



A shopper browses in the food section at a supermarket in Tokyo's Ota Ward in May 2022. PHOTO: KYODO

in price or are expected to do so this year to 18,532 items, with the average margin of increase standing at 14 per cent, the survey showed.

The total number could eventually exceed 20,000 by the end of the year if inflation continues at this rate, the company said.—Kyodo

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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For PT. KALBE FARMA TBK,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon.
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Dated 12 August 2022 hh@kcyangon.com

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE (Tender No. EPGE PV 03/2022-2023)

In accordance with section 8.2 "AMENDMENTS" of Request for Proposals (RFP) of EPGE PV 03/2022-2023, EPGE herewith would like to announce that Bid Submission Date shall be amended as 30th August 2022 and the Addendum No.2 shall be issued.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XH SPRING VOY.NO. (22028)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XH SPRING VOY.NO. (22028) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-8-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MKH 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: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (176N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (176N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-8-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC TOKYO VOY.NO. (2244S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC TOKYO VOY.NO. (2244S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-8-2022 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 MAERSK NASSJO VOY.NO. (229W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK NASSJO VOY.NO. (229W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-8-2022 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

GLOBAL
AFFAIRS

The Mexican firefighting vessel "Bourbon Artabaze" and helicopters battle to contain the days-old blaze at a fuel depot sparked by a lightning strike in Matanzas, Cuba. **PHOTO: AFP**

Cuba fuel depot blaze 'under control'

FIREFIGHTERS on Wednesday declared that a days-old blaze engulfing a fuel depot has finally been brought under control, although not yet extinguished.

The fire, which started on Friday after lightning struck one of the tanks at the depot outside the western city of Matanzas, left a 60-year-old firefighter dead and 14 colleagues missing, feared dead, according to authorities.

"We can now say that the fire is under control," said deputy fire

chief Alexander Avalos Jorge.

Four of the eight tanks at the site — each with the capacity to hold 50 million liters of fuel — collapsed during the blaze that injured more than 100 people, with 22 still receiving hospital treatment.

"Today we feel more calm," said Avalos, although he revealed there were still some fires burning and that they will not be put out on Wednesday.

Cuba has received support

from Venezuela and Mexico, who both sent firefighters, fuel fire experts, equipment and materials.

Earlier on Wednesday, the crew of a Mexican helicopter battling the blaze had said it was beginning to be controlled.

Images supplied by the helicopter crew showed less smoke coming from one of the burning tanks than on previous days, while the crew said the flames engulfing another tank had practically gone out. — AFP

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Swiss could represent
Ukraine diplomatically
in Russia

UKRAINE has asked Switzerland to represent it diplomatically in Russia, Bern confirmed Wednesday, stressing though that Moscow would need to accept the arrangement for it to go ahead.

Ever since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, Switzerland — renowned for its neutrality — has said it stood ready to provide diplomatic assistance and to serve as a go-between.

The foreign ministry said Wednesday that Ukraine had requested that Switzerland "assume a protecting power mandate" for Kyiv in Russia,

confirming a story in the Luzerner Zeitung newspaper.

The foreign ministry explained that such protecting power mandates "allow states to maintain low-level relations and provide consular protection to nationals of the other states concerned".

"The corresponding negotiations have been completed," a ministry spokeswoman told AFP in an email.

She did not provide further details about the duration or content of the negotiations, emphasising that "discretion is a crucial element in providing good service". — AFP

Spain launches project
to import Ukraine
grain by train

SPAIN has launched a pilot project to import grain from Ukraine by train to explore the possibility of using rail transport while maritime routes are blocked or restricted by war.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February has severely disrupted Ukrainian grain exports, hampering harvests and trapping up to 25 million tonnes of wheat and other grain in Kyiv's Black Sea ports.

The war has sent global food prices soaring and

sparked fears of famine.

As part of the Spanish project, a Renfe freight train "consisting of 25 containers, each measuring 40 foot (12 metres)" left Madrid late Tuesday for the Polish town of Chelm near the Ukrainian border, the transport ministry said.

It will travel 2,400 kilometres (1,500 miles) to Chelm where it will collect 600 tonnes of grain and return to Barcelona in early September. — AFP

EU ban on Russian coal
enters into force

THE European Union's total ban on coal imports from Russia comes into force from midnight Wednesday, at a time the bloc is grappling with soaring energy costs following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Leaders of the EU's 27 countries agreed the embargo in April in their first move targeting Russia's key energy exports over its war on its pro-Western neighbour.

The measure was subject to a 120-day grace period before full implementation, to allow pre-existing contracts to be fulfilled.

The EU up to last year imported some 45 per cent of its coal — worth an estimated four billion euros (\$4.1 billion) — from Russia.

Overall, the bloc slashed its consumption of the polluting fossil fuel from 1.2 billion tonnes to 427 million tonnes between

1990 and 2020 as it pushed to hit climate goals.

But the closure of many mines across the continent led to an increase in Europe's dependence on imports.

Some countries including Germany and Poland that used

it to produce electricity were particularly reliant on Moscow.

In the face of cuts to Russian gas deliveries in recent months, EU members such as Germany, Austria, the Netherlands and Italy have stepped up their use of coal-fired power plants. — AFP



The EU ban on Russian coal will further tighten coal markets and could trigger a rise in energy prices beyond Europe. **PHOTO: INA FASSBENDER/AFP**

Hungary's MOL foots bill to restart
Russian oil supply

HUNGARIAN oil group MOL said Wednesday it has agreed to cover the charges to transit Russian oil through Ukraine after the payment — by Russia to Ukraine — was held up due to sanctions against Moscow.

"MOL has transferred the transit costs payable for the use of the Ukraine section" of the Druzhba pipeline in August, MOL said in a statement sent to AFP.

On Tuesday, Russian firm Transneft had said it had halted the supply of oil to Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic via Ukraine as the transit payment could not be processed due to sanctions.

Transneft said the Ukrainian side had stopped the oil transport "due to not receiving funds for these services".

But on Wednesday, MOL said

that Ukraine had now promised that deliveries of crude oil would resume in the coming days.

MOL said that by footing the bill for the transit charges, it was assuming responsibility to ensure that supplies reach its neighbours. On Wednesday, shortly after MOL's announcement, a Slovak refinery said that it was once again receiving Russian oil. — AFP

Sri Lanka protest camp clears out after crackdown



The protest camp is taken apart in Colombo. **PHOTO: AFP**

PROTESTERS in Sri Lanka who brought down the previous government announced they were dismantling their main demonstration site near the president's office on Wednesday in the wake of a crackdown against their leaders.

The group led by university students and leftist parties said they were clearing out their tents along the Galle Face seafront promenade in the capital.

A spokesman said they had also withdrawn four court challenges against a police order for them to vacate the area that claimed their tents were a hindrance to nearby hotels.

Activists were seen taking down their tents and removing other structures they had put up supporting their struggle against the administration.

The demonstrations began on 9 April as a protest against

shortages of essentials such as fuel, food and medicines in Sri Lanka's worst ever economic crisis.

They peaked when tens of thousands poured into Colombo and overran Gotabaya Rajapaksa's presidential palace on 9 July, forcing him to flee and eventually resign.

Days after Rajapaksa fled to Singapore and announced his resignation, troops evicted protesters occupying the palace as well as the home and office of the prime minister.

Security forces were accused of using excessive force to evict the demonstrators, with more than 80 people suffering injuries that required hospitalization.

Since then, dozens of activists have been arrested on charges of damaging state property.

A top trade union leader, Joseph Stalin, was released on bail Monday following international criticism over his arrest last week on a charge of causing \$90 worth of damage.—AFP

Up to 50 missing after migrant boat sinks off Greece

AN air and sea rescue operation was underway Wednesday after around 50 people went missing when a migrant boat sank in the Aegean Sea, the Greek coastguard said.

The vessel foundered at dawn off the islands of Karpathos and Rhodes after setting sail on Tuesday from Antalya, southern Turkey, heading for Italy.

"According to the statements of 29 rescued people, there were 80 people on the boat, so up to 50 people are missing," a coastguard press office official told AFP.

But state television channel ERT said the number of people on board had been between 30 and 60.

Coastguard spokesman Nikos Kokalas told the channel: "It's not possible that the boat could have been transferring 80

migrants. We are talking about a lower number."

The rescue effort, ordered by merchant shipping minister Yannis Plakiotakis, according to a coastguard statement, included four vessels already sailing in the southern Aegean, two coastguard patrol boats and a Greek air force helicopter.

Strong winds of up to 50

kilometres per hour (30 mph) were hampering the operation, Kokalas told Skai radio.

"Many of those shipwrecked were not wearing life-jackets," Kokalas said.

A video posted by the coastguard showed an army helicopter rescuing two survivors from the sea and transferring them to Karpathos.—AFP



A handout photo released on 28 June 2022 by Hellenic Coast Guard shows migrants on a boat during a search and rescue operation off Karpathos island. **PHOTO: HANDOUT / AFP**

Alleged British IS 'Beatle' arrested on return to UK: media

A British man accused of being part of an Islamic State (IS) kidnap-and-murder cell known as the "Beatles" was arrested on his return to the UK on Wednesday, reports said.

Aine Davis, 38, was arrested after landing at Luton airport on a flight from Türkiye, where he had been serving a prison sentence for terrorism offences, according to BBC News and other UK outlets.

He was allegedly a member of the IS cell, which held dozens of foreign hostages in Syria between 2012 and 2015 and was known to their captives as the "Beatles" because of their British accents.

The Metropolitan Police, which leads anti-terror investigations in the UK, said in a

statement that officers had arrested a man at Luton airport.

But the London force, which does not name suspects until they are charged with a crime, did not name the person being held.

"The 38-year-old man was arrested this evening after he arrived into the UK on a flight from Türkiye," the statement said.

The Met added he was arrested under several different sections of British anti-terrorism laws and taken to a south London police station "where he currently remains in police custody".

The interior ministry said in a statement that a British national had been deported from Türkiye to the UK.—AFP



From left to right, Kayla Mueller, James Foley, Peter Kassig and Steven Sotloff. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Judge orders seizure of Lebanon MPs' property over port blast

A Lebanese judge on Wednesday ordered the temporary seizure of the property of two deputies in the case of the deadly explosion which destroyed Beirut port two years ago, a judicial source said.

"Judge Najah Itani has issued a temporary seizure order worth 100 billion Lebanese pounds on the property of MPs Ali Hassan Khalil and Ghazi Zeaiter," the source told AFP.

The decision was issued in the context of a complaint filed by the Beirut Bar Association to question the two for having "used their rights... in an arbitrary manner by filing complaints intended to hinder the investigation", the source added.

Compensation of 100 billion Lebanese pounds, some \$66 million at the central bank exchange rate though far less at black market rates, is being sought.

Lebanon's currency has lost around 90 per cent of its value on the black market.—AFP



Myanmar Traditional Boxing World Championship
to be held this month

THE Myanmar Traditional Boxing (Lethwei) World Championship named MLWC-7, which has been

held annually since 2016, will take place on 14 August at

Theinbyu Traditional Boxing Hall. In the competition, the champions of Myanmar will face off against the champions of various foreign countries.

In the 60-kilo, Myanmar's Saw Ba Hein will fight against Thearith Ouch of Cambodia.

In the 67-kilo, Min Htet Aung of Myanmar will take on Alan Yauny of Argentina. In the 63.5-kilo, Ae Mwe of Myanmar will face Jake Oliver of New Zealand. In the 70-kilo, Myanmar's star-fighter Soe Lin Oo will meet Wijit of Thailand.

In the 80-kilo, Myanmar's former Lethwei Champion Tun Tun Min will fight with Hamed Soleimani of Iran.

In the special women's challenging bout, May Thazin Htoo will take on Than Thar Nyeint Nyaong from ATM 2 Club.

The Myanma traditional boxing championship will be broadcast live on Skynet Sports Channel, and a limited number of tickets will be sold. — Bala Soe/GNLM



PHOTO: MLWC

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 team lose in Viet Nam
U-19 Invitational Tournament

THE third-place match of the Viet Nam U-19 invitational tournament was held in Binh Duong, Viet Nam yesterday, and the Myanmar team suffered a defeat.

In the third-place match, the Thai team won over the Myanmar team by seven goals to three goals. In the group match, the Myanmar team lost to Thailand by one goal to nil, but in this rematch, they missed out on the third prize with a big loss. Team Myanmar scored the first goal, but the goals were easily conceded and missed the medal.

The Myanmar team took the lead in 11 minutes of the match by Hein Zaw Naing's long shot, but the goal was lost as they conceded five more goals between the 13th and 40th minutes. Thanat Ri scored in the 13th and 23rd minutes, Cassidy in the 16th minute, Pirasan in the 27th minute, Pirasi in the 40th minute, for Thailand.

Near the end of the first half, the Myanmar team got back to equalize, and Thein Zaw Thiha scored the second goal in the 43rd minute, and Khant Zin Hein scored the third at 45 minutes. At the end of the first half, the Thai team was winning by five goals to three goals, thanks to a goal by Pak Zin Hein in the 45th minute.

In the second half, the Myanmar team tried to equalize, but only the Thai team scored more goals. Piranan scored the winning goal for the Thai team in the 64th minute. Pirasi scored in the 83rd minute.

In the final match, the host team Viet Nam won the championship by defeating the Malaysian team in a penalty shootout. The game was tied at one goal each, and the host team won by penalty kicks by four goals to three goals. —Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM

Myanmar to play Thailand today for AFF
U-16 Championship 3rd place



Myanmar U-16 boy's football team. PHOTO: MFF

THE 2022 ASEAN U-16 Championship third-place match and the final will continue today, and the Myanmar team will play the third-place match against the Thai team.

Team Myanmar match will begin at 3:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time and the final match between Viet Nam and Indonesia will start at 7:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

The Myanmar team had good conditions to qualify for the finals, but in the semi-finals, they lost host team Indonesia on penalty kicks and will fight for third place today.

The Myanmar team won two games without losing in the group matches. They qualified for the semi-finals after finishing first in the group with a draw. In the semi-finals, they were able

to draw against Indonesia at halftime and were defeated on penalty kicks.

The Thai team won two games in Group B. They came in first in the group with a draw of seven points, but in the semi-finals, they lost to the Vietnamese team, which came in second in the best group, by two goals and missed the final.

The Myanmar team has won two championships, two first-runners up and one second-runners up throughout the ASEAN U-16 Championship.

After participating in the finals in the 2015 tournament, the Myanmar team has not been able to participate in the finals for the last five consecutive times, including this time.

The Myanmar team had to play the third round in the 2018 tournament, but lost to the Malaysian team and missed out on the prize. — Ko Nyi Lay/GNLM